

Belton Independent School District

Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, March 25, 2024 - 6:15 p.m.

Pittenger Fine Arts Center, 400 N. Wall St, Belton TX, 76513

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer
Jeff Norwood
Suzanne McDonald
Rucker Preston

Chris Flor
Janet Leigh

Board Members Absent:

Erin Bass

1. Call to Order, Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Manuel Alcozer, Board President, called the regular meeting of the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 6:15 p.m. He stated that a quorum of Board Members was present, Erin Bass was absent, that the meeting had been duly called, and that notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

2. Recognitions

Student Pledges — Southwest Elementary School

The evening's pledges were led by Southwest Elementary fourth-grade students Mia Carrillo and Angel Deleon Mata.

Student Showcase — South Belton Middle School Saxophone Ensemble

The evening's student showcase was South Belton Middle School Saxophone Ensemble. These musicians participated in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Competition, achieving a superior rating and winning the Sweepstakes Award. Ensemble members include Markayla Allen, Barret Brown, Emiliano Gloria, Olivia Henderson, Jeremiah Rodriguez, Mark Rodriguez, and Rowdy Watson. The South Belton Middle School Saxophone Ensemble is under the direction of Evan Simmons.

Texas History Day State Qualifiers

The Board celebrated 42 students who represented the District at the Heart of Texas Regional History Fair and advanced to the state competition. This is the largest group of students the District has sent to the prestigious state event, which is held at the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin. This accomplishment speaks to the talent and commitment of the District's social studies teachers, the dedicated students and their supportive parents. The Social Studies Coordinator for Belton ISD Teaching and Learning is Chris Lemley.

Crowd Pleasers Dance State Winners

The Lake Belton High School Silver Spurs were recognized by the Board for competing at the Crowd Pleasers Dance State Competition where they were crowned State Grand Champion. They won the large team division and placed first overall by outscoring every other team. This recognition is a representation of the outstanding determination and collaboration demonstrated by these incredible dancers. The Lake Belton High School Silver Spurs are under the direction of Erin Choats.

Cross-Examination Debate State Qualifiers

The Board recognized four Belton ISD students who advanced to the state Cross-Examination Debate Competition. The students are Steven Arantes and Reagan Vergara, from Belton High School, and Phoenix Carlisle and Shreya Muni, from Lake Belton High School. Their teachers are Tanya Larson from BHS and Hannah Bryant and Brianna Rodriguez from LBHS.

State Citizen Bee State Qualifier

Belton High School's Lena Cook was celebrated for qualifying as a state citizen bee competitor. She is one of only 20 students participating out of the state of Texas. During the competition, students are quizzed on history and civics. Her teacher is Tanya Larson.

Temple Rotary of the Month

The Board celebrated Leon Heights Elementary music teacher Debra Johnson for being recognized by the Temple Rotary Club as the Rotary Educator of the Month for February for her outstanding service to Belton ISD. She is in her 27th year in education with 26 of those years being at Leon Heights Elementary.

2023 Field Of Excellence Award Recipients

Belton ISD's Wilson Kerzee Field was recently named a 2023 Field of Excellence winner. This honor marks the field as one of the top 100 in the nation. Tonight the Board recognized the expertise and dedication of the BISD athletics grounds crew and the great care they take in maintaining the District's landscape. The team includes the athletics grounds team lead Andrew Linklater, Athletic Groundskeepers John Goff and David Wilson, District Irrigator James Glenn and Grounds Supervisor Patrick Crosby.

Department Showcase - Business Office

BISD is recognizing the Business Services team for this month's department showcase. They earned a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada and a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officers International. Each recognition reflects the highest form of praise for transparency in accounting and financial reporting. The team, led by Chief Financial Officer Melissa Lafferty, is 22 members strong and includes accounts payable, payroll, purchasing, the print shop and the warehouse.

Community Partner Recognition - Fort Cavazos

The Board recognized Fort Cavazos as the community partner this evening. This institution and the men and women who serve have a major impact on our community, and their involvement in schools is invaluable. Approximately 30 percent of the District's students are military-connected, a statistic that highlights how important positive and mutually beneficial relationships are with the leadership of Fort Cavazos. Receiving the recognition on behalf of Fort Cavazos was Garrison Commander Colonel Lakicia R. Stokes who shared a few words regarding the partnership.

3. Public Comments Regarding Items on the Agenda

None.

4. Action Items

A. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Certification of Unopposed Candidate and Order of Cancellation for Area 2 for the May 4, 2024 Trustee Election

Dr. Malinda Golden informed the Board state law allows entities without contested elections to avoid election costs by certifying the candidates as elected. She indicated two documents require Board consideration – the Certification of Unopposed Candidates which states that Erin Bass representing Area 2, is unopposed; and the Order of Cancellation which states that unopposed candidates are elected to office according to the Texas Election Code.

