



ALMENA

# NORTHERN VALLEY SCHOOLS USD 212

DISTRICT OFFICE  
512 WEST BRYANT PO BOX 217  
ALMENA KS 67622

PHONE (785) 669-2445



LONG ISLAND

A Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northern Valley Schools was held Monday, May 12, 2025, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Almena High School , 512 W Bryant Street, Almena, KS 67622.

Shanna Hammond: Present  
Brandi Keith: Present  
Christopher Rogers: Present  
Laquita Smith: Present  
Hilary Van Patten: Present  
Rich Wenzl: Present  
Steven Whitney: Present

Also in attendance: Mr. Ken Tharman (HS Principal and Superintendent), Mr. Marvin Gebhard (GS/MS Principal), Cindy Mordecai, Jessie Thalheim and Amber Brown (Board Clerk).

## I. Call to Order

## II. Adoption of Agenda

I recommend the board approve the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Shanna Hammond, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

## III. Approval of Minutes

I recommend the board approve the minutes for the regular and special April meetings as presented. This motion, made by Shanna Hammond and seconded by Brandi Keith, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

## IV. Approval of Bills

I recommend the board approve the bills as presented. This motion, made by Steven Whitney and seconded by Christopher Rogers, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea



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Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

## V. Hearing of Visitors

### A. Jessie Thalheim

Mrs. Thalheim shared about some of the projects her classes have been working on: plants, dissection, job shadowing, and visiting the cadaver lab.

### B. Cindy Mordecai

Mrs. Mordecai said that she has really enjoyed doing all of the music this year and appreciates the support of the community, board, and administration.

## VI. Old Business

### A. Student Capacities

I recommend the board approve the projected open enrollment numbers as presented. This motion, made by Steven Whitney and seconded by Shanna Hammond, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea

Brandi Keith: Yea

Christopher Rogers: Yea

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

### B. Transportation

Mr. Tharman shared that Purple Wave was planning to be here tomorrow to take pictures of the three vehicles that will be going on their auction: Bus #10, maintenance pickup, and Van #4. Mr. Gebhard shared that Van #7 is getting the air conditioner worked on, and the remaining fleet is working well.

### C. Basketball Warm-ups

Mrs. Thalheim shared the current bids on boys' and girls' basketball warm-ups. They are still waiting on samples to see if the ones selected will function the way we would like.

## VII. Personnel

### A. Staffing

I recommend the board go into executive session to discuss nonelected personnel to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed; retaining Mr. Gebhard and Mr. Tharman and returning to open session in this room at 7:05 PM. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Rich Wenzl, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea

Brandi Keith: Yea

Christopher Rogers: Yea

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

At 7:05 PM, the meeting returned to open session. I recommend the board go into executive session to discuss nonelected personnel to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed; retaining



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Mr. Gebhard and Mr. Tharman and returning to open session in this room at 7:12 PM. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Rich Wenzl, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

At 7:12 PM the meeting returned to open session; no action taken.

### B. Supplementals

I recommend the board accept Shelby's resignation for the co - JH cheer sponsor position. and recommend it go back to a one-person position. This motion, made by Steven Whitney and seconded by Shanna Hammond, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

I recommend the board approve Shelby Preston for HS Cheer and Adriana Ankenman for the HS Dance supplemental. This motion, made by Rich Wenzl and seconded by Brandi Keith, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

### C. Summer Help

I recommend the board approve hiring Stephanie Whitney as a summer helper. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Shanna Hammond, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0



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### D. 2025 - 26 Certified Staff

I recommend the board approve the certified staffing list for 2025 - 26 school year. This motion, made by Shanna Hammond and seconded by Brandi Keith, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

### E. 2025 - 26 Classified Staffing

I recommend the board approve the classified staffing list for the 2025 - 26 school year. This motion, made by Rich Wenzl and seconded by Shanna Hammond, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

### F. 2025 - 26 Supplemental List

I recommend the board approve the supplemental list provided with the amended removing of Shelby as co-JH cheer sponsor. This motion, made by Steven Whitney and seconded by Brandi Keith, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

### G. Food Service Director and Authorized Representative

I recommend hiring Kenzi Sheley as the new Food Service Director and Authorized Representative effective June 1st, 2025. This motion, made by Shanna Hammond and seconded by Christopher Rogers, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea



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Yea: 7, Nay: 0

### VIII. New Business

#### A. Graduation

Mr. Tharman shared an email with the board about additional honors from a non-school organization being worn at graduation. There was discussion, but the item was tabled at this time.

#### B. Negotiations

I recommend the board go into executive session to discuss negotiations to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; retaining Mr. Tharman and returning to open session in this room at 7:35 PM. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Steven Whitney, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea

Brandi Keith: Yea

Christopher Rogers: Yea

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

At 7:35 PM the meeting returned to open session. I recommend the board go into executive session to discuss negotiations to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; retaining Mr. Tharman and returning to open session in this room at 7:48 PM. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Steven Whitney, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea

Brandi Keith: Yea

Christopher Rogers: Yea

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

At 7:48 PM the meeting returned to open session. I recommend the board go into executive session to discuss negotiations to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; retaining Mr. Tharman and returning to open session in this room at 7:55 PM. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Steven Whitney, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea

Brandi Keith: Yea

Christopher Rogers: Yea

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

At 7:55 PM the meeting returned to open session. I recommend the board go into executive session to discuss negotiations to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; retaining Mr. Tharman and returning to open session in this room at 8:00 PM. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Steven Whitney, Carried.



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Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

At 8:00 PM the meeting returned to open session. I recommend the board go into executive session to discuss negotiations to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; retaining Mr. Tharman and returning to open session in this room at 8:05 PM. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Steven Whitney, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

At 8:05 PM the meeting returned to open session; no action taken.

### C. Workers Compensation Insurance

I recommend the board approve the renewal quote for Workers Compensation. This motion, made by Christopher Rogers and seconded by Steven Whitney, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea  
Brandi Keith: Yea  
Christopher Rogers: Yea  
Laquita Smith: Yea  
Hilary Van Patten: Yea  
Rich Wenzl: Yea  
Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

### IX. Administrative Reports

#### A. Superintendent / 9-12 Principal Report

Mr. Tharman went over the following items: Clean up day was a success/ Physicals - today (Mrs. Thalheim added that all that attended passed) / Couple more golf meets and then Regionals on the 19th / Seniors last day - Wednesday / Negotiations meeting - Wednesday / End of the Year StuCo Party - Wednesday / League Track in Logan on Thursday / HS Graduation on Sunday / End of school with early dismissal on Tuesday, May 20th / HS Awards Banquet on May 20th / In-service on May 21st / State Golf, State Track, and FFA State Convention. Would like to thank those businesses that allowed the freshmen to job shadow last month: Norton County Sheriff's office, Clerk of the District Court, Razor's Edge, The HomeStore, Amlong Auto, New Age, New Look, The Norton Vet, The Norton County Health Department, The Norton County Hospital and Physical Therapy Department, Bumps Auto, and The Sunshine Daycare.

#### B. K-8 Principal Report



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Mr. Gebhard shared that there have been several field trips, parties, and testing going on. Grandparents day had ninety plus attendees and was a great day. The elevator project was moved back to start at the end of July, but is still planned to be completed this summer.

X. Reports of Board Members

XI. Adjournment

With no further business, I recommend the board meeting adjourn. This motion, made by Shanna Hammond and seconded by Brandi Keith, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea

Brandi Keith: Yea

Christopher Rogers: Yea

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0