

# Belton Independent School District

## Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, April 20, 2026 - 6:15 p.m.

Lake Belton High School, Performing Arts Center

9809 Farm To Market 2483, Temple, TX 76502

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### Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer

Rucker Preston

Jeff Norwood

Brandon Bozon

Riley Beck

Erin Bass

### Board Members Absent:

Chris Flor

### **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 6:27pm. He stated that a quorum of Board Members was present, noted Chris Flor was absent, that the meeting had been duly called, and notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

### **2. Recognitions**

#### **Student Pledges – Sparta Elementary School**

This evening, the pledges were led by students Jameson Davenport-Yates and Murphy Ruiz-West from Sparta Elementary School.

#### **Student Showcase – LBHS Interdisciplinary Research Symposium**

The evening's showcase featured students from Lake Belton High School's inaugural Interdisciplinary Research Symposium, highlighting advanced research and scientific inquiry across science and career and technical education programs. These students are supported by their teacher, Rychel Soto.

#### **Choir Solo & Ensemble State Qualifiers**

Belton ISD proudly recognized 79 choir students who qualified for the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest in May. These students are supported by their teachers, Tonya Lovorn and Terrance Livingston.

#### **National History Day State Qualifiers**

Belton ISD celebrated 46 students who qualified for the National History Day State Contest in Austin, including 9 elementary students, 14 middle school students and 23 high school students. National History Day represents a year-long research journey in which students conduct intensive primary source research, develop original theses and defend their work before panels of expert judges. These students are supported by their sponsors, Stacey Bovell, Corinna Capraun, Richard Clubine, Richard Russo, Chris Lemley, Eli Jackson, Christina Botha, Debra Hosch and Elizabeth Howson.

#### **National Merit Finalists**

Belton ISD recognized Lake Belton High School seniors Dhruv Bhat and Alex Yuen for advancing to finalist standing in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program, one of the

nation's most prestigious academic honors. This extraordinary achievement reflects years of dedication, intellectual excellence and relentless perseverance, and it is a proud moment for Lake Belton High School and the entire Big Red community.

### **SkillsUSA District 10 State Qualifiers**

Belton ISD proudly recognized 60 students who qualified for the SkillsUSA District 10 State competition across multiple career pathways. SkillsUSA supports students in trade, technical and skilled service programs by developing leadership, workplace readiness and advanced technical skills. These students are supported by their teachers, Michael Carrillo, Mackenzie Pennacchio, CoryLynn Upton, Alyssa Vargas, Brittany Truitt, Brent Sharp and Willie Ward.

### **Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Basketball**

Belton ISD celebrated nine student-athletes who were named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Basketball teams. This honor celebrates student-athletes who demonstrate excellence both in the classroom and on the court, reflecting outstanding academic achievement, discipline and dedication throughout the basketball season. These students are supported by their coaches, Phil McCaslin, Zane Johnston and Tiffney Barnes.

### **Texas High School Powerlifting Association Academic All-State**

The Board recognized nine Lake Belton High School student-athletes who earned Texas High School Powerlifting Association Academic All-State honors. This recognition celebrates student-athletes who have demonstrated excellence in both academics and athletics, balancing the demands of elite competition with outstanding performance in the classroom. These students are supported by their coach, Greg Rudolph.

### **Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association Academic All-State**

The Board celebrated two Lake Belton High School student-athletes who earned Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association Academic All-State honors. This distinction celebrates student-athletes who excel in the classroom while competing at a high level, reflecting remarkable discipline, perseverance and commitment to academic and athletic success. These students are supported by their coach, Greg Rudolph.

### **Powerlifting State Qualifiers**

The Board recognized 11 student-athletes who qualified for the state powerlifting meet. These students are supported by their coaches, Barry Campbell, Ryan Grave and Greg Rudolph.

### **Swimming State Qualifiers**

The Board celebrated 14 student-athletes who qualified for state swimming competition across Belton ISD. These swimmers earned state placements across a range of events, including relay competitions as well as freestyle and butterfly races, reflecting exceptional speed, endurance and dedication in the pool. These students are supported by their coaches, Chris Knipp, Jaynie Ferguson and Jack Prud'homme.

### **Wrestling State Qualifiers**

The Board recognized two Belton High School wrestlers for outstanding achievements at the state wrestling meet. Melissa Farmer earned a 5th-place finish at 235 pounds, becoming the first student-athlete in program history to medal at state. Jacob U'ren also advanced as a state

qualifier, contributing to a season that produced a school-record 15 regional qualifiers. These students are supported by their coach, Caleb Newcomer.

### **Department Showcase - Facilities, Grounds & IPM**

This month's department showcase highlights Belton ISD's Facilities, Grounds and Integrated Pest Management teams, whose behind-the-scenes work ensures every campus and district property remains safe, functional and ready for learning. Together, these departments maintain more than 2.4 million square feet across 20 campuses and 28 ancillary buildings, care for 292.5 mowable acres, support athletic and irrigation systems, and respond quickly during emergencies such as severe weather, debris removal and campus safety needs. The Facilities team is led by Rodney Marek, Grounds is led by Andrew Linklater, and IPM and irrigation operations are led by Kenneth Wilson and James Glenn.

