

**PAPILLION LA VISTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #27**  
**Board of Education Proceedings**  
**April 22, 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 open and public session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, 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 15, 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 President Brian Lodes 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. Mr. Lodes led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Recognition

Dr. Rikli recognized two groups from Papillion La Vista South High School for their state-level achievements. The first was Laura England, recognized as the 2026 State Speech Champion and recipient of the Best of the Best award in persuasive speaking. Ms. England was also announced as a featured speaker on Nebraska Public Media on April 25, 2026. The second group was the Papillion La Vista South Skills USA State Champions. The following students earned team and individual state honors: Joel Aiken-Otiko and Juniper Gryder; Rebecca Brooks, Brandyn Greenwell, and Jaynie White; Nate Saliga and Holden Schardt; and Allison Watts and Logan Thomas. Additional honors noted for the record included: the PLCS NJROTC trained two gold medal drones teams; Rebecca Brooks won gold for lesson plan and job skills demonstration; the South Robotics Club earning a gold medal; Allison Watts winning gold in criminal justice for the second consecutive year and being accepted into the MCC Criminal Justice Academy; and Logan Thomas winning gold in cabinet making, also enrolled at MCC. Overall, South had 18 state competitors and brought home 13 medals. Cole Miles was elected as a Skills USA state officer for the coming year, and the chapter achieved the silver level of the Chapter of Distinction award.

Military Advisory

Colonel Chad Backes shared the monthly Offutt Air Force Base update. Colonel Backes noted that the 55th Wing is currently engaged in active operations in the Middle East and that the operational tempo at Offutt remains very high. Colonel Backes thanked the district for its participation in more than 15 Month of the Military Child events held throughout the month. He noted the upcoming Military Signing Day at Papillion La Vista South and expressed appreciation for the Military Signing Day at Monarch High School.

Colonel Backes also highlighted an upcoming IEP and 504 workshop for inbound military families, scheduled for May 12 at Offutt Air Force Base, and noted that change of station season is approaching, with the majority of inbound families expected in June and July. Colonel Backes thanked Dr. Rikli for attending the Governor's military child proclamation ceremony in Lincoln.

#### Presentation

The Elementary Title 1 Array principals, Jamie Boyer (G. Stanley Hall), Traci McShane (Carriage Hill), Randy Guthmiller (Parkview Heights), Ami Nichols (La Vista West), Jen Noble (Golden Hills), and instructional coaches, Melissa Hansen (G. Stanley Hall) and Tessie Boudreau (Golden Hills), provided an overview of the new ELA curriculum implementation and the positive impact it is having on student learning. The presentation outlined the district's science of reading approach grounded in five pillars: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. The curriculum provides a systematic and explicit instructional sequence across grade levels. Three knowledge-building strands — literature, science, and social studies — are woven throughout the curriculum to build background knowledge and vocabulary over time, with content deliberately connected and sequenced across grade levels. MAP assessment data shared during the presentation showed students exceeding projected growth benchmarks.

#### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Rikli provided a report of highlights and activities. Dr. Rikli thanked the board and community for accommodating the rescheduled Wednesday meeting, noting that several board members and the superintendent will be attending a Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) conference the following Monday. Dr. Rikli highlighted the conclusion of the district's final advisory group meetings of the year. Dr. Rikli recognized the Papillion La Vista Community Schools Foundation and Dr. Settles for hosting the annual Fase Teacher Awards. Dr. Rikli and Mr. Madler also attended the annual Foundation Scholarship Breakfast at Papillion La Vista High School that morning, where scholarship donors were matched with student recipients. A similar event is planned at Papillion La Vista South the following Wednesday, and board members were invited to attend. Dr. Rikli noted that prom season is underway, with Papillion La Vista South's prom having taken place two weeks prior and Monarch Prom scheduled for that Saturday. Commencement for both Monarch and Titan will be held on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, at Baxter Arena at the University of Nebraska Omaha — Monarchs at 1:00 p.m. and Titans at 5:00 p.m.

#### Board Member Reports

Ms. Wood attended the Hickory Hills Military Morning and Muffins celebration. Ms. Wood also attended the Teammates board meeting.

Mr. Madler attended the Foundation Scholarship Breakfast at Papillion La Vista High School. Mr. Madler also attended the final Senator Roundtree legislative session call.

Mr. Lodes thanked Ms. Wood for presiding over the April 13 meeting during his absence. Mr. Lodes reported attending the Metro Conference Soccer Tournament, with both Monarch and Titan teams competing and the Titan boys winning the Metro Conference title. He also attended multiple middle school track meets, including the first-ever all-district meet coordinated by all three middle school athletic directors. Mr. Lodes also attended the PLSHS Collegiate Signing Day. Mr. Lodes also attended the Monarch Backer Night event.

#### Committee Reports:

- Building & Grounds & Finance: Mr. Madler reported the committee had not met.
- HR & Student Services Committee: Ms. Wood reported the committee had not met.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee: Mr. Bailey reported the committee had not met.

### Action Items – Monthly Business

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Madler to approve the Action by Consent Items: The meeting agenda, finance, out of state travel and personnel, and board meeting minutes of April 13, 2026, as presented. There were no comments from the Board or audience. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Witt, Butler, Madler, Lodes, Wood, and Bailey. Nays: None. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Madler and seconded by Ms. Butler to approve the Wittmus Property Resolution and the purchase agreement for 210-220 W. Sherman St., Papillon, NE 68046 for Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars (\$250,000), plus closing costs, as presented. There were no comments from the Board or audience. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Butler, Madler, Lodes, Wood, Bailey, and Witt. Nays: None. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Madler and seconded by Ms. Bailey to approve the Sarpy County Tax Equalization and Review Commission Agreement with JDHQ Hotels. Mr. Madler asked if we should anticipate another appeal. There were no comments from the audience. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Madler, Lodes, Wood, Bailey, Witt, and Butler. Nays: None. The motion carried.

### Discussion/Information Items

Mr. Tim Gay of Catalyst Public Affairs presented the end-of-session legislative update. Mr. Gay reported that 547 bills were introduced in the session, with 66 in the education committee alone. He highlighted several key outcomes. LB1050, the third-grade reading retention bill, did not advance; Mr. Gay praised the district's administration — particularly Dr. Rikli, Mr. Richards, and Dr. Seery — for their effective lobbying efforts in opposition to the bill. LB1219, the 2% property tax lid bill, also did not pass. A bill requiring parental sign-off on IEPs was successfully defeated. Bills that did pass include changes to K–2 suspension procedures (now requiring documented interventions), professional employees organization access, Educational Savings Account (ESA) expansion to cover apprenticeships and K–12 private schools, and a cleanup bill (LB937) combining several education-related measures. A property tax joint public hearing requirement was added on select file, effective in 2027, and a “carry forward” provision for unspent property tax authority was eliminated.

Dr. Settles provided an update on the annual review of the 4000 Series Board Policies. Board members and administrators were invited to submit any proposed changes to Dr. Settles or her team. Recommendations will be presented at the next board meeting.

### Communication

There were no public testifiers.

Board President Lodes reviewed the future board calendar.  
Board President Lodes adjourned the meeting at 7:19p.m.

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