

PAPILLION LA VISTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #27
Board of Education Proceedings
April 13, 2026

The Board of Education of the School District of Papillion La Vista, in the County of Sarpy, in the State of Nebraska, met in an open and public session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 13, 2026. The meeting was held at the Papillion La Vista Community Schools Administration Office, 420 South Washington Street, Papillion, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was provided in advance by publication in the *Sarpy Times*, April 8, 2026. Notice of the meeting was simultaneously given to all members of the Board of Education. Their acknowledgment of receipt of the agenda is maintained at the Papillion La Vista Community Schools Administration Office. The proceedings, hereafter shown, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Call to Order

Board Vice President Lisa Wood called the meeting to order and publicly stated a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law is posted at the entrance to the Board Room. Ms. Wood led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken. Board members who were present: Ms. Lisa Wood, Mr. Skip Bailey, Ms. SuAnn Witt, Ms. Elizabeth Butler, and Mr. Marcus Madler. There were no comments from the Board or audience.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Madler to approve the absence of Mr. Brian Lodes from the April 13, 2026, board meeting. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Bailey, Witt, Butler, Madler and Wood. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Recognitions

Dr. Rikli recognized three groups for their state-level achievements. The first two groups were honored for the Nebraska State Powerlifting Championship. From Papillion La Vista High School, state champions Gabby Mancuso and Logan Holtmeyer were recognized, along with their coach. From Papillion La Vista South High School, state champions Taryn Lewis, Mikee Johnson, and David Beaty were recognized. The third group recognized was the DECA chapter from Papillion La Vista High School. The PLHS DECA chapter was named the 2026 Nebraska Distinguished DECA Chapter of the Year. Individual DECA champion Elsie Ryan was also recognized.

Student Council

Lexi Souza, representative from Papillion La Vista High School, reported for the Student Council. In March, student council members visited elementary schools during Read Across America Week and held a blanket making event for Project Linus. The PLHS DECA chapter was named Distinguished Chapter of the Year, and champion Elsie Ryan was recognized. Eighteen students qualified at state DECA. The spring musical, *Newsies*, was a success. PLHS held a Multicultural Fair celebrating the diversity of the student population. A Unified Basketball game was co-hosted with Papillion La Vista South; PLHS was also recognized as a Unified Distinguished High School. April marks Military Spirit Week at PLHS, with an appreciation breakfast for military families held on April 7 and a Military Signing Day on April 8.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Rikli provided a report of highlights and activities he has attended this past month. Dr. Rikli thanked the community for attending the meeting and the community members that are watching the meeting on YouTube. Dr. Rikli noted the district is now in the final six weeks of the school year. Dr. Rikli highlighted Anderson Grove Elementary School's 40th anniversary celebration held the previous Monday. Dr. Rikli shared several events in

celebration of April's Month of the Military Child. Governor Pillen invited Dr. Rikli and Dr. Rippe of Bellevue to attend a proclamation ceremony at the State Capitol recognizing military children. The district's first-ever Military Signing Day ceremony was held at PLHS, honoring five students enlisting in the armed forces. A second Military Signing Day ceremony is scheduled for April 29 at Papillion La Vista South High School. Dr. Rikli thanked Dr. Settles for hosting the annual Fase Teacher Awards. Dr. Rikli also reminded the community that the regularly scheduled April 27 board meeting has been moved to April 22.

Board Comments

Mr. Bailey attended a MABE meeting.

Ms. Wood attended the blood drive at Papillion La Vista South High School.

Committee Reports:

- Building & Grounds & Finance: Mr. Madler reported the committee met. Agenda topics discussed included middle school land purchase options, transportation update, and The Sarpy County Tax Equalization and Review Commission findings.
- HR & Student Services Committee: Ms. Witt reported the committee met twice. First, to review member survey findings and discuss retention, and again to review changes to the administrative and superintendent salary packages.
- Curriculum and Americanism: Mr. Bailey reported the committee met. Agenda items discussed were the middle school land purchase and the transportation update.

