

Belton Independent School District
Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item
December 16, 2024

Item: Recognitions

Contact Person: Christine Parks

Presented for: Action Report Only

Supporting Documents: None Attached Provided Later

District Goal or Objective Addressed:

Goal 2: Ensure exceptional learning experiences for each and every student.

Goal 4: Develop a district-wide culture of value, support, and growth amongst all students and staff.

Background Information:

Student Pledges – Delta Program

This evening, the pledges were led by Delta Program students Myla Turner and Nathan Williamson.

When Myla isn't at Delta, she enjoys spending her summers working and serving ice cream at Waffle Cone, getting lost in books at the Belton Library, and helping her grandmother in the kitchen. Myla's friends often describe her as a funny, uplifting presence who always knows how to brighten their day.

Nathan, on the other hand, enjoys putting together puzzles, playing video games, and watching great movies when he's not at Delta. His friends praise him for his kindness, incredible personality, and great sense of humor.

Student Showcase – Holiday Greeting Card Finalists

Tonight's student showcase features the Holiday Card Contest, celebrating the artistic talents of middle and high school students from across the district. These young artists competed for the honor of having their work selected as the official Belton ISD holiday card for 2024. With numerous outstanding submissions, the judges faced a challenging decision.

Congratulations to the winners of Belton ISD's 2024 Holiday Card Contest: North Belton Middle School seventh-grader Ruby Kiesling; South Belton Middle School eighth-graders Christina Mallette and Juliet Mendoza; Belton High School seniors Destiny Alvarez and Yesmeen Zayed; and Lake Belton High School sophomores Selad Graves and Lacy Wilber, juniors Bailey Caldwell and Cody Tyler, and seniors Xavier Ainsworth, Areli Curiel, and Victoria Stanford.

These talented students were guided by their art instructors, Jannet Alardin, Amy Bralett, Angelia Rios, and Emily Simeroth. All entries are showcased at the Belton ISD Central Administration Building.

Cross Country State Qualifiers

Congratulations to Belton High School senior Olivia Brillhart for qualifying for the state cross-country meet. Olivia achieved an impressive 26th place out of 148 runners, marking her fourth appearance at the state level. Her consistent excellence both on and off the course has made her an inspiration to her teammates and the Big Red Community. She is supported by her coach, Holly Lamberte.

Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Recipients

Belton ISD is proud to celebrate 37 student-athletes who have been named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State teams. To qualify for this honor, seniors must be in good standing with their team, demonstrate strong moral character, and maintain an overall GPA of 92 or higher. Additionally, class rank and SAT/ACT scores are considered in the selection process.

Cross Country

From BHS:

The 16 honorees from Belton High are David Shelburne (Elite Team); John Moehlenbrock (First Team); Estevao Melo Arantes, Olivia Brillhart, Trenton Gallaway, Jacqueline Gantivar, Ernesto Garcia, Jason Green, Lilliana Nelson, Josh Roberts, and Matthew Watkins (Second Team); Chase Aggers, Vincent Gigger, Natalie Jones, Leonardo Rodriguez Salazar and Hailey Schultz (Honorable Mention). Their coach is Holly Lamberte.

From LBHS:

Honorees from Lake Belton High include Neil Dayawansa (Elite Team) and Mario Padmanabhan (Second Team). They are coached by Lisa Dehart.

Tennis

From BHS:

Belton High honorees are Julle He (First Team) and Kaitlyn McDonald (Honorable Mention). They are coached by James Stinson.

From LBHS:

The 11 honorees from Lake Belton High are Megan Bansal and Rachel Kim (Elite Team); Nathan Dawson, Steven Dawson, Luke Droege, Emilio Gonzalez, Garrett Hale, Soha Ramani and Jillian Webb (Second Team); Andrea Melendez-Espino and Victoria Melendez-Espino (Honorable Mention). Their coach is Niki Morgan.

Volleyball

From BHS:

Abigail Marzo (First Team) and Macyen Doscocil and Annabella Pula (Second Team) are the Belton High honorees. They are coached by Haleigh Johnson.

From LBHS:

Lake Belton High honorees MyKenna Johnston, Hannah Kasner and Natalie Maldonado (Second Team) are coached by Allison Waits.

