

Belton Independent School District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, August 17, 2026 - 6:15 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Chris Flor	Manuel Alcozer
Erin Bass	Jeff Norwood
Rucker Preston	Riley Beck
Brandon Bozon	

Board Members Absent:

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

Chris Flor, 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, that he was joining the meeting remotely, 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.

In order to ensure an effective meeting, President Chris Flor yielded the chair to Vice President Erin Bass, who presided over the remainder of the meeting.

2. Recognitions

Student Pledges – Chisholm Trail Elementary School

This evening, the pledges were led by third graders Charlotte Bohannon and Emma Gresham from Chisholm Trail Elementary School.

Student Showcase - Belton High School Drumline

The evening's showcase featured the Belton High School Drumline, bringing the energy, precision and passion that make percussion a crowd favorite.

Under the direction of Ian Smith, this year's ensemble is the largest Belton High School drumline in the past 10 years. Last season, the group was the highest-scoring 5A high school at the Drums in the Heartland percussion contest and earned the Best Front Ensemble award.

National History Day National Qualifiers

The Board congratulated the Lake Belton Middle School and Lake Belton High School documentary teams for their outstanding accomplishments at the National History Day Contest.

Both teams were selected to present their research during the National History Day Documentary Showcase at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., an honor awarded to only 22 documentary teams from across the country.

The celebration continued as the Lake Belton Middle School team captured the National History Day Junior Group Documentary national championship, earning first place in the nation.

Department Showcase: Teaching and Learning

The evening's department showcase highlighted the Belton ISD Teaching and Learning team, which supports students and educators across all 20 campuses.

The Board thanked the Teaching and Learning team for their dedication to supporting our schools and helping students succeed.

Community Partner – CGI

The District recognized CGI as a valued community partner for its continued investment in Belton ISD students.

From providing backpacks and school supplies through Project Heartbeat to donating Christmas gifts for McKinney-Vento students, CGI helps remove barriers and support students when they need it most.

3. Public Comments Regarding Items on the Agenda

None.

4. Public Hearing

A. Priority 4: Public Hearing Regarding 2026-2027 Budget and Proposed Tax Rate

Melissa Lafferty, Chief Technology Officer, presented the proposed 2026-2027 Accelerated Instruction budget, the fiscal year budget, and the proposed 2026-2027 tax rate.

There being no public hearing commenters, Ms. Erin Bass opened and closed the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

5. Action Items

A. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Adoption of the Budget for Accelerated Instruction for the 2026-2027 School Year

Jeff Norwood made a motion, seconded by Rucker Preston, to adopt the budget for accelerated instruction for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

B. Priority 4: Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Adoption of the Budget for the 2026-2027 School Year

Brandon Bozon made a motion, seconded by Riley Beck, to adopt the fiscal year budget for 2026-2027 as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

C. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Resolutions Adopting the Tax Rate for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Brandon Bozon made a motion to approve the resolution adopting a maintenance and operations tax rate of \$0.7552 and a debt service tax rate of \$0.3625 for a total tax rate of \$1.1177. Rucker Preston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

D. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Naming a Delegate and Alternate to the 2026 TASB Delegate Assembly.

Jeff Norwood made a motion to nominate Rucker Preston as TASB Delegate, and Erin Bass as Alternate, to the 2026 Delegate Assembly in October. The motion was seconded by Riley Beck. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

E. Priority 3 & 4: Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Commission of a Citizens Bond Advisory Committee

Rucker Preston made a motion, seconded by Manuel Alcozer, to commission a Citizens Bond Advisory Committee as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

6. Reports:

A. Priority 4: Bond & Capital Projects Report

Dr. Michael Morgan, Deputy Superintendent, provided an update to the Board on the 2022 Bond Projects.

2022 Bond Projects 100% Completion: All projects scheduled under the \$168 million Proposition A (passed in May 2022) have been successfully completed.

Reinvestment of Remaining Bond Funds

Over \$2 Million Invested: Leftover funds from the completed 2022 bond projects were reinvested into additional safety and MEP initiatives across the district.

Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Capital Projects

\$2.8 Million Investment: The district dedicated \$2.8 million of its M&O funds to address several crucial, non-bond facility needs like roof replacements at the Transportation and DAEP, cloud-based security camera upgrades at LBHS playground equipment replacement at Pirtle Elementary, turf replacement and new LED stadium lighting at Tiger Field and updating the district's facility master plan and educational specifications.

Direct Input-Driven Summer Projects

Impact & Budget: Utilizing a dedicated summer projects budget, the district spent \$275,000 of an allocated \$300,000 to complete projects across 12 campuses. These quick-turnaround projects included security and accessibility enhancements, hallway and common space painting, adding a second staff restroom at DAP, and power washing and restriping fire lanes at all campuses.

