

PAPILLION LA VISTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #27
Board of Education Proceedings
May 11, 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, May 11, 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*, May 6, 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: Ms. Elizabeth Butler, Mr. Marcus Madler, Mr. Brian Lodes, Ms. Lisa Wood, Mr. Skip Bailey and Ms. SuAnn Witt. There were no comments from the Board or audience.

Recognitions

Dr. Rikli recognized three groups this evening. From Papillion La Vista High School, state journalism champions Mackenzie Frederick, Ethan Whitney and Gavin Vest, were recognized. From Papillion La Vista South High School, state journalism champions Brody Carter and Connor Sain, were recognized. The third group recognized were the Student Council representatives from both high schools, who provided monthly reports to the Board of Education throughout the school year. From Papillion La Vista High School, Maggie Novak and Lexi Souza were recognized. From Papillion La Vista South High School, Abigail Bender and Maddie Larsen were recognized. Dr. Rikli thanked all four representatives for their consistent dedication and wished them well in the coming year.

Presentation

Dr. Seery and Dr. Settles introduced the Leadership Cohort presentation. The five presenting members of the cohort include: Laura Melonis, Golden Hills Lead Teacher; Kate Konrad, Trumble Park Instructional Coach; Sarah Parks, Tara Heights Teacher; Rachel Stevens, Patriot Music Teacher; and Zach Lapointe, Professional Learning Facilitator. The full cohort consisted of 17 members selected from across the district. The Leadership Cohort is an 18-month program designed to build and develop leaders within the district. The program originated in 1999, was restarted around 2014, and was refreshed in 2022 by Dr. Settles to extend the program to 18 months and deepen participants' leadership preparation. The current cohort of 17 members applied in fall 2024 and was selected based on a demonstrated desire for leadership, professional references, and enrollment in or completion of an advanced degree program. The program is co-facilitated by Dr. Settles and Gretchen Kalkowski, Professional Learning Facilitator. Cohort members shared highlights from the program, including monthly meetings featuring guest speakers, leadership scenario discussions, shadowing experiences, mock interviews, and resume and cover letter development. Each cohort member also developed and facilitated a personalized learning class for district staff.

Over 50 in-person hours were committed throughout the program, with the option to earn UNO leadership credit. The cohort also participated in a full-day visit to the Nebraska Legislature. They also toured the Capitol, visited the NCSA building to meet with Executive Director Dr. Dulaney. Each cohort member additionally volunteered at a Community Closet event and participated in multiple shadowing opportunities across the district, each taking two days to observe leaders in various roles and settings. The cohort concluded with a graduation celebration. Of the 17 cohort members, five have already moved into formal leadership roles within the district. Applications for the next cohort will open in fall 2027.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Rikli provided a report of highlights and activities. Dr. Rikli wished a belated Happy Mother's Day to all mothers in attendance and viewing online. He thanked board members for their attendance at numerous end-of-year events. Dr. Rikli congratulated all graduates and their families, noting that 485 Monarchs and 517 Titans crossed the stage at Baxter Arena at the University of Nebraska Omaha on Sunday, May 10. He also recognized the special senior walk tradition, in which graduating seniors return to their home elementary schools in cap and gown to walk the halls and high-five students on their way out the building. Dr. Rikli highlighted several year-end celebrations attended over the past two weeks, including the Health Systems Academy, Zoo Academy, YATP, Project Search, and multiple senior walks. He noted that the YATP graduation was held at the YATP facility this year rather than Embassy Suites, and was well-attended by families. Dr. Rikli recognized two non-NSAA sanctioned achievements deserving recognition: Justin Powell, a Papillion La Vista South student, won a state title in trap shooting; and the Papillion La Vista South rugby team won back-to-back state titles, finishing the season 19-0. Dr. Rikli also thanked board members Marcus Madler, SuAnn Witt, and Lisa Wood for attending the NASB Federal Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. He concluded by encouraging the community to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming primary election.

Board Comments

Board members, Witt, Butler, Madler, Lodes and Wood attended Commencement on Sunday, May 10. All congratulated the Seniors.

Ms. Witt attended the NASB Federal Advocacy Trip, the PLSHS Trap Shoot event, Project Search and YATP Graduations, PLHS Honors Night, and Commencement on May 10.

Ms. Butler attended a liaison breakfast at PLECC.

Ms. Wood attended the NASB Federal Advocacy Trip, a liaison lunch at Rumsey Station, the Years of Service and Retirement Celebration, the Cooperation BEST Celebration, and the Health Academy, Project Search and YATP Graduations.

Mr. Madler attended the NASB Federal Advocacy Trip.

Mr. Lodes attended many athletic events throughout the district.

Committee Reports:

- Building & Grounds & Finance: Mr. Madler reported the committee had met. The agenda items discussed were middle school land purchase, print shop sale, and the 2023 facilities improvement.
- HR & Student Services Committee: Ms. Wood reported the committee had met. The agenda items discussed were the Policy 4000's, staffing, student teacher pay, bussing survey sent to families, and teammates coordinator position.
- Curriculum and Americanism Committee: Mr. Bailey reported that 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, bills, finance, out of state travel and personnel, and board meeting minutes of April 22, 2026. There were no comments from the Board or audience. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Madler, Lodes, Wood, Bailey, Witt, and Butler. Nays: None. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Madler and seconded by Ms. Butler to approve the 2026–27 ESU#3 Driver Education Contract as presented. Mr. Richards noted the price remained the same as the prior year and that the program provides students the opportunity to participate in driver’s education. There were no comments from the audience. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Lodes, Wood, Bailey, Witt, Butler, and Madler. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Discussion/Information Items

Dr. Settles provided an update on the review of the Series 5000 Board Policies. The 5000 Series is open for review during the month of May. Policy recommendations are expected to be brought back to the board at the June 8 meeting. Board members were invited to submit any proposed changes to Dr. Settles.

Mr. Richards presented the 2023 Bond Facility Improvements Update. In May 2023, PLCS voters approved a \$129.9 million facility improvement bond. Projects included renovations at Hickory Hill, Tara Heights, Trumble Park, Parkview Heights, Walnut Creek, Bell, Portal, and Patriot elementary schools; extensive renovations at La Vista Middle and Papillion Middle; additions at both high schools; a new elementary school (Lincoln View); a new Young Adult Transition Program (YATP) facility; baseball and softball field improvements; and safety and security upgrades across all district buildings. Safety and security technology infrastructure — including door monitoring, access controls, intercoms, and phones — is being installed across all 12 bond renovation schools as part of each project. Design work for the remaining district buildings will begin this fall with BCDM and Alvine Engineering, with installation planned in two phases across summers 2027 and 2028.

Dr. Settles presented proposed revisions to the Series 4,000 Board Policies - Personnel, for board discussion, with action anticipated at the June 8 meeting. Proposed changes include: Policy 4005 (new policy) – Internet searches for potential employees, codifying existing district practice of conducting online searches as part of the hiring process; Policy 4032 – Military Leave, minor correction; Policy 4046 – Combined with and replaces Policy 4116 (Tutors), which will be eliminated; Policy 4104 – Language updated to address certificated staff rather than referring broadly to “teachers”; and Policy 4141 – Resignation, updating the staff release date from April 15 to March 15 (the earliest date permitted by Nebraska state law for intent to return).

Communication

There were no public testifiers.

Board President Lodes reviewed the future board calendar.

Board President Lodes adjourned the meeting at 7:13p.m.

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