



STATE OF NEBRASKA
Office of the Attorney General

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MIKE HILGERS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

RYAN D. BAKER
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 20, 2025

Via email: [REDACTED]
Nicholas Orris
[REDACTED]

RE: *Public Records Matter Involving Papillion LaVista Community Schools*
Our File No. 20251114

Dear Mr. Orris:

This letter is in response to your public records petition received by this office on October 3, 2025, in which you sought our review of the response to your public records request by Papillion LaVista Community Schools ("Papillion LaVista") regarding certain correspondence and communications. We reviewed your petition in accordance with the Nebraska Public Records Statutes ("NPRS"), Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-712 through 84-712.09 (2024), and our conclusions are set forth below.

FACTS

Our understanding of the facts in this matter is based on your petition submitted to our office, the materials attached thereto, and the undersigned's communication with Papillion LaVista's legal counsel, Steve Williams. Per your petition, you submitted a request to Papillion LaVista via email to Director of Communications, Dr. Christopher Villarreal, on August 20, 2025, for several categories of communications and documents, including emails and text messages, relating to or referencing multiple individuals and entities. Specifically, you requested:

1. All communications (including emails, memos, letters, and text messages) from May 1, 2024, to August 20, 2025, that reference or include:
 - Nicholas (Nick) Orris
 - Kasey Kaiser

- Matthew (Matt) Moragues
 - Kristi Marble
 - Sarah Morgan
 - Bob Danenhauer
 - Christian Graham
 - Omaha Hockey Club or any representative thereof
2. All internal or external correspondence referencing the above individuals or entities where the employment status, job performance, or character of Nicholas (Nick) Orris is discussed.
 3. All documents or correspondence used by the district in deciding to investigate, discipline, or terminate Mr. Orris's employment, including any testimony or input from Omaha Hockey Club, Kristi Marble, Sarah Morgan, Kasey Kaiser, Matthew (Matt) Moragues, or Bob Danenhauer.
 4. Any materials referencing communications initiated or received by Ms. Kasey Kaiser regarding Mr. Orris's employment, conduct within the Omaha Hockey Club or USA Hockey, or background.
 5. Any text messages or SMS communications sent to or received by members of the Papillion La Vista Board of Education between July 1, 2024, and August 20, 2025, where Nicholas (Nick) Orris, the Omaha Hockey Club, Kristi Marble, Sarah Morgan, or Kasey Kaiser is mentioned or discussed.

Dr. Villarreal responded to your request via email dated August 26, 2025, in which he advised that "[a]n initial query of [Papillion LaVista's] email system returned 1,300+ records containing one or more of your provided keywords" and that a significant amount of time and resources would be required to produce responsive records. Following your confirmation for a cost estimate, Dr. Villarreal provided an estimate of \$1,174.

On August 29, 2025, you sent a follow-up email to Dr. Villarreal requesting clarifications regarding your request. Via emails dated September 2 and September 5, 2025, Dr. Villarreal provided responses to your requests for clarification and additional information. Papillion LaVista thereafter provided you with the responsive records on September 22, 2025, subject to redactions for "Student Information," "Personnel Information," and "Attorney-Client Privileged Communications."

Following Papillion LaVista's production of responsive records, you emailed Dr. Villarreal on September 24, 2025, stating the following:

As it pertains to the text messages, can you provide who is the sender and recipient of each message? I can gather who the sender is on the left and who the likely

recipient is on the right, but having official contact information would be helpful to not make assumptions.

I also wanted to check and see if there is an error in the PDF of emails that was produced. It seems to have started on August 29, 2024, which is significantly after the start date I had requested. However, there are other communications within my personnel file and texts that make it clear there were certainly communications before August 29, 2024. It seems this may have just been an upload error so I wanted to check and see.

Dr. Villarreal responded to this email on October 1, 2025, and stated that “[a]ll records responsive to your request have been provided.” In your petition to our office, you raised concerns that Papillion LaVista failed “to provide the full scope of emails responsive to [your] request” and “to identify the parties to the text message communications.”

The undersigned contacted Dr. Villarreal via letter dated October 8, 2025, regarding your petition. Mr. Williams responded via letter dated October 14, 2025. In response to the undersigned’s inquiries, Mr. Williams advised in pertinent part that Papillion LaVista “has found more emails that are responsive to [your] request” and “is reviewing the new emails for redactions.” Mr. Williams indicated that the additional emails would be produced “with appropriate redactions” by October 17, 2025. With respect to the text messages, Mr. Williams stated that Papillion LaVista “did not withhold or otherwise redact any text messages or the contents thereof.” He further stated that Papillion LaVista was “only in possession of 2 screenshots of texts” and not the “actual texts,” and the screenshots were provided to you “in full.”

DISCUSSION

With respect to your first claim that Papillion LaVista failed to “provide the full scope of emails responsive to [your] request,” Mr. Williams indicated that emails dated within the relevant timeframe were located. Mr. Williams further advised that these emails have been delivered as of October 17.

Turning to your second claim that Papillion LaVista failed “to identify the parties to the text message communications,” we conclude that Papillion LaVista has not acted improperly in this matter. As discussed above, Mr. Williams represented to the undersigned that the two screenshots provided were the only messages in Papillion LaVista’s possession and it produced those text messages *unredacted*. We have no cause to believe that any records containing the requested identities were improperly withheld or even exist.¹ Moreover, our office has consistently taken the position that the

¹ Under Nebraska law, it is generally presumed that public bodies and officers carry out their duties in good faith. See *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 310, 759 N.W.2d 499, 518 (2009) (observing that, in a case involving the Open Meetings Act, “[i]n the absence of evidence to the contrary, it may be presumed that public officers faithfully performed their official duties”).

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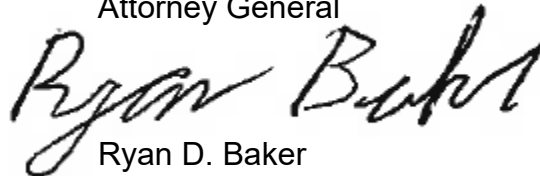
NPRS do not require public agencies to answer questions regarding records produced in response to a records request.² Papillion LaVista therefore did not violate the NPRS by not providing an additional response to your inquiry regarding the identities of the parties to the text message screenshots.

CONCLUSION

Since you have or will be receiving additional responsive email messages, and there is no legal obligation to answer questions about records produced pursuant to § 84-712, we conclude that Papillion LaVista did not improperly withhold documents or otherwise violate the NPRS. As a result, no further action by this office is warranted, and we are closing this file. If you disagree with our findings set out in this letter, you may wish to consult with an attorney to determine what, if any, additional remedies may be available to you under the NPRS.

Sincerely,

MIKE HILGERS
Attorney General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Baker", is written over the typed name of Ryan D. Baker.

Ryan D. Baker
Assistant Attorney General

c: Steve Williams (via email only)

55-095

² See Op. Att'y Gen. No. 94092 (November 22, 1994); Op. Att'y Gen. No. 94035 (May 11, 1994); Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87104 (October 27, 1987).