

Belton Independent School District
Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item
October 19, 2026

Item: Recognitions

Contact Person: Christine Parks

Presented for: ☐ Action ☒ Report Only

Supporting Documents: ☒ None ☐ Attached ☐ Provided Later

District Priority or Strategic Objective:

Priority 1: Students - Ensure exceptional learning experiences that bring our “Journey of a Graduate” to life for each and every student.

Priority 2: Staff - Attract, support, and retain exceptional educators and staff to ensure every student is guided and supported by an outstanding team.

Background Information:

Student Pledges – Southwest Elementary School

This evening, the pledges were led by fifth graders Crislyn King and August Thomison from Southwest Elementary School.

Crislyn is a creative and thoughtful student who spends much of her free time drawing and journaling. While she enjoys expressing her artistic side at home, her favorite subject in school is math. Her friends describe her as kind, funny and honest.

August loves getting lost in a good book, making reading his favorite subject in school. Outside of school, he enjoys watching his favorite TV shows and playing with friends. His friends describe him as kind, caring and patient.

Student Showcase - Belton High School Construction/Architecture

Tonight's Student Showcase featured Belton High School students Logan Chavez, a pre-apprentice electrician, and Landen Burrier, a certified pre-apprentice plumber, representing the school's nationally recognized Construction and Architecture program.

Through hands-on training in residential electrical and plumbing systems, students are developing real-world skills, earning industry credentials and preparing for high-demand

careers. The program has produced SkillsUSA national champions and finalists and connects students with college and industry partners.

The success of the Construction and Architecture program showcases how Belton ISD students are turning what they learn in the classroom into skills they can build a future on.

Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars

Belton ISD is proud to recognize 296 high school students who earned 315 College Board AP Scholar honors, a 27% increase from last year.

Students earned 140 AP Scholar awards, 47 AP Scholar with Honor awards, 109 AP Scholar with Distinction awards, 14 AP Capstone Diplomas and five AP Seminar and Research Certificates. AP Scholar with Distinction honors alone increased 42% from last year.

Lake Belton High School students earned 181 honors, Belton High School students earned 116 and Belton New Tech High School at Waskow students earned 18.

Tonight, we celebrate these students and the educators who supported them for this outstanding academic achievement.

BigFuture Merit Award Recipients

Belton ISD is proud to recognize 153 students from Belton High School, Lake Belton High School and Belton New Tech High School at Waskow who earned College Board BigFuture Merit Awards.

This national recognition celebrates students whose academic achievement has set them apart and opens doors to greater visibility with colleges and scholarship programs across the country.

Behind each of these 153 recognitions are years of hard work, high expectations and a commitment to academic excellence.

Tonight, we celebrate these students and the educators who helped them reach this milestone.

National Merit Semifinalists

Belton ISD is proud to recognize three outstanding seniors who have been named semifinalists in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Belton High School's Anya Jinadatha and Lake Belton High School's Shreya Muni and Guru Rajkumar earned this prestigious recognition, placing them among the top 1% of high school seniors nationwide.

As semifinalists, they will continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships awarded later this school year.

Congratulations to Anya, Shreya and Guru on this outstanding academic achievement!

National Merit Commended Scholars

Belton ISD is proud to recognize six outstanding seniors who have been named Commended Scholars in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Belton High School's Kirra Martin, Andrew Rabroker and Charles Wagner and Lake Belton High School's Alexandra Bui, Aiden Walker and Vishnuprasad Kakarla earned this recognition for their exceptional academic achievement, placing them among the top-performing students nationwide.

Commended scholars are recognized for their outstanding performance in the National Merit Scholarship Program and the academic promise they have demonstrated.

Congratulations to these outstanding students on this well-deserved recognition!

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

Belton ISD is proud to recognize Delta teacher Vanessa Chisolm as the Temple Rotary Club's Educator of the Month. She was nominated by Delta Principal Tammie Baggerly for her leadership, adaptability and commitment to students.

This year, Ms. Chisolm took on the challenge of implementing a new 18+ transition curriculum, working with her team to develop engaging lessons and experiences that help prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Her positive energy and dedication to empowering students make her a valued member of the Delta community. Congratulations to Ms. Chisolm on this well-deserved recognition!

Belton Rotary Educator of the Quarter

Belton ISD is proud to recognize North Belton Middle School science teacher Elizabeth Cancel as the Belton Rotary Educator of the Quarter.

A former Teacher of the Year who also serves as a teacher leader and instructional coach, Ms. Cancel works alongside her colleagues to strengthen instruction and help each and every student succeed. She uses data, collaboration and research-based strategies to turn student needs into meaningful action in the classroom.

Her leadership, commitment to growth and ability to bring out the best in both students and staff make her an invaluable part of the North Belton Middle School community. Congratulations to Ms. Cancel on this well-deserved recognition!

Department Showcase: Principal Appreciation Month

October is National Principals Month, and tonight Belton ISD recognizes the 21 principals who lead our campuses and serve our students, staff and families each day.

Their role reaches far beyond managing a campus. They shape school culture, support staff, celebrate student success and create environments where each and every student can thrive.

Tonight, we recognize Sheila Surovik, Cheyenne Babb, Courtney Brewer, Felicia Gibson, Holly Griffith, Brooke Itz, Lexie Newberry, Amber Ross, Sydnie Sewell, Ashlie Thomas, Rebecca Vaughn, Debi Younger, Akeiah Cipolla, Megan Crook, Rachel Ramirez, Dominic White, Tammie Baggerly, William Yuengel, Claudia Knox, David Manley and Neill Plemons.

Please join us in celebrating our campus leaders!

Community Partner Recognition – Temple Area Builders Association

Tonight, we are proud to recognize the Temple Area Builders Association for its partnership and investment in Belton ISD students pursuing careers in the skilled trades.

Through its support of the Belton Construction Careers program, TABA connects students with industry professionals and opportunities to gain hands-on experience and earn industry-based certifications in carpentry, electrical, plumbing and masonry. Its support has also helped provide more than \$150,000 in scholarships for students continuing their education and training beyond high school.

We are grateful to the Temple Area Builders Association for helping our students build the skills, connections and opportunities to turn their interests into careers.

Fiscal Implications:

None.

Administrative Recommendation(s):

None.