### **Community Partner – Fort Hood School Liaison Officers**

The Board recognized the Fort Hood School Liaison Officers, who serve through Child and Youth Services, as valued community partners supporting Belton ISD's military-connected students and families. Through their partnership with our district, these dedicated professionals help military families navigate school transitions, stay informed on district programs and requirements, and access resources that support student success. Belton ISD is grateful for the Fort Hood School Liaison Officers' continued advocacy, partnership and commitment to serving our military-connected students and families.

### **3. Public Comments Regarding Items on the Agenda**

None.

### **4. Action Item:**

#### **A. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding the Adoption of the Vision, Mission, Values & Beliefs, and Strategic Objectives**

Dr. Michael Morgan, Deputy Superintendent, presented the proposed strategic framework intended to serve as the district's primary roadmap for the next five years.

**Vision:** Inspiring dreams. Empowering futures.

**Mission:** Empower each and every learner to pursue their dreams and enrich their communities.

**Values & Beliefs:** Trust, Empowerment, Adaptability, Community, and High expectations (TEACH).

**Strategic Priorities:** Students, Staff, Community, and Financial Management

Riley Beck made a motion, seconded by Erin Bass, to adopt the Vision, Mission, Values & Beliefs, and Strategic Objectives as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

### **5. Reports:**

#### **A. Academic Progress Report - Gifted & Talented**

Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, presented an update on GT services, noting that 11.8% of district students are now identified as gifted and talented. The presentation highlighted improved assessment processes, professional learning, and a new service model for the upcoming school year that guarantees pull-out services and features innovation specialists on every campus.

#### **B. Board Training Credit Report**

Mr. Manuel Alcozer publicly announced that all board members successfully completed their

required state continuing education credits for the reporting period of May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026.

#### **D. Board Committee Reports**

##### **1. Budget Committee**

Mr. Brandon Bozon reported on level enrollment demographics, the economics of virtual school, the status of a revenue bond for athletic field improvements, and the potential stadium naming rights discussion.

##### **2. Facilities Committee**

Mr. Rucker Preston reported on upcoming summer projects, winter freeze preparations, and the logistical challenges of a planned switchgear replacement requiring a multi-day power outage at the high school.

#### **E. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Golden highlighted recent district events, including a Special Olympics track event, the robotics team competing at the World Championship, Skills USA accomplishments, and an initiative to ensure 100% of campuses earn a Purple Star designation for supporting military families. Kindergarten Roundup was announced for May 4th.

#### **F. Board Highlights**

Board members shared personal highlights from attending community events, such as teacher recognitions, a crosswalk dedication at Leon Heights, campus visits, middle school theater performances, and an alumni association banquet.

#### **6. Consent Agenda: Consider and Take Appropriate Action**

##### A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. March 30, 2026 - Workshop Meeting
2. March 30, 2026 - Regular Meeting

##### B. Unaudited Financial Report for the Month Ending March 31, 2026

##### C. Gifts, Grants, and Bequests

##### D. Budget Amendment #7 for 2025-2026

##### E. Expenditures over \$50,000

1. Security Camera Refresh - Middle Schools

##### F. Supply, Equipment, and Service Bids

1. RFQ #2601-600-406 Architectural and Engineering Services
2. RCSP #2602-475-404 for the Joe M. Pirtle HVAC Replacement Bond Project

##### G. Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials and TEKS Coverage

##### H. School Library Advisory Council Recommendation for Library Materials Purchase

##### I. Audit Engagement Letter for 2025-2026

##### J. Administrator Contract Renewals and/or Extensions and Professional Contract Renewals for 2026-2027

##### K. Brazos River Authority Right of Entry Agreement at Chisholm Trail Elementary

##### L. Construction Delivery Methods and Delegation of Authority for Repairs and Restoration of Storm Damage

##### M. Renewal Regional Day School Program for the Deaf Shared Services Agreement

##### N. Renewal of Interlocal Agreement with City of Temple After-School Daycare

##### O. Renewal of Interlocal Agreement with Central Texas YMCA

Brandon Bozon made a motion, seconded by Rucker Preson, to approve the consent agenda, as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

#### **7. Public Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items**

None.

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

The Board convened in closed session at 7:35 p.m.

- A. Student Disciplinary Matter - Texas Government Code, Section 551.082
- B. Personnel - Texas Government Code, Section 551.074
  - 1. Summative Evaluation of the Superintendent
- C. Consultation with Attorney - Texas Government Code, Section 551.071

**9. Reconvene in Open Session**

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:49 p.m.

**10. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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Manuel Alcozer, President

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Erin Bass, Secretary