

PAPILLION LA VISTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS #27
BOARD RETREAT PROCEEDINGS
October 1, 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 4:00pm Thursday, October 1, 2026. The meeting was held at the Papillion La Vista Community Schools Administration Office, 420 South Washington Street, Papillion, NE 68046.

Notice of the meeting was provided in advance by publication in the *Sarpy Times*, September 23, 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. Mr. Lodes led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. All board members were present: Ms. SuAnn Witt, Ms. Elizabeth Butler, Mr. Marcus Madler, Mr. Brian Lodes, Ms. Lisa Wood and Mr. Skip Bailey.

Dr. Rikli and Mr. Lodes reviewed the agenda and noted that the Board would proceed with its topics for discussion and hold a working dinner at approximately 6:00 p.m.

High School Enrollment / Elementary Boundaries:

Dr. Christopher Villarreal, Ms. Missy Stolley, and Dr. Shureen Seery led discussion on high school enrollment and elementary boundaries. Dr. Seery provided a recap of the high school visioning process, which included campus visits, community forums, and the bond that added onto both existing high schools. Dr. Villarreal reviewed the philosophy established by the Board in the 2017-2018 school year calling for equal program offerings, course offerings, facilities, and staffing at both high schools. He shared four years of enrollment data showing a growing difference between Papillion La Vista High School and Papillion La Vista South High School. Administration recommended preserving the original philosophy and continuing efforts to balance enrollment. The Board discussed whether balanced enrollment remains feasible given growth in the south and west areas of the District.

Dr. Villarreal presented a recommendation to relieve enrollment pressure at Bell Elementary. The recommendation would reassign three undeveloped areas (Bellino Seventy Two, Trumble Hills, and an approximately 200-acre parcel) from Bell Elementary to Rumsey Station Elementary before homes are sold. This would also shift those areas from Papillion Middle School to La Vista Middle School, and from Papillion La Vista South High School to Papillion La Vista High School. The Board discussed Carriage Hill Elementary as an alternative.

Ms. Missy Stolley provided an overview of option enrollment and in-district transfers, including a snapshot of Policy 5004, 2026-2027 option enrollment and in-district transfer applications, and historical option enrollment percentages.

She noted that the sibling exception under the law has already been District practice and suggested a supplementary District form for sibling information. She also suggested reviewing the current process and timeline for option enrollment applications received after March 15. For in-district transfers, Ms. Stolley recommended keeping February 1 as the priority deadline and making July 1 the last deadline, with an exception for continued enrollment.

Dr. Villarreal shared a proposal to engage RSP in October to complete a five-year enrollment forecast and ten-year outlook, with results expected in December or January. The study would include a capacity analysis of current high school boundaries, the potential timing for a third high school, and capacity alternatives such as program-specific centers.

The presentation concluded with a summary of five recommendations: preserve the high school philosophy of balanced enrollment and equal programs, courses, facilities, and staffing; move the three identified areas to Rumsey Station Elementary; move forward with both phases of the RSP study; close and open buildings for option enrollment as described above; and set February 1 and July 1 as the in-district transfer deadlines. No action was taken.

Middle School Transportation:

Dr. Villarreal and Mr. Richards presented three problem statements identified from surveys, public comment, and Board discussion: pedestrian and traffic safety, transportation access, and convenience or logistics. Possible solutions included traffic infrastructure improvements in collaboration with the city and county, a pay-to-ride bus program, and a formalized supervised early drop-off at secondary schools. Dr. Villarreal reviewed updated pay-to-ride cost scenarios for single-tier and two-tier routes based on an estimated 2027-2028 route cost of \$85,300. He also reviewed general education transportation spending since 2021-2022, available capacity on current middle school routes, route timing, and free and reduced meal eligibility of potentially eligible students.

Mr. Richards noted transportation costs are expected to increase regardless of the direction taken.

The report presented three options: continue current practice; develop a pay-to-ride system that maximizes capacity on existing routes for implementation in 2027-2028; or build a pay-to-ride option into the transportation request for proposals for implementation in 2028-2029. The report also recommended considering standardized supervised early arrival beginning at 7:00 a.m. at all secondary buildings, and communicating the Board's direction and timeline to families. Board members expressed general support for continuing current practice and including pay-to-ride terms in the next request for proposals. Board members also expressed interest in addressing transportation needs related to chronic absenteeism. The Board discussed communicating its direction to families, including a retreat summary at an upcoming Board meeting and a written communication. No action was taken.

Dr. Rikli and Ms. Wood led a reflection on Board and District accomplishments. Dr. Rikli shared a list of accomplishments and suggested the Board build in time for reflection on an annual basis. Ms. Wood noted the Board's increased legislative engagement since a previous retreat. Dr. Rikli and Dr. Seery shared positive findings from recent classroom observations by outside consultants, including consistent instructional pacing across buildings. Board members shared additional accomplishments, including the Board's reliance on established policy and processes.

Dr. Rikli distributed a future board topics survey. Board members were asked to rank topics, add topics of interest, and provide feedback on meeting structure. Surveys may be returned to the Board Clerk.

The Board discussed the meeting format. Board members suggested moving routine items, such as minor policy language changes, to the consent agenda after the first reading. The Board supported continuing the rotation of building presentations at Board meetings.

The Board discussed liaison lunches. Board members expressed support for continuing them and for meeting with a consistent group of staff for the full visit. The Board also discussed sharing questions with buildings in advance.

Ms. Witt left the meeting at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Survey Strategy:

Dr. Villarreal provided an update on the District's pulse survey model. An annual benchmark survey was administered in September to track historical trend data, including staff-specific items. Response rate goals for the benchmark survey were 50% for administrators, 30% for certified and classified staff, and 10% for parents. All goals were met except parents, at approximately 7%. Dr. Villarreal shared guidance provided to strategic plan implementation teams on when to seek community input. He also shared plans for targeted surveys, including an October survey of Family Engagement Fair attendees and a November survey on Access Your Future programs. Results will continue to be shared in the Rikli Recap. The Board discussed survey distribution to students and its expectations for future presentations of survey data.

Salary Schedule – Teachers and Administrators:

Mr. Lodes shared an overview of the salary schedule. Mr. Madler noted differences between the teacher and administrator salary schedules and asked to address them with the whole Board for discussion. Mr. Madler shared an analysis showing that teachers with longer tenure receive smaller annual percentage increases than administrators with similar tenure. He expressed concern that the gap between the teacher base salary of \$41,345 and the administrator base salary of \$75,800 did not widen over time. Ms. Wood expressed the same concerns. The Board discussed reviewing salary increases separately from total package increases, the impact of rising health insurance costs, and perceptions among administrators. Dr. Rikli noted a significant health insurance rate increase is anticipated. Dr. Rikli also noted that a two-year contract is in place and suggested that board members begin identifying possible solutions before the next negotiations and share recommendations with administration and the negotiations team.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Skip Bailey, Secretary
Board of Education
Papillion La Vista Community Schools