Belton Rotary Educator of the Quarter

Bailey Thomas is being honored by the Belton Rotary Club as the Rotary Educator of the Quarter for her exceptional service to Belton ISD. Bailey serves as an AIMS (behavior support) teacher at South Belton Middle School and is currently in her eighth year of education, all of which have been at South Belton.

Hunter Houston, Assistant Principal at South Belton Middle School, shared these words about Ms. Thomas:

"Ms. Thomas is an outstanding leader who embodies the "whatever it takes" mindset to ensure each and every student on campus is supported. She leads the district's largest behavior support team, achieving remarkable success with her students. Her dedication goes above and beyond, consistently modeling professionalism and advocacy for some of our most vulnerable students. Her impact on SBMS is immeasurable, and she is truly a remarkable educator. Ms. Thomas is one of a kind!"

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

Casey Cooper is being recognized by the Temple Rotary Club as the Rotary Educator of the Month for November in recognition of her outstanding service to Belton ISD. Casey is a special education teacher at High Point Elementary and is currently in her third year of teaching.

Courtney Brewer, Assistant Principal at High Point Elementary, shared these words about Mrs. Cooper:

"Mrs. Cooper is an exemplary world-class employee who consistently goes above and beyond. She is a key collaborator on campus, fostering connections with colleagues across all grade levels and programs. As a resource and inclusion teacher, she works tirelessly to build strong partnerships with homeroom teachers, ensuring each and every student receives the appropriate support they need. She plays a vital role in supporting both instruction and behavior for her team, many of whom are either new teachers or new

to the campus. Her team regularly expresses their gratitude for her unwavering support. Additionally, she serves as a model for collaboration with families, approaching parents with care and providing valuable, detailed insights. Hearing her describe a child's progress during an IEP meeting is truly heartwarming, as it reflects her genuine investment in each student's academic and social-emotional growth.

Beyond her collaborative efforts, Mrs. Cooper embodies the qualities of a lifelong learner. She takes initiative in exploring diverse strategies to address her students' unique needs and skill development. She is receptive to new ideas and eagerly learns from her peers. Her data-driven approach to decision-making is evident in her goals, such as her focus on improving her students' writing skills.

Overall, Mrs. Cooper is a pivotal leader on campus and a dedicated advocate for her students, making her an invaluable member of the team."

Department Showcase - Security & Emergency Preparedness

This month, we are spotlighting the Belton ISD Student Services and Safety and Security teams in the department showcase. These dedicated staff members manage a wide range of operational functions, including the student transfer process, student records requests, attendance intervention and training, and supporting campus administrators. They also oversee the Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook, coordinate School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) meetings, and provide training for administrative staff.

Working closely with Student Services, the Safety and Security team ensures the district's safety and security. Led by Doug Taylor, the director of safety and security, the team comprises 27 crossing guards, ten school resource officers, 19 armed security guards, and a coordinator of emergency preparedness.

We deeply appreciate the behind-the-scenes efforts of these teams in creating a secure and supportive learning environment for all students. They truly exemplify what it means to be World-Class Employees!

Community Partner Recognitions - Belton Police Department, Temple Police Department & School Resource Officers

Belton ISD is proud to celebrate its partnerships with the Belton Police Department, the Temple Police Department, and the school resource officers (SROs) who contribute significantly to the district's security efforts. The district is supported by a dedicated team of ten SROs.

SROs play a vital role in maintaining the physical safety of our school campuses. Their responsibilities include working closely with school administrators, security staff, and faculty to ensure a secure learning environment for students. Beyond safety, they foster open and ongoing communication with students, building strong, trust-based relationships. These officers serve as valuable members of our team, acting as bridges

between our schools and the broader Big Red Community through their investment in and connection with our students.

In addition to their security roles, the officers generously support campus fundraising efforts and actively engage in various student activities, including the bowling club, esports, and more. Their involvement extends beyond their duties, further enriching the lives of our students and strengthening the community bonds.

The Belton Police Department is led by Chief Larry Berg, and the Temple Police Department is led by Chief Shawn Reynolds.

Fiscal Implications:

None.

Administrative Recommendation(s):

None.