Action Items – Monthly Business

A motion was made by Mr. Madler and seconded by Ms. Witt to approve the Action by Consent Items: the meeting agenda, bills, out-of-state travel and personnel, and the board meeting minutes of March 23, 2026, as presented. There were no comments from the Board or audience. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Witt, Butler, Madler, Wood, and Bailey. Nays: None. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Witt and seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Certified Administrators, Classified Directors, & Assistant Superintendents average package increase of 3.25%. There were no comments from the Board or audience. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Butler, Madler, Wood, Bailey, and Witt. Nays: None. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Witt and seconded by Ms. Butler to approve the three-year superintendent contract for Dr. Andrew Rikli at a salary of \$283,557.70 for the 2026-27 school year. There were no comments from the Board or audience. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Madler, Wood, Bailey, Witt, and Butler. Nays: None. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Madler and seconded by Mr. Bailey to acknowledge the review of Series 3000 Business Board Policies. There were no comments from the Board or audience. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Wood, Bailey, Witt, Butler, and Madler. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Communication

Public testifiers who addressed the Board regarding items on the agenda: Stefanie Barton

Discussion/Information Items

Mr. Brett Richards, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented an update on Policy 5701 – Transportation. Mr. Richards provided an overview of the district's current transportation program, which operates 17 general education bus routes, including seven serving middle school students meeting the four-mile eligibility threshold. The cost per route is currently \$77,300, rising to \$81,200 next year, representing a significant increase over recent years. Discussion focused on a possible expansion of middle school transportation service, including two potential groups of eligible students: those living south of Highway 370 within four miles and those north of Highway 370 within two to four miles. At full parent-pay and full bus capacity, the estimated cost per

student would be approximately \$1,692 per year. Key considerations discussed included timeline feasibility, route logistics, driver hiring and training timelines, and the development of necessary infrastructure. Next steps include finalizing cost modeling, deploying a parent interest and willingness-to-pay survey, and continuing to work with First Student on route feasibility. An August 2026 launch was identified as unlikely given the scope of work required.

Mr. Richards also presented information on a resolution regarding a Sarpy County Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) appeal. On February 24, 2026, Sarpy County entered into an agreement with JDHQ Hotels (Embassy Suites and Courtyard properties) related to property tax valuations for the 2022 through 2025 tax years. The county's assessed values were found to be too high, resulting in a refund obligation of approximately \$1.5 million across all political subdivisions, of which the district's share is \$824,889.99. Rather than a lump-sum repayment, the board discussed Resolution 2026-060, which would allow the hotel to receive a property tax credit over two years. Mr. Richards noted this approach is preferable to protect the district's current budget and will be included transparently in future tax hearings. A formal recommendation for action on this resolution will be brought to the next board meeting.

Dr. Shureen Seery provided an update on the district's Early Literacy Grant and multi-year literacy project. The literacy project was launched in response to data indicating that the district's English Language Arts curriculum was not serving students as intended, and was further shaped by the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and the district's strategic plan. The project is structured in four phases: (1) hiring an early literacy coordinator; (2) adding an attendance interventionist and high-trained floater substitute teachers; (3) obtaining resources for progress monitoring software, professional development centered on the Science of Reading, and strengthened MTSS interventions; and (4) supporting family literacy nights at all levels. Funding sources include general fund dollars, ESSER funds, the Learning Community 2.0 grant, and the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) competitive grant. The district contracted with ICG to conduct a systems-level literacy evaluation across all buildings, with results expected the following week. The district also plans to contract with national MTSS expert Judy Elliot to work with elementary buildings using CLSD grant funding. Next steps include presentations from Kelley Bell on year-one outcomes and from Tracy McCormick on attendance intervention work, both planned for the summer. The district will reapply for year three of the CLSD grant in October.

Communication

There were no public testifiers.

Board Vice President Wood reviewed the future board calendar.

Board Vice President Wood adjourned the meeting at 7:18p.m.

Skip Bailey, Secretary
Papillion La Vista Community School District
Board of Education