

Belton Independent School District

Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, November 17, 2025 - 6:15 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

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, 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 – High Point Elementary School

This evening, the pledges were led by High Point Elementary students Samuel Parker, fifth grader, and Laylah Pekar, fourth grader.

Student Showcase – Belton High School Phlebotomy

Belton ISD spotlighted the Belton High School Phlebotomy Program. As part of Belton ISD's Health Science pathway, students gain both medical knowledge and hands-on experience through courses like Principles of Health Science, Medical Terminology, and Anatomy and Physiology. By the end of the program, students can earn an industry-based certification as a phlebotomy technician, preparing them for careers or continued studies in nursing and medical sciences.

Special Olympics Bowling

The Board proudly recognized the Belton Champions Special Olympics Bowling Team for their outstanding performance at the Area 12 Bowling Competition on October 24 at Fort Hood. The team brought home five first-place, four second-place, three third-place, and additional top finishes, showcasing their teamwork, focus and determination. Thank you to coaches Lauren Marx and Misty Norwood for their leadership and support.

National Merit Commended Scholars

Belton ISD proudly recognized two outstanding Lake Belton High School seniors for their achievements in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. Abran Guajardo and Taylor Rogers have been named National Merit Commended Scholars for their exceptional academic promise, ranking among the top 50,000 students nationwide.

Marching Band State Qualifier

The Board proudly recognized the Lake Belton High School Stampede Marching Band for advancing to the UIL 5A State Marching Band Contest, continuing the remarkable tradition of excellence since the school opened in 2020. The band is led by directors Bobby Yerigan, Craig

George, Jacob Guerrero, Grant Shane, Jessie Arbolay and student teacher and Belton High School alumnus Jacob Masters. The Stampede represented Lake Belton High School and Belton ISD with excellence at the state contest on November 10 at the Alamodome in San Antonio

CTE District of Distinction

Belton ISD's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program earned the CTE District of Distinction honor from the Career and Technical Association of Texas (CTAT) for the second consecutive year. Belton ISD offers 25 programs of study, and in the 2024–2025 school year, students earned 1,116 industry certifications, an increase from 930 the year prior, demonstrating continued growth and excellence in connecting classroom learning to real-world opportunities. CTE is led by Director of PK-12 Career Readiness Denise Ayres.

FIRST, ASBO, GFOA Finance Department Awards

Belton ISD's Finance Department earned a Superior Achievement "A" rating in the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) for the 14th consecutive year. The District also received recognition from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for excellence in financial reporting for the sixth consecutive year. These honors reflect Belton ISD's continued commitment to transparency, fiscal responsibility and sound financial management.

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

Belton ISD proudly recognized Heath Conde as the Temple Rotary Club's Educator of the Month for October for his outstanding service to students at High Point Elementary. Now in his fifth year in education, all at High Point, Heath teaches first grade and is known for his leadership, positivity and student-first mindset. Beyond the classroom, Heath leads student leadership initiatives and serves as the campus STEM lead, helping foster innovation and engagement across the school.

Department Showcase - Health Services

The evening's department showcase featured the Belton ISD Health Services team, a group of 31 full-time nurses, including 21 registered nurses and 10 licensed vocational nurses, who keep students and staff healthy, safe and ready to learn. Led by Marylisa Fanning, Director of Health Services, the department follows all state and federal health guidelines and exemplifies compassion, professionalism and dedication to student well-being across Belton ISD.

Community Partner Recognition – Baylor Scott & White Healthcare

Baylor Scott & White Health is a valued community partner providing Belton ISD students with hands-on healthcare experiences from elementary through high school. Through programs like Dare to Dream, Healthcare Hero events, and high school job shadowing and mentorship, students explore real-world healthcare careers while building technical skills and leadership. Belton ISD is grateful for Baylor Scott & White Health's continued partnership and its commitment to inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals.

3. Public Comments Regarding Items on the Agenda

None.

4. Public Hearing

A. Public Hearing Regarding Southwest Elementary Turn Around Plan

Ms. Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided information to the Board regarding the campus rating models over time, and details specific to Southwest Elementary School. The campus improvement plan focuses on three areas: Strong School Leadership and Planning, High Quality Instructional Materials and Assessment, and Effective Instruction. Additionally, the District is working to remove barriers to extend the school day for students needing support and to secure a mentor for every student on campus who needs one.

Mr. Alcozer opened the public hearing at 7:19 p.m. There were no comments during the hearing therefore the hearing was closed at 7:19 p.m.

5. Action Item:

A. Consider, Discuss and Take Appropriate Action Regarding School Improvement Plans Including the Southwest Elementary Turn Around Plan

See report.

Brandon Bozon made a motion, seconded by Riley Beck, to approve the Southwest Elementary Turn Around Plan (TAP) and the Local Improvement Plans for Chisholm Trail Elementary, High Point Elementary, Hubbard Branch Elementary and South Belton Middle School as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0-0).

B. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding the Teacher Incentive Allotment Spending Plan

Ms. Melissa Lafferty, Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Deanna Lovesmith, Director of GT Services, presented the Teacher Incentive Allotment Spending Plan. The recommended model is a 90% / 10% split, which maximizes the dollars going directly to the teacher. 90% of the allotment generated by the teacher goes toward their compensation, while the District reserves 10% to cover the administrative costs of running the program, such as the expense of assessments (Star Renaissance), staffing, and professional learning. The payout amounts are set and calculated by the Texas Education Agency and are subject to change annually based on campus demographic changes.

Chris Flor made a motion, seconded by Erin Bass, to approve the proposed Teacher Incentive Allotment Spending Plan model allocating 90% to teacher compensation and 10% to the District to cover administrative costs to support the program as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0-0).

6. Reports:

A. Goal 1 Report: Strategic Partnerships

Ms. Christine Parks, Chief Communications Officer, provided a report on Goal 1 Strategic Partnerships. This key measure focuses on moving existing relationships toward strategic partnerships. The process requires campuses and departments to use their data to define a specific need and then seek partners with a shared vision to achieve a measurable and achievable outcome (e.g., increased student attendance or engagement). Strategic partnerships must clearly define the scope of collaboration, roles, responsibilities, and resources. A crucial element is the evaluation and assessment of the partnership's effectiveness through defined metrics. Examples include Burrell Elementary's partnership with the Texas Farm Bureau to build

a hydroponic grow tower and the Health Services Department's Well Kids Pilot Program with Baylor Scott and White Health. See report.

B. Board Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee

Mr. Alcozer noted this was cancelled.

2. Budget Committee

Chris Flor and Brandon Bozon shared that the committee discussed the 26-27 budget planning, Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Spending Plan, which was also an action item on the night's agenda, a brief update on the demographic report, bus sales and the status of remaining bond funds from the prior bond.

3. Facilities Committee

Jeff Norwood and Rucker Preson received a 2022 Bond Update and discussed the 2025 bond election, where they analyzed voting numbers and propositions that failed, and lastly, reviewed the Fall 2025 demographic report.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Malinda Golden shared highlights from across the District to include the New to Profession Dinner, hosting Leadership Belton, meeting with Faith-based Leaders, the Grace Gallery student art showcase, Chisholm Trail's Storybook night, the exceptional performances by the Marching 100 and Stampede. Her final note addressed the bond election, thanking the community for approving Proposition C for technology but acknowledging disappointment regarding the failure of other propositions, stating that the district is listening to feedback regarding facility needs.

D. Board Highlights

Chris Flor attended the Grace Gallery Art Show, several theater productions, and celebrated the achievements of the Marching 100 and the Stampede Marching Band. He also chaperoned the State Marching Band Contest. Rucker Preston attended a theater production, the Belton High homecoming game, playoff game send-offs for both Belton High School and Lake Belton High School, the Lake Belton High School girls basketball home opener, and the faith-based leaders meeting. Erin Bass attended various sporting events like Friday Night Lights, a low-key sit-in concert for beginning band sixth graders at South Belton Middle School, the South Belton Middle School theater performance, and the Hubbard Branch Veterans Day event. She also reflected on Parent Conference Day. Riley Beck attended the South Belton Middle School orchestra concert at Belton High School.

7. Consent Agenda: Consider and Take Appropriate Action

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. October 20, 2025 - Workshop Meeting
2. October 20, 2025 - Regular Meeting

B. Unaudited Financial Report for the Month Ending October 31, 2025

C. Gifts, Grants, and Bequests

D. Budget Amendment #2 for 2025-2026

E. Expenditures over \$50,000

1. Renewal of Blackswan Cybersecurity for Sentry Managed Security Services
2. Renewal of Unite Private Network LLC Segra for Wide Area Network
3. Renewal of Cybernut Inc. for Cybersecurity

- 4. Longhorn Bus Sales for New Buses 2022 Bond Project
- F. Supply, Equipment, and Service Bids
 - 1. RFP #2509-675-395 Kitchen Repairs and Services
 - 2. RFP #2509-675-396 Kitchen Equipment
- G. Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) Grant Application
- H. Resolution Regarding Votes Cast to Elect Directors for the Tax Appraisal District of Bell County for the Year 2026
- I. Selection of Construction Delivery Method for Joe M. Pirtle Elementary HVAC Replacement 2022 Bond Project
- J. Water and Wastewater Utility Easement Agreement with the City of Belton at Hubbard Branch Property

Brandon Bozon made a motion, seconded by Chris Flor, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0-0).

8. Public Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

Keith Gilbertson - District priorities

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

The Board went into closed session at 8:38 p.m.

- A. Student Disciplinary Matter - Texas Government Code, Section 551.082
- B. Personnel - Texas Government Code, Section 551.074
 - 1. Consider Superintendent Recommendation Regarding Termination of Assistant Principal, Term Contract Employee
- C. Deliberations about Real Property - Texas Government Code, Section 551.072
- D. Consultation with Attorney - Texas Government Code, Section 551.071

10. Reconvene in Open Session and Take Action, if any, on Items Discussed in Closed Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:15 p.m.

11. Action Items

A. Propose Termination of Assistant Principal, Term Contract Employee

No action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, President

Erin Bass, Secretary