Future Outlook & Next Steps

\$3.6 Million in Available Funding: Belton ISD conservatively estimates \$2.8 million in remaining 2022 bond funds. Combined with capital and summer project budgets, this will provide approximately \$3.6 million to address upcoming capital needs.

B. Priority 1: Strategic Plan Report

Dr. Morgan shared with the Board that Belton ISD has officially launched its five-year "Destination 2031" strategic plan, which was celebrated and introduced to over 2,100 staff members during the recent district convocation. Developed through extensive community and staff input, the roadmap is built around four key priorities: students, staff, community, and financial management. Having finalized the year-one objectives over the summer, the district is now moving into the execution phase and will present campus improvement plans aligned with these goals next month. See report.

C. Priority 1: Academic Progress Report

Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, shared with the Board that Belton ISD has maintained its overall state accountability rating of a "B" for the second consecutive year, building on progress from previous years of "C" ratings. Key academic highlights include a graduation rate of just under 98%, an "A" rating (94) in College, Career, and Military Readiness, and 11 campus distinctions earned across the district. To drive further growth and address gaps in student group performance, the district is introducing the new "Bluebonnet Math" curriculum, implementing common unit assessments, and enhancing teacher coaching. See report.

D. Board Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee

Ms. Erin Bass shared that 6 policies from Policy Update 127 were reviewed and are on the evening's consent agenda for 2nd reading, and that CDA(LOCAL) underwent its annual review and discussion as well.

2. Budget Committee

Mr. Rucker Preston provided a summary of the Budget Committee Meeting that included the aforementioned budget related action items.

E. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Malinda Golden, Superintendent, celebrated the District's annual convocation, which successfully brought together over 2,100 staff members and highlighted student accomplishments, including Belton ISD boasting the third largest FFA program in Texas. She also praised staff for one of the smoothest starts to a school year in her career, reporting high student engagement across all 21 campuses alongside excellent coordination from the transportation, custodial, and school nutrition teams.

F. Board Highlights

The Board shared that during their back-to-school campus visits, Trustees witnessed heartwarming student welcomes, including Mary Hardin-Baylor basketball players high-fiving students at Southwest Elementary and a board member personally guiding a lost freshman. They also highlighted vibrant high school traditions like Lake Belton's community-driven senior parking spot painting with LED projectors and Belton High's emotional "Tiger Mom" football camp. Finally, the board celebrated the success of the western-themed district convocation.

7. Consent Agenda: Consider and Take Appropriate Action

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. July 13, 2026 - Special Board Meeting
2. July 20, 2026 - Workshop Meeting
3. July 20, 2026 - Regular Meeting

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

C. Gifts, Grants, and Bequests

D. Budget Amendment #11 for 2025-2026

E. Expenditures over \$100,000

1. Renewal of Renaissance for Nearpod, Freckle Math/Reading, STAR Literacy & Math Assessments

F. Supply, Equipment, and Service Bids

1. RFP #2065-275-419 Special Education Contracted & Consulting Services

G. Gate and Roadway Easement Agreement with WBW Single Development Group LLC

H. Resolution Regarding Designation of 2027 Non-Business Days for the Texas Public Information Act

I. Annual Resolution Regarding CDA(LOCAL) - Other Revenues: Investment

J. Renewal of Memorandum for Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)

K. Policy Update 127 - 2nd Reading

1. BJCF(LOCAL): Superintendent: Non-Renewal
2. DC(LOCAL): Employment Practices
3. DH(LOCAL): Employee Standards of Conduct
4. DP(LOCAL): Personnel Positions (Delete)
5. DPA(LOCAL): Personnel Position: Principals (Add)
6. DPB(LOCAL): Personnel Positions: Other Positions (Add)

Mr. Manuel Alcozer pulled item G. for discussion. Vice President Erin Bass proceeded onward for a motion, excluding item G.

Rucker Preston made a motion, seconded by Chris Flor, to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding item G., as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

Dr. Malinda Golden provided more information on Consent Item G. Gate and Roadway Easement Agreement with WBW Single Development Group LLC. This allows safer transportation in and out of the Three Creeks Subdivision, funding approved by the County Commissioner.

Riley Beck made a motion, seconded by Brandon Bozon, to approve item G. as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

8. Public Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

None.

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

The Board convened in closed session at 7:59 p.m.

- A. Student Disciplinary Matter - Texas Government Code, Section 551.082
- B. Personnel - Texas Government Code, Section 551.074
- C. Consultation with Attorney - Texas Government Code, Section 551.071
- D. Superintendent's Contract - Texas Government Code Section 551.071

10. Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:30 p.m.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Chris Flor, Board President

Rucker Preston, Board Secretary