Chris Flor made a motion, seconded by Janet Leigh, to approve the Certification of Unopposed Candidate and Order of Cancellation for Area 2 for the May 4, 2024 Trustee Election as presented. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

B. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Budget Assumptions for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Melissa Lafferty, Chief Financial Officer, shared a brief report on the 2024-2025 Budget Assumptions. At the Board Workshop held at 5:00 p.m. this evening, Mrs. Lafferty and Todd Schiller provided an extensive presentation regarding the Budget and Compensation Overview that included historical, current and future budget data during the Board Workshop prior to this meeting. The annual budget is based on several assumptions that serve as the basis for estimating revenue and expenditures used to develop the budget. The initial budget assumptions to be used for the preliminary development of the 2024-2025 budget were presented for discussion.

Janet Leigh expressed her gratitude to the Business Services team for the time, effort and the great attention to detail it takes to navigate the budgeting process.

Jeff Norwood made a motion, seconded by Rucker Preton, to approve the budget assumptions for fiscal year 2024-2025 as presented. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

5. Reports

A. Goal 1 Update - Customer Service & Parents as Partners Report

Jennifer Bailey, Executive Director of Communication & Community Engagement, provided an update on the following Key Progress Measure: BISD will have customer service standards (mantras) and a system of measurement by December 2023 and provide aligned professional learning by May 2024. She spoke about the process, developed mantras, and measurement tools being implemented to ensure the District has a Customer Service training process.

Mrs. Bailey then reviewed volunteer data as a result of increased volunteer outreach by campuses and the District, at nearly 2,500 volunteers. 197 students are being served through the Literacy Partner initiative, along with 6 faith-based organizations; students had gained 2,955 extra minutes reading each week in total. The Parents as Partners initiative has hosted 11 events and 350 citizens have participated so far. Mrs. Bailey shared that she is proud of this progress and is looking for more and better ways to get parents and the community involved in these events. Chris Flor shared his experiences with various conference topics and thanked Mrs. Bailey for her work on this.

B. Academic Progress Report

Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, provided an academic progress report that covered teacher investment by embedded professional learning at both Elementary and Secondary levels. She compared reading and math STAAR Interim data from the Fall and Spring and noted improvements throughout. Elementary, middle and high school ELAR, English I & II and Algebra assessment data was reported. Janet Leigh asked about the data surrounding 6th grade ELAR for 2021-2022. Mrs. Nino explained the year was disrupted due to COVID-19. More students were tested at the end of the year than the beginning as a result.

C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Golden shared highlights from across the District tied to the Belton ISD Vision. These highlights include the Delta Programs' reverse job fair and many opportunities where students were contributing to their communities.

D. Board Highlights

Suzanne McDonald expressed her sincere thanks to the students and teachers who celebrated and recognized the Board in January, and shared a few pieces of her favorite artwork from the event. Mrs. McDonald attended the SBMS Job Fair and Belton Early Childhood School's experience rooms, and was invited to speak at a BNT@W Awards Ceremony. Chris Flor spoke about the PTA/PTO Breakfast with the Board meeting and the increased collaboration happening across campuses. Mr. Flor attended the LBHS Project Celebration and Stampede Booster Club meetings, and spoke at the LBHS Award Ceremony. Janet Leigh attended the UMHB Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that ties in to the BISD teacher pipeline, and the Principal-for-a-Day luncheon.

6. Consent Agenda: Consider and Take Appropriate Action

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. February 15, 2024 Special Meeting
2. February 19, 2024 Workshop Meeting
3. February 19, 2024 Regular Meeting

- B. Unaudited Financial Report for the Month Ending February 29, 2024
- C. Gifts, Grants, and Bequests
- D. Budget Amendment #6 for 2023-2024
- E. Expenditures over \$50,000
 - 1. Band Uniforms for Belton High School
- F. Supply, Equipment, and Service Bids
 - 1. RFP #2402-750-346 for Managed WAN Solution (E-Rate Cat 1)
 - 2. RFP #2402-750-344 for Network Equipment and Services (E-Rate Cat 2)
 - 3. RFP #2311-470-337 Grounds Supplies, Equipment & Services
 - 4. RFP #2311-475-334 Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) Services, Equipment and Supplies
 - 5. RFP #2401-775-343 Truck with Utility Service Bed
- G. Amendment to the 2023-2024 Memorandum of Understanding for OnRamps with the University of Texas at Austin
- H. Resolution Designating Signatories for First Public/Lone Star Local Government Pool Investment Accounts
- I. Resolution Designating Signatories for TexPool Local Government Pool Investment Accounts
- J. Underground Utility Easement for Agricultural Facility Bond Project

Suzanne McDonald made a motion, seconded by Jeff Norwood, to approve the Consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

7. Board Requests for New Information and/or Reports

None.

8. Calendar of Events

Manuel Alcozer announced the calendar of events for the upcoming month.

9. Public Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

None.

10. Closed Session (Texas Government Code, Subchapters D and E)

The Board went into closed session at 7:31 p.m.

- A. Consultation with Attorney - Texas Government Code, Section 551.071
- B. Student Disciplinary Matter - Texas Government Code, Section 551.082
- C. Deliberations about Real Property - Texas Government Code, Section 551.072
- D. Personnel - Texas Government Code, Section 551.074
- E. Personnel - Employment of Superintendent - Texas Government Code, Section 551.074

11. Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:39 p.m.

12. Adjourn

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, President

Erin Bass, Secretary