

SD Board of Pardons and Paroles
1501 S. Highline Ave, Ste. 3A, Sioux Falls, SD 57110



MINUTES
Meeting of the
Board of Pardons and Paroles
May 2026

The Board of Pardons and Paroles hearing panels held meetings on April 30th, 2026 and May 11th and 12th, 2026 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
- Yankton Minimum Center
- Board of Pardons and Paroles Office – SF One Stop Building

A Full Board meeting was held at the Sioux Falls One Stop – Maple Room B409 on May 13th, 2026, 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
- Vaughn Beck, Member [TEAMS]
- John Brown, Member
- Kurt Hall, Member
- Peter Lieberman, Member
- Aaron Pilcher, Member [TEAMS]
- Jan Steele, Member

Absent – Kirsten Aasen, Vice Chair and Patricia Meyers, Member

Support staff in attendance: Shelli Gust – Board Administration Manager; Karena Cassidy – Board Senior Secretary; Eilish O’Toole – Board Corrections Specialist

Special guests in attendance on Teams: Rex Squyres – Board Program Assistant; Jordan Jensen – Board Corrections Analyst; Georgia Will – Board Program Assistant

II. Call for Public Input

None.



III. Jason Holbeck – Sioux Falls Police Labor Council

This appointment was continued to the June Full Board meeting at the request of the Sioux Falls Police Labor Council.

IV. Special Session Pardon Denials (SDCL 24-15A-11.2)

Board Members reviewed the denials of 3 pardons by the two-panels at Special Session. Motion by Lieberman, second by Steele to ratify the decisions and adopt the denials. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

V. Full Board Early Discharge / Pardon / Commutation Cases

There were no cases for the month of May.

VI. April Minutes

Board Members reviewed the minutes for the April 2026 meetings of the Board. Motion by Steele, second by Beck to approve the April 2026 minutes. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

VII. Full Board Cases / Potential Upcoming Paper Review Cases

Board Members were advised that the June calendar currently has 2 cases currently scheduled and the July calendar currently has 1 case currently scheduled.

VIII. June Proposed Schedule

Board Members reviewed the proposed schedule for June. Due to a lower number of full board cases in June, the board will hold its business meeting on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026. Board Members indicated whether they would be appearing via Teams. Board Members would like to continue to the trial period of holding full board meetings from the Board Office at the Sioux Falls One Stop.

IX. Board Report / Field Services Report

Board Members reviewed the board report and monthly metrics. There was a Special Session held on April 30th, 2026; there were paper reviews of early discharges, pardons, and commutation applications, waivers (parole/SSV/non-compliance) signed, and parole revocation, suspended sentence, and non-compliance hearings. The current set-out period for pardons is July 2026.

Director of Parole Brad Lewandowski and Associate Director of Field Operations Kayla Stucky presented to the Board highlights from FY2025 and trends they are seeing in FY2026.

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****The Board took a short break.****

X. Items for Discussion

Board Member Lieberman expressed concerns that the Parole Board may be perceived as a revolving door. Board members requested additional information about the number of previous violations be included in the folders' names in Sharepoint.

Board Administration Manager Gust advised that she will be presenting a new matrix and recommended sanctioning guidelines for parole revocations during board week in June 2026. Board members expressed interest in a more generalized matrix, with a focus on repeat violators and violent crimes.

Board Administration Manager Gust invited board members to attend dispositional meetings at any time.

XI. Policy Review

Board members reviewed Policy 8.1.A.9 Executive Clemency - Pardons. Staff is working on revisions to the policy that they will bring forward to the board later. Board Members did not have any specific changes that they would like to see made.

XII. Training

Board Member Kurt Hall presented information about the New Dawn program in Vale, South Dakota.

XIII. 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.

XIV. Adjourn

The Full Board meeting adjourned at approximately 10:42 a.m. The next full board meeting is scheduled for June 10th, 2026.

BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

Myron Rau, Board Chair or Kirsten Aasen, Vice Chair

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