

SD Board of Pardons and Paroles

1600 N. Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57104



MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Pardons and Paroles June 2025

The Board of Pardons and Paroles hearing panels held meetings on May 29th, 2025 and June 9th and 10th, 2025 at the following facilities in the State of South Dakota:

- South Dakota State Penitentiary
- Jameson Annex
- Mike Durfee State Prison
- South Dakota Women's Prison
- Rapid City Minimum Center
- Board of Pardons and Paroles Office

A Full Board meeting was held at Jameson Annex on June 11th, 2025, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rau. A quorum was present. Present were the following board members:

- Myron Rau, Board Chair
- Kirsten Aasen, Vice Chair
- Ken Albers, Member
- Vaughn Beck, Member
- John Brown, Member
- Kurt Hall, Member
- Peter Lieberman, Member
- Patricia Meyers, Member
- Jan Steele, Member

Support staff in attendance: Shelli Gust – Board Administration Manager; Stacy Cole – Board Corrections Specialist; Karena Cassidy – Board Senior Secretary

Special guests in attendance in person: Clara Engle – Offender Services Intern

Special guests in attendance on Teams: Georgia Will – Board Program Assistant

II. Call for Public Input

No public input.

III. Parole Hearings

A. Steele, Wesley

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Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Wesley Steele*. The hearing was a paper review, and the offender was not present.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Members Aasen and Beck for summarization. Following summarization, testimony, evidence review, questions and discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion:	Motion to grant parole and board order to transitional housing.
Made:	Lieberman
Seconded by:	Beck
Votes in Favor:	Albers, Beck, Brown, Hall, Lieberman, Meyers, Steele, Aasen, Rau
Votes Opposed:	None.
Results:	Motion carried.

V. Minutes

Board Members reviewed the minutes for the May 2025 meetings of the Board. Motion by Steele, second by Aasen to approve the May 2025 minutes. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

VI. June Hearing Panels

There were no changes to the posted schedule.

VII. July Proposed Schedule

Board Members reviewed the proposed schedule for July. Due to a lower number of full board cases in July, the board will hold its business meeting the Wednesday, July 9th, 2025 and not convene on July 10th. The Parole Board Administration Office has moved over to the Sioux Falls One Stop Building, so waiver signing and special session will take place there going forward. The full board meetings will continue to take place at JPA. Board Members indicated whether they would be appearing via Teams and had no further changes to the proposed schedule.

VIII. Board Report / Field Services Report

Board Members reviewed the board report and monthly metrics. There was a Special Session held on May 29th, 2025; there were early discharges, waivers (parole/SSV/non-compliance), parole revocation hearings, a non-compliance hearing, suspended sentence revocation hearings, paper reviews of pardon applications, and paper reviews of commutation applications. Governor Rhoden acted upon 12 pardon applications this month. There were 17 pardon applications received in May, and the current set-out period is August 2025.

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IX. Items for Discussion

None.

X. Training

Board members reviewed a recent study from March 2025 conducted by the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) on Identifying Drivers of Absconding and watched a webinar outlining the major findings from that study. Board members indicated they were interested in reducing the number of hours of training required through board policy. This policy comes up in a couple of months and will be discussed further at that time.

XI. Policy Review

Board members reviewed the revisions to Policy 8.1.A.9: Executive Clemency - Pardons. Staff recommended revisions to the policies so that the language was consistent with statute and current and best practices. Motion by Hall, second by Aasen to table changes to Policy 8.1.A.9: Executive Clemency - Pardons to the July meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

XII. Full Board Cases / Potential Upcoming Paper Review Cases

Board Members were advised that the July calendar has 1 full board case currently scheduled.

XIII. Special Session Decisions

Motion by Meyers, second by Beck to ratify the special session clemency decisions. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

XIV. Attachments – Decisions

Incorporated by reference is the attached listing, entitled Parole Board Actions, for all parole violations, suspended sentence violations, non-compliance, discretionary parole, appeal of parole dates, earned discharge, and rescission decisions made by the Board this month.

XV. Adjourn

The Full Board meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m. The next full board meeting is scheduled for July 9th, 2025.

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BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Myron A. Rau".

Myron Rau, Board Chair or Kirsten Aasen, Vice Chair

Submitted by:
Shelli Gust
Parole Board Administration Manager
Board of Pardons and Paroles