Belton Independent School District
Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item
November 16, 2026

Item: Recognitions

Contact Person: Christine Parks

Presented for: ☐ Action ☑ Report Only

Supporting Documents: ☑ None ☐ Attached ☐ Provided Later

District Goal or Objective Addressed:

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 – Leon Heights Elementary School

This evening, the pledges were led by second graders Everett Sturm and Seiler Tawater.

Everett enjoys solving problems, making math his favorite subject in school. Outside the classroom, he loves playing Roblox and spending time with his brothers and friends. Described as imaginative and fair, Everett takes pride in doing his best and excelling in school.

Seiler loves discovering how things work through hands-on experiments, making science her favorite subject in school. Outside the classroom, she enjoys making bracelets, playing softball and spending time with friends and family. Her friends describe her as funny, crafty and kind.

Student Showcase - STEM Innovation

Tonight's Student Showcase featured Leon Heights and Alice J. Tarver elementary schools, highlighting how their libraries have become Innovation Hubs that bring STEM, robotics and literacy together through hands-on learning.

At Leon Heights, students explore coding and problem-solving using Indi robots during Level Up Club and enrichment programs. At Tarver, students in third through fifth grades use Root Robots to build programming and critical thinking skills through monthly STEM lessons.

These innovative spaces give students opportunities to explore technology, think creatively and apply their learning beyond the classroom.

Special Olympics Bocce Ball & Bowling

The Board is proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Belton Champions Special Olympics Team following their participation in the Area 12 Bocce and Bowling Competitions.

From the bocce courts in Salado on October 23 to the bowling lanes in Waco on November 13, our Champions showcased their determination, teamwork and competitive spirit, proving that excellence knows no limits.

Behind every victory are dedicated athletes, coaches who believe in them and a community cheering them on. Special thanks to coaches Lauren Marx, Misty Norwood and Donna Shriner for helping our Champions shine.

These athletes bring Belton ISD's commitment to each and every learner to life. Congratulations, Champions! You've made us proud!

Mark of Excellence Commended Winner

The Board is proud to recognize the 2025-2026 Wind Ensembles from Lake Belton Middle School and North Belton Middle School for earning Mark of Excellence Commended Winner honors in a national competition celebrating outstanding musical performances.

The Mark of Excellence recognizes exceptional middle and high school bands from across the country through live concert recordings evaluated by professional music educators and conductors.

Under the direction of Jordan Dolotina, Lake Belton Middle School earned this recognition for the first time, while Dane Wurman led North Belton Middle School to its first honor since 2023.

Congratulations to these talented student musicians and their directors for representing Belton ISD among outstanding ensembles from across the nation!

Citation of Excellence Commended Winner

The Board is proud to recognize Lake Belton High School Band Director Jacob Guerro and the 2025–2026 Wind Symphony for earning Commended Winner honors in the 6A category of the national Citation of Excellence competition.

This prestigious recognition celebrates outstanding performances by non-varsity bands from across the country and reflects the talent, dedication and hard work of our student musicians and their director.

Congratulations to Jacob Guerro and the Lake Belton High School Wind Symphony on this outstanding achievement!

CTAT CTE District of Distinction

The Board is proud to recognize Belton ISD's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program for earning the CTE District of Distinction honor from the Career and Technical Association of Texas (CTAT) for the third consecutive year.

This prestigious statewide recognition celebrates the district's innovative career pathways, strong industry partnerships and commitment to providing hands-on learning experiences that prepare students for success beyond graduation.

Through 25 programs of study, Belton ISD continues to equip students with real-world skills, industry-recognized credentials and opportunities to turn their interests into promising futures.

Proclamation from Chairman Buckley

State Representative Brad Buckley is presenting Texas House resolutions to Lakewood Elementary and Lake Belton High School in recognition of their A ratings in the Texas Education Agency's 2026 accountability ratings.

Congratulations to the students and staff on this outstanding achievement!

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

Belton ISD is proud to recognize North Belton Middle School teacher leader, instructional coach and librarian Laura Lovett as the Temple Rotary Club's Educator of the Month.

Ms. Lovett works alongside teachers to strengthen instruction, using collaboration, coaching and data-driven strategies to support student success.

Her dedication to empowering educators and helping each and every learner thrive makes her a valued member of the North Belton Middle School community. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

Department Showcase – Business Office

Tonight's department showcase highlights the Belton ISD Business Services team, which supports students, staff and campuses across the district.

Led by CFO Melissa Lafferty, this team of more than 142 employees oversees payroll, purchasing, financial operations, supply distribution and student nutrition services. Their commitment to excellence has also earned the district prestigious recognition for financial reporting and transparency.

We thank the Business Services team for their dedication to keeping Belton ISD running smoothly and supporting each and every learner.

Community Partner – Helping Hands Ministry of Belton

Tonight, we are proud to recognize Helping Hands Ministry for its continued partnership and commitment to supporting Belton ISD students, families and staff.

Through Project Apple Tree, Helping Hands provides backpacks, school supplies and shoes to help students start the school year with confidence. Its weekend meal program helps ensure students have access to nutritious food when school is not in session.

Beyond these initiatives, Helping Hands provides food, essential resources and assistance to families and staff facing difficult circumstances.

We are grateful to Helping Hands Ministry and its dedicated volunteers for helping remove barriers and creating opportunities for each and every student to thrive.

Fiscal Implications:

None.

Administrative Recommendation(s):

None.