Belton Independent School District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, September 21, 2026 - 6:15 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

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

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 6:18 p.m. He stated that a quorum of Board Members was present, 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 – Lakewood Elementary School

This evening's pledges were led by first grader Eleanor Graham and fourth grader Hank Swindle from Lakewood Elementary School.

Student Showcase - BeginFin

The evening's showcase featured Lake Belton High School seniors Vishnu Kakarla, founder, and Kruz Smith, co-founder, creators of BeginFin, a student-created financial literacy platform designed to make personal finance more interactive, accessible and engaging.

Second Grade National Math Stars Qualifiers

The Board recognized Belton ISD third-graders whose exceptional performance in mathematics as second graders placed them among the top 5% of students nationally. Last year, 72 second-graders reached that distinction on the Renaissance Star Assessment in math, qualifying them for the opportunity to apply to the National Math Stars program. Their achievement is part of a much bigger story in Belton ISD, where exceptional young mathematicians are being identified early and given opportunities to grow their talents.

Third Grade National Math Stars Qualifiers

Belton ISD also celebrated 89 fourth-graders who earned the opportunity to apply for the National Math Stars program after outstanding performance on the Renaissance Star Assessment in math. These students scored among the top 5% nationally, contributing to a combined 161 Belton ISD second- and third-graders who reached that level of mathematical achievement this year.

National Math Stars

The District celebrated six Belton ISD elementary students named 2026 National Math Stars finalists: Apollo Barth, Brayden Marin and Hazel Sanderford of Lakewood Elementary; Brodie Durfee of Joe M. Pirtle Elementary; and Katie He and Yunjae Jeong of Sparta Elementary.

From this group, Apollo and Katie advanced to become National Math Stars, joining just over 600 students selected from nearly 9,000 nationwide. They will receive 10 years of individualized support, including academic advising, tutoring, technology and enrichment opportunities.

Purple Star Campus Designations
Belton ISD proudly recognized Hubbard Branch Elementary and James L. Burrell Elementary for earning the Purple Star Campus Designation from the Texas Education Agency. As the district's two newest campuses, both earned this distinction less than three years after opening. The Purple Star designation recognizes schools for their commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and families. With nearly 30 percent of Belton ISD students identified as military-connected, this recognition reflects the intentional work happening on our campuses to help students feel welcomed, connected and supported.

Department Showcase: Safety & Security
The evening's department showcase was the Belton ISD Safety and Security team, which works each day to provide safe and secure learning environments across the district. Led by Director Doug Taylor, the team includes 34 crossing guards, 10 school resource officers and 19 armed security guards

Community Partner Recognition – American Heart Association & Casey's General Stores
The Board recognized the American Heart Association and Casey's General Stores for their partnership and investment in the safety of Belton ISD students and staff. Through partnership with the American Heart Association and a generous gift from Casey's General Stores, Belton ISD received 12 CPR in Schools Kits valued at more than $8,700. These kits provide hands-on CPR training resources for campuses across the district, expanding access to lifesaving skills for students and staff.

3. Public Comments Regarding Items on the Agenda

None.

4. Action Items
A. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Adoption of the 2026-2027 Campus Objectives
Riley Beck made a motion, seconded by Erin Bass, to adopt the 2026-2027 Campus Objectives as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

B. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action to Approve Certificate of Compliance with Certain Laws Required by Texas Education Code Section 39.008
Brandon Bozon made a motion, seconded by Jeff Norwood, to approve Certificate of Compliance with Certain Laws Required by Texas Education Code Section 39.008as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

5. Reports:

A. Priority 1 — Academic Progress Report
Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, presented the district's beginning-of-year Star Renaissance screener results, emphasizing that the data serves as an entry baseline rather than an evaluation of current-year instruction. The report revealed that 52% of students are on track to meet growth goals in reading and 44% in math, prompting

targeted instructional planning through professional learning communities and high-quality instructional materials. See report.

B. Board Committee Reports

1. **Policy Committee**
   Ms. Erin Bass shared that 4 policies, 3 from Policy Update 127 and 1 local district update, were reviewed and are on the evening's consent agenda for 2nd reading. They include:
   CAA(Local) – Fiscal Management Goals and Objectives
   EHB(Local) – Special Programs (Gifted and Talented)
   FFF(Local) – Student Welfare and Safety
   CFB(Local) – Accounting Inventories
2. **Budget Committee**
   Mr. Rucker Preston informed the board that the committee reviewed initial 2025–2026 budget actuals ahead of final closing in October, with annual audit findings expected in December. Additionally, the committee initiated preliminary long-term planning for the 2027–2028 budget cycle.

C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Malinda Golden, Superintendent, highlighted student achievements and community events, including Patriots Day observances, surgical technician classroom visits, and a joint performing arts showcase supporting local programs. Academic initiatives focused on strengthening Professional Learning Communities through data analysis and collaborative walkthroughs, alongside a new partnership with Temple College to send all third-grade students to an interactive campus day. Additionally, the district launched its Citizens Bond Advisory Committee, featuring active student representatives at every table alongside community members.

D. Board Highlights

During Board Highlights, trustees celebrated the community-wide energy and attendance at fall athletic events, noting how "Friday Night Lights" unites families, alumni, and community members across the district. They also commended the visible alignment connecting middle school and high school programs, while praising the packed turnout and active student leadership at the inaugural Citizens Bond Advisory Committee meeting

6. Consent Agenda: Consider and Take Appropriate Action

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:
   1. August 17, 2026 - Workshop Meeting
   2. August 17, 2026 - Regular Meeting
B. Unaudited Financial Report for the Month Ending August 31, 2026
C. Gifts, Grants, and Bequests
D. Budget Amendment #1 for 2026-2027
E. Expenditures over $100,000
   1. Renewal of Insight Investments for Lightspeed Filtering
   2. Game One for Nike Partnership
F. Supply, Equipment, and Service Bids
   1. RFP #2606-125-415 Awards, Trophies, Plaques & Related Items
   2. RFP #2608-375-429 Group Travel Services
G. School Library Advisory Council Recommendation for Library Materials Purchase
H. Resolution Adopting Authorized Broker/Dealer List for 2026-2027
I. Annual Investment Report for 2025-2026
J. Adult Meal Prices for 2026-2027
K. Certified T-TESS Appraisers for 2026-2027
L. Class Size Waivers
M. Superintendent Evaluation Instrument
N. Policy Update 127- 2nd Reading

1. CAA(LOCAL) - FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: FINANCIAL ETHICS
2. EHBB(LOCAL) - SPECIAL PROGRAMS: GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS
3. FFF(LOCAL) - STUDENT WELFARE: STUDENT SAFETY

O. Local District Update - 2nd Reading
1. CFB(LOCAL) - ACCOUNTING: INVENTORIES

Rucker Preston made a motion, seconded by Erin Bass, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

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 7:30 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

9. Reconvene in Open Session
The Board reconvened in open session at 9:49 p.m.

10. Adjourn
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

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Chris Flor, Board President

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Rucker Preston, Board Secretary