

Belton Independent School District
Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item

March 30, 2026

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 – Charter Oak Elementary School

This evening, the pledges were led by fourth graders Riley Hand and Carrington Padron from Charter Oak Elementary School.

Riley says her favorite subjects are math and reading. Outside of school, she enjoys playing outside and even playing school for fun. Riley is a wonderful representation of Charter Oak because she consistently does what is expected and treats others with kindness. Her classmates describe her as a leader who is positive, supportive and responsible, and they say she is always willing to help others with a smile.

Carrington shared that her favorite subjects are math and reading. Outside of school, she enjoys sewing. Carrington represents Charter Oak well because she is kind, helpful and brings a positive attitude wherever she goes.

Student Showcase – Belton New Tech @Waskow Aerospace Engineering

Tonight's student showcase featured students from the Aerospace Engineering program at Belton New Tech @Waskow, highlighting the hands-on learning and real-world learning experiences that prepare students for careers in aviation and engineering.

Through the program, students explore the design, development, maintenance and testing of aircraft structures, engines and systems. They apply scientific and mathematical concepts to solve complex challenges in aerodynamics, structural design, mechanics, propulsion and robotics. In the first-year course, students are introduced to the history of aviation, the physics of flight, engineering practices and aviation career pathways.

These students are supported by their teacher, Ewan Thomson.

Texas Art Educators Association Youth Art Month Spring Exhibition Participant

Belton ISD is proud to recognize James L. Burrell Elementary fifth grader Aryaman Adhikari for being selected to participate in the Texas Art Educators Association Youth Art Month Spring Exhibition.

This statewide exhibition showcases artwork from Pre-K through 12th grade students across Texas and is displayed at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin throughout the month of March. The exhibit highlights the creativity and artistic talent of students from across the state.

Aryaman's artwork was selected to be part of this prestigious exhibition and will also be featured online through the Bullock Museum's website.

Congratulations to Aryaman and his art teacher, Lindsey Valish, on this outstanding achievement.

Lions Club Peace Poster State Qualifier

Belton ISD is proud to recognize North Belton Middle School sixth grader Kimberly Lezama for advancing in the Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest after earning first place in the Belton Lions Club competition.

Her artwork, created in response to this year's theme Together as One, will now advance to the next round of judging alongside other top entries from across Texas.

Congratulations to Kimberly and her art teacher, Nick Bottesini.

Texas Theatre Scholar Award

Belton ISD is proud to recognize 10 students from Belton High School and Lake Belton High School who earned the Texas Theatre Scholar Award.

This honor recognizes theatre students who maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 while demonstrating strong character and a commitment to their theatre program, school and community. Theatre students dedicate countless hours to rehearsals, performances, technical production and collaborative work that bring stories to life on stage.

Congratulations to the students and their theatre directors, Melissa Stuhff and Ty Carter, on this outstanding achievement.

YMCA Youth and Government Judicial State Qualifiers

Belton ISD is proud to recognize eight students from Belton New Tech @Waskow who qualified for the YMCA Texas Youth and Government Judicial State Competition.

The YMCA Texas Youth and Government program is a hands-on civic engagement experience that empowers high school students to learn by doing. Through participation in mock courts and legal proceedings, students explore the judicial system while developing skills in public speaking, critical thinking and civic leadership.

These students are supported by their teacher, Dr. Mark Durfee. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

CyberPatriot State Qualifiers

Belton ISD is proud to recognize 14 students from Belton New Tech @Waskow who qualified for the CyberPatriot State Competition.

CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air & Space Forces Association to inspire students to pursue careers in cybersecurity and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. At the center of the program is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, the nation's largest cyber defense competition, where students work to secure virtual networks and defend computer systems from simulated cyber threats.

These students are supported by their teacher, Megan Shick. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

Belton ISD is proud to recognize Janet Sossamon as the Temple Rotary Club's Educator of the Month for February for her outstanding service to students at Lake Belton Middle School.

Mrs. Sossamon is a seventh-grade science teacher who brings enthusiasm and a deep commitment to student learning into her classroom each day. She creates engaging lessons that spark curiosity and encourage students to think critically.

Her passion for teaching and dedication to her students make her highly deserving of this honor. Belton ISD is proud to celebrate her as the Temple Rotary Educator of the Month.

Belton Rotary Educator of the Quarter

Belton ISD is proud to recognize Julie Coggin as the Belton Rotary Club's Educator of the Quarter for her outstanding service to students at Southwest Elementary.

Ms. Coggin is a fourth-grade teacher who sets high expectations and believes deeply in the potential of every student. Principal Felicia Gibson shared that a hallmark of Ms. Coggin's classroom is her unwavering belief in student potential and her commitment to ensuring every student strives for excellence.

Belton ISD is proud to celebrate Ms. Coggin for this well-deserved recognition.

Department Showcase – Transportation

Tonight's department showcase features the Belton ISD Transportation Department.

Whether they are behind the wheel, under the hood, or supporting operations in the office, this team plays a vital role in ensuring students and staff arrive safely to and from school each day. Each year, the department travels more than 1.5 million miles using a fleet of 107 buses and 26 SUVs to serve the district.

These dedicated professionals are often the first friendly faces our students see each morning, helping set the tone for a successful day of learning.

Belton ISD is proud to recognize the 160 members of the Transportation Department, led by Vickie Tubbs, for their commitment to safely supporting the educational journeys of our students.

Community Partner – Temple Executive Air Center

Tonight, we are proud to recognize the Temple Executive Air Center as a valued community partner supporting Belton ISD aerospace and aviation programs.

Through mentorship, facility access, and real-world learning experiences, the team at Temple Executive Air Center helps connect classroom learning to real-world aviation and aerospace careers. Their partnership has been instrumental in supporting the development of aviation pathways at Belton New Tech @Waskow.

Belton ISD is grateful for Temple Executive Air Center's continued partnership and commitment to investing in the future of our students.

Texas Public Schools Week

Belton ISD joined districts across the state in celebrating Texas Public Schools Week, a statewide recognition of the impact public education has on students, families and communities.

To mark the occasion, students from Belton New Tech @Waskow produced a video sharing what public education means through their lens and highlighting the opportunities available to each and every student in Belton ISD. The project was led by their instructor, Mel Peterman.

Their leadership and voice serve as a powerful reminder that student involvement is at the heart of what makes our schools meaningful.

Fiscal Implications:

None.

Administrative Recommendation(s):

None.