

PAPILLION LA VISTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #27
Board of Education Proceedings
August 24, 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 6:00p.m., Monday, August 24, 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*, August 19, 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 present were: Ms. Elizabeth Butler, Mr. Marcus Madler, Mr. Brian Lodes, Ms. Lisa Wood, Mr. Skip Bailey and Ms. SuAnn Witt.

Recognition

Dr. Rikli recognized the Papillion La Vista South High School and Papillion La Vista High School track and field programs for their achievements at last year's state meet, noting the recognition had been carried over from May due to end-of-year scheduling. From Papillion La Vista South High School, the Class A state championship team was recognized. Individual state champions recognized were Emily Hegge, Kasi Johnson, and Finley Moone. From Papillion La Vista High School, individual and relay state champions recognized were Alexis Chadek and the 4x800-meter relay team of Alexis Chadek, Annie Finneron, Avery Skradski, and Gracie Suppes.

Military Advisory

Colonel Russell introduced Lieutenant Colonel Nevarez- Samshair, the new Force Support Squadron Commander at Offutt Air Force Base, and Chief Master Sergeant Crystal Cruz, the squadron's new senior enlisted leader. Colonel Russell noted that Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Andersen has returned from deployment and will continue to attend periodically, with Lieutenant Colonel Samshair taking on a more regular role at future meetings. Colonel Russell reported that the district's School Liaison Officers are partnering with the Military Family Life Counseling Center to provide virtual professional development for teachers on the challenges of military deployment. Families experiencing military-related struggles were encouraged to contact the School Liaison Officers for connection to base resources. Colonel Russell thanked the district for including base staff in the district's welcome-back event and reported that this year's air show drew an estimated 65,000 attendees over two days.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Rikli welcomed everyone to the first official Board of Education meeting of the 2026-2027 school year. Dr. Rikli thanked the community for its patience during the first weeks of school, particularly with transportation challenges, and thanked Dr. Villarreal, Mr. Richards, and Ms. Jackie Vote for managing the volume of related calls.

Dr. Rikli also recognized Mr. Richards and Mr. Kauk's team for preparing the district's buildings for the start of the school year. Dr. Rikli reported that he is in the process of visiting all 22 district schools and programs, and has visited several buildings with new principals this year, including Hickory Hill Elementary and Prairie Queen Elementary. Dr. Rikli also shared that he recently toured Papillion La Vista High School with Captain Dreiling, Chief of Staff to Congressman Don Bacon and a Papillion La Vista High School graduate, along with two visiting interns from Ukraine, who commented on the quality of the district's facilities. Dr. Rikli reviewed upcoming activities, including the season's first volleyball matches; the first home football game against Elkhorn South; the rivalry game between the Monarchs and Titans at Foundation Field; a softball game on August 27 at La Vista City Fields honoring the jersey retirements of Peaches James and Jordy Frahm. The district's first Community Closet event of the year will be on August 29 at La Vista Middle School.

Board Comments

Board President Lodes thanked Board members and former Board member Val Fischer for attending the PLCS Foundation Gala, and thanked Mr. Denker and Foundation staff for hosting the event.

Committee Reports

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

Communication

No Public testifiers testified.

Action Items

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, the Amend 2025-26 Budget Hearing and Board meeting minutes of August 10, 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 adopt Policy 7003- Bidding for Construction Remodeling Repair or Related Projects Financed with Federal Funds and acknowledge review of the 7000 policy series. There were no comments from the Board or audience. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Lodes, Wood, Bailey, Witt, Butler and Madler. Nays: None. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Madler and seconded by Ms. Wood to approve the attached resolution authorizing the district to increase its base growth percentage revenue up to 4% to determine its property tax request authority for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Board members discussed the distinction between budget and revenue caps and noted that the district has lowered its levy in each of the past eight years. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Lodes, Wood, Bailey, Witt, Butler and Madler. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Discussion/Information Items

Mr. Lee Denker, Executive Director of the Papillion La Vista Schools Foundation, and Mr. Seth Hiveley, Kids Club Program Director, provided the Foundation's annual update. Mr. Denker noted the Foundation is celebrating its 40th year of partnership with the district in 2026, and reintroduced the Foundation's mission to grow resources that expand opportunities for PLCS students. Mr. Denker clarified that Foundation staff, while close partners with the district, are employed separately by the Foundation. Mr. Hiveley reported that Kids Club served 732 children across 10 elementary sites this summer, a slight decrease from last year attributed to construction-related closures, and welcomed 23 students through the Jump Start program. The summer program employed 130 staff members, including many PLCS high school students gaining their first work experience. For the current school year, Kids Club is now operating in all 17 elementary buildings, with 1,237 students currently

enrolled. Mr. Denker reviewed several Foundation-funded programs supporting district students and staff. Mr. Denker reported that the Foundation's Back to School Soiree Gala raised approximately \$165,000 and that the Swing for Kids golf outing at Tiburon Golf Course was the Foundation's largest outing to date, with proceeds from both events supporting the Community Engagement Center. Mr. Denker provided an update on the Growing Up Greater campaign to fund construction of the Community Engagement Center. Mr. Denker reported that design work with BCDM Architects and environmental testing of the property are underway, with construction anticipated to begin later in 2026. Mr. Denker thanked the Board and Mr. Richards for their partnership in relocating district facilities to accommodate the project, and reported that the Foundation received gifts from more than 2,000 donors last year, its highest total to date. Board members thanked Mr. Denker and Mr. Hiveley for the Foundation's continued partnership and support of district students, families, and staff.

Dr. Rikli reported that Dr. Settles has not received any recommended revisions to the 8000 policy series (Board Organization and Operation) following the Board's comprehensive review last year, and indicated the series would be brought back for acknowledgment of receipt at the September 14 Board meeting. Ms. Witt requested that the Board's Code of Conduct be reviewed for consistency with the code of conduct language referenced in Policy 7000.3. Dr. Rikli agreed to refer the item to the Student Services Committee for review.

Dr. Bell provided a preliminary student enrollment and staffing update ahead of the official October 1 count. Enrollment as of the update was reported as follows: PreK, 373 students; Elementary, 5,924 students; Middle School, 1,936 students; and High School/IDEAL/YATP, 4,009 students; for a district total of 12,242 students. Dr. Bell noted this represents the district's strongest enrollment growth since before the pandemic, when the district historically averaged approximately 2.3% annual growth. Dr. Bell reported that none of the district's general education growth positions and one of two special education growth positions have been used to date. All classroom teacher and special education teacher positions have been filled with the exception of a school psychologist position, which has been addressed through internal reassignment. Dr. Bell reported ongoing recruitment for classified positions — particularly paraprofessionals, special education paraprofessionals, and van drivers and riders — and noted continued strong turnout at the district's Walk-In Wednesday hiring events.

Communication

No Public testifiers testified.

Board President Lodes reviewed the future board calendar.
Board President Lodes adjourned the meeting at 6:54pm.

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