

SD Board of Pardons and Paroles

1600 N. Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57104



MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Pardons and Paroles November 2025

The Board of Pardons and Paroles hearing panels held meetings on October 23, 2025 and November 3rd and 4th 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

A Full Board meeting was held at Jameson Annex on November 5th, 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 [TEAMS]
- Ken Albers, Member
- Vaughn Beck, Member
- John Brown [TEAMS]
- Kurt Hall, Member
- Peter Lieberman, Member [TEAMS]
- Patricia Meyers, Member [TEAMS]
- Jan Steele, Member

Support staff in attendance: Shelli Gust – Board Administration Manager; Karena Cassidy – Board Senior Secretary; Georgia Will – Board Program Assistant; Eilish O'Toole – Board Corrections Specialist

Special guests in attendance in person: Levi Yellow Eagle; Stephanie Yellow Eagle; Betty Yellow Eagle; Kathleen Yellow Bird-Steele; Bonnie Sweeney; Anthony Steele; Richard Litchewski; Nancy Litchewski; Brian Holzer; Joe Pilouhowski; Autumn Sattler; Kim Lott; Jay Gard; John Hult - Searchlight

Special guests in attendance on Teams: Rex Squyres – Board Program Assistant; Imelda Aguilar; Riley DeGroot – Senior Case Manager; Brittany Shelburg – Case Manager; Jessica Luke – Case Manager; Brenna Carlson – SOMP Program Manager; Kim Lippincott – Senior Case Manager;

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Meredith Jones – Transitional Case Manager; Ian Miller – Senior Case Manager; Jordan Moose; Transitional Case Manager; Jamisen Wagner – Case Manager

II. Call for Public Input

No public input.

III. Parole Hearings

A. *Sauvage, Jeffrey*

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Jeffrey Sauvage*. The offender was present on Teams.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to himself and Board Member Hall for summarization. Testimony was provided by the offender. Testimony was provided by staff: Jeff Neill – SOMP; Dr. David Kauffman. Following summarization, testimony, evidence review, questions and discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion:	Motion to deny parole and set a next review date of July 2026.
Made:	Beck
Seconded by:	Aasen
Votes in Favor:	Albers, Beck, Brown, Hall, Lieberman, Meyers, Steele, Aasen
Votes Opposed:	Rau
Results:	Motion carried.

B. *Thomas, Aaron*

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Aaron Thomas*. The offender was present.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Member Brown and Board Member Steele for summarization. Testimony was provided by the offender. Following summarization, testimony, evidence review, questions and discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion:	Motion to deny parole and set a next review date of November 2027.
Made:	Beck
Seconded by:	Hall
Votes in Favor:	Albers, Beck, Hall, Lieberman, Meyers, Rau
Votes Opposed:	Brown, Steele, Aasen
Results:	Motion carried.

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C. *Steele, Philip*

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Philip Steele*. The offender was present. Guests on Teams: Anthony Steele; Autumn Sattler. Guests in person: Levi Yellow Eagle; Stephanie Yellow Eagle; Betty Yellow Eagle; Kathleen Yellow Bird-Steele; Bonnie Sweeney; Richard Litchewski; Nancy Litchewski; Brian Holzer; Joe Pilouhowski

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Member Lieberman and Board Member Steele for summarization. Testimony was received by the offender. Testimony was provided by staff: Jeff Neill – SOMP. Testimony was received from guests on Teams: Anthony Steele; Autumn Sattler. Testimony was received from in-person guests: Richard Litchewski; Bonnie Sweeney. Following summarization, testimony, evidence review, questions and discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion:	Motion to deny parole and set a next review date of July 2026.
Made:	Beck
Seconded by:	Meyers
Votes in Favor:	Beck, Brown, Lieberman, Meyers, Steele, Aasen, Rau
Votes Opposed:	Albers, Hall
Results:	Motion carried.

The Full Board Adjourned from parole matters at approximately 11:25 a.m.

The Full Board returned to its full board meeting at approximately 12:02 p.m.

IV. Minutes

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

V. November Hearing Panels

Due to scheduling issues, Vice Chair Aasen held hearings at RCC, and Board Member Meyers held hearings at Yankton Minimum Center. Board Member Albers and Chair Rau held waiver signing / executive clemency. There were no other changes to the posted schedule.

VI. December Proposed Schedule

Board Members reviewed the proposed schedule for December. Due to a lower number of full board cases in December, the board will hold its business meeting on Wednesday, December

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10th, 2025, and not convene on December 11th, 2025. Board Members indicated whether they would be appearing via Teams and had no further changes to the proposed schedule.

VII. Board Report / Field Services Report

Board Members reviewed the board report and monthly metrics. There was a Special Session held on October 23rd; there were early discharges, waivers (parole/SSV/non-compliance), parole revocation hearings, non-compliance hearings, and paper reviews of pardon and commutation applications. Governor Rhoden took action on 15 pardon applications, with 12 granted and 3 denied. The current set-out period for pardons is January 2026.

VIII. Items for Discussion

Board Administration Manager Gust recommended that the Board consider revising their Dispositional Meeting policy that had been previously repealed in 2022. Board Members directed Gust to bring a draft forward to the full board for consideration at a later meeting.

IX. Policy Review

Board members reviewed the revisions to Policy 8.1.A.2: Parole/Suspended Sentence Revocation Hearings. The proposed changes to this policy will complement the dispositional hearing policy. Both policies will be reviewed again at a later meeting.

X. Full Board Cases / Potential Upcoming Paper Review Cases

Board Members were advised that the December calendar has 1 full board case and 1 commutation currently scheduled.

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

Board Members reviewed the denials of 7 pardons by the two-panel at Special Session. Motion by Beck, second by Hall to ratify the decisions and adopt the denials. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

XII. 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.

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XIII. Adjourn

The Full Board meeting adjourned at approximately 12:51 p.m. The next full board meeting is scheduled for December 10th, 2025.

BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

Myron Rau, Board Chair or Kirsten Aasen, Vice Chair

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