

# **Belton Independent School District**

## ***Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item***

**January 26, 2026**

**Item:** Recognitions

**Contact Person:** Christine Parks

**Presented for:**  Action  Report Only

**Supporting Documents:**  None  Attached  Provided Later

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### **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 – Chisholm Trail Elementary School**

This evening, the pledges were led by fourth graders Josiah Christopher Wilkerson and Theia Hernandez from Chisholm Trail Elementary School.

Josiah shared that outside of school he loves staying active as a three-sport athlete, currently participating in football, basketball and track. He also enjoys playing video games and building with Legos. His friends describe him as a strong leader who is always helpful.

Theia says her favorite subject is art, where she enjoys being creative and expressing herself. Outside of school, she loves spending time with her family, playing with friends and enjoying the outdoors. Her friends describe her as kind, fun and caring, with a big heart and a willingness to help others.

#### **Student Showcase – Belton New Tech @Waskow Appeals Court**

Tonight's student showcase featured Belton New Tech @Waskow students Kaycee Piskorz and Isabelle Allen, who presented appellate arguments from opposing sides of a case at the state level.

Both students are experienced members of the campus legal studies program and multi-year state qualifiers in moot court and mock trial. They are currently competing as student appellate justices at the YMCA Youth and Government State Moot Court Competition in Round Rock.

These students are supported by their legal studies teacher, Dr. Mark Durfee.

### **FFA Leadership Development State Qualifiers**

Tonight, we are recognizing 11 Lake Belton High School students who qualified for FFA Leadership Development Events at the state level.

Students competed in two events, demonstrating strong leadership, research, and communication skills. One group analyzed current agricultural issues through in-depth research and presentations, while another delivered programs designed to educate targeted audiences about the mission and impact of Texas FFA.

We congratulate these students on their success and thank their instructor, Allison Hall, for her leadership and support.

### **Texas Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra**

Congratulations to Lake Belton High School senior Emily Jeong on being selected for the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra. This honor marks her fourth consecutive year earning All-State recognition, an outstanding achievement in one of the most competitive music programs in the state.

We commend Emily for her dedication and talent and thank her instructor, Jenna Burchell, for her guidance and support.

### **Texas Thespian National Qualifiers**

Six Belton High School students earned national qualification through the Texas Thespian Excellence Awards, advancing to represent their program at the International Thespian Festival this summer after receiving superior ratings from all three state-level judges.

The program also celebrated a leadership milestone as junior Olivia McCrae was selected as a Texas Thespian State Festival Officer, becoming the sixth Belton High School student to serve in a state-level leadership role over the past seven years. State officers support more than 600 theatre troupes across Texas through festival planning and leadership workshops.

This achievement reflects strong program support, guided by their theatre instructor, Melissa Stuhff.

## **Pathfinders**

We are proud to celebrate four Belton ISD elementary students from James L. Burrell Elementary School and Lakewood Elementary School who were selected for the prestigious Pathfinder program.

This national initiative nurtures young mathematicians by supporting and inspiring exceptional mathematical talent from elementary school through high school, while providing expert guidance and access to advanced STEM enrichment opportunities.

### **The Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award**

Belton ISD is proud to continue the Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award, which recognizes middle school students who exemplify the district's core competencies.

This evening, we recognize Dylan Bourland, a student at South Belton Middle School, nominated for his outstanding character, exceptional maturity, and consistent demonstration of the Journey of a Graduate competencies.

Dylan is known as a proactive leader who takes initiative without being asked and brings a thoughtful awareness to everything he does. He is dependable, adaptable, and trusted by multiple staff members for his willingness to step in and help wherever needed. Dylan also demonstrates strong empathy and responsibility, often taking on tasks others avoid and doing so with respect and maturity.

Dylan's actions reflect the qualities Belton ISD strives to instill in all students—initiative, collaboration, perseverance, and service to others. We are proud to honor him with the Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award.

### **Presentation of Child Safety Fees from the City of Belton**

Belton ISD is grateful to Belton Mayor David K. Leigh and City Manager Sam Listi for the City of Belton's continued support of student safety through its annual contribution to the district's crossing guard program.

In Bell County, \$1.50 from each vehicle registration is designated for child safety initiatives. Through a longstanding partnership, the City of Belton annually directs its portion of these funds to Belton ISD. This year, the district received \$28,012.39, helping ensure safe school crossings for students across the district.

This ongoing collaboration reflects the shared commitment between the City of Belton and Belton ISD to student safety and well-being and highlights the impact of strong community partnerships.

## **Community Partner Recognition – Carlson Law Firm**

Belton ISD is proud to recognize Carlson Law Firm as a valued community partner supporting the Legal Studies pathway at Belton New Tech High @Waskow.

Through mentorship, internship opportunities, and hands-on learning experiences, Carlson Law Firm provides students with meaningful exposure to the legal profession. Attorneys also support curriculum enrichment through workshops, firm tours and authentic audiences for student presentations.

Belton ISD is grateful for Carlson Law Firm's continued commitment to preparing students for future careers in the legal field.

## **School Board Appreciation Month**

Throughout January 2026, the Big Red Community is recognizing Belton ISD's Board of Trustees during School Board Recognition Month. These dedicated volunteers provide leadership and stewardship in support of students, staff, families and public education.

Belton ISD trustees help bridge the community and the classroom while guiding decisions that support meaningful learning experiences across the district. Over the past year, each trustee dedicated more than 100 volunteer hours to board meetings, committee work, and professional training, in addition to 65 hours attending campus events, graduations and meetings with state and local leaders.

Belton ISD's Board of Trustees includes:

Manuel Alcozer, President (Area 5) – serving since 2018

Chris Flor, Vice President (Area 4) – serving since 2018

Erin Bass, Secretary (Area 2) – serving since 2021

Brandon Bozon, Trustee (At-Large) – serving since 2025

Riley Beck, Trustee (Area 3) – serving since 2025

Jeff Norwood, Trustee (Area 1) – serving since 2016

Rucker Preston, Trustee (At-Large) – serving since 2023

Belton ISD appreciates the time, leadership and commitment our trustees bring to serving the Big Red Community.

**Fiscal Implications:**

None.

**Administrative Recommendation(s):**

None.