

Belton Independent School District

Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda

Item December 15, 2025

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 – Alice J. Tarver Elementary School

This evening, the pledges were led by fifth graders Brecken Crossley and Charlie Warrick from Alice J. Tarver Elementary.

Brecken says math is his favorite subject because he enjoys problem solving and taking on challenging questions. Outside of school, he loves spending time with friends, playing sports and jumping into a game of Fortnite. His friends describe him as respectful, funny, smart and kind and as someone who is a good friend and shows empathy for others.

Charlie shares that math is her favorite subject because she prefers solving multiplication and division problems over writing essays. When she is not in the classroom, she enjoys playing soccer on her select team and spending time with her friends and family. Her friends describe her as smart, funny, responsible and kind.

Student Showcase – Holiday Card Showcase

Tonight's student showcase features the Holiday Card Contest, celebrating the artistic talents of elementary students from across the district. With numerous outstanding submissions, the judges faced a challenging decision as they selected this year's winners.

Congratulations to the winners of Belton ISD's 2025 Holiday Card Contest: Charter Oak Elementary fourth graders Barbara Martinez and Evan Waddle; Hubbard Branch Elementary fourth graders Carly Lewis and Cassie Tidwell and second grader Zaylen Wingfield; Alice J. Tarver Elementary fifth grader Charlotte Berens; Southwest Elementary fifth graders Denise Olvera, Lilyana Canul and Selena Raymond and second grader Rosebud Block; and Joe M. Pirtle Elementary fourth grader Emily Moreno and fifth grader Ellie Woodrow.

These talented students were supported by their art teachers Candy Crocker-Dukich, Anna Bastianelli, Rachel Pond, Rebecca Hanna and Kristin Bernstein.

Texas Music Educators Association All-Region Recipients

Tonight, we are proud to recognize our middle school musicians who earned placement in the Texas Music Educators Association All-Region ensembles. This is the most individually competitive event for middle school band and orchestra students, requiring months of preparation and a rigorous blind audition process alongside hundreds of peers from across the region.

This year, 112 Belton ISD students earned all-region honors across both band and orchestra. These students demonstrated remarkable skill, dedication and musical maturity, and they represented their campuses with pride during rehearsals and performances with the top young musicians in our region.

We are grateful to the directors who supported and prepared these outstanding musicians: Chris Pulley, Patrick Trahan, Dane Wurman, Kaitlyn Pineiro, Matthew Vaadi, Jordan Dolotina, Camber Arredondo, Chris Ross, Evan Simmons, Kevin Nunez Alejandro and Alyssa Meyer.

We congratulate all of our All-Region recipients on this exceptional achievement.

Cross Country State Qualifiers

Congratulations to Lake Belton High School freshman Keira Dzenowski for making school history as the first runner to qualify for the state cross-country meet. Keira's outstanding performance and determination have set a new milestone for LBHS and inspired her teammates and the Bronco community. She is supported by her coach, Lisa Dehart.

Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Recipients

Belton ISD is proud to celebrate 31 student-athletes from cross country, team tennis and volleyball 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. Class rank and SAT/ACT scores are also considered in the selection process.

These Academic All-State honorees were supported by an incredible group of coaches, including Holly Lamberte and Lisa Dehart in cross country, Cory Smith and Niki Morgan in team tennis, and Haleigh Johnson and Allison Waits in volleyball.

Congratulations to all of our Academic All-State recipients for their outstanding commitment to academic excellence and athletic achievement.

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.

Tonight, we recognize Abigail Mattson, an eighth grader at Belton Middle School, nominated by tennis coach Corinna Capraun for her exceptional perseverance.

Abigail is known for her maturity, determination and strong work ethic. Whether in the classroom, orchestra or on the tennis court, she approaches challenges with focus and resilience. Her coach describes her as a thoughtful leader who supports her team and contributes with quiet, steady empathy.

Abigail's perseverance and character reflect the spirit of the Journey of a Graduate, and we are proud to honor her with this Milestones Award.

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

Belton ISD is proud to recognize Ms. Emily Edelhauser as the Temple Rotary Club's Educator of the Month for her outstanding service to students at Belton High School.

Ms. Edelhauser is a dedicated AVID educator who builds a strong college-going culture through meaningful relationships, intentional support and high expectations. She consistently encourages students to pursue their goals and develop the skills needed for post-secondary success.

Her impact extends beyond AVID. She supports students across campus, contributes to the Tiger Media program, helps train staff who assist with AVID and willingly steps in wherever she's needed.

Ms. Edelhauser's leadership and commitment to 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 Melissa Baggett as the Belton Rotary Club's Educator of the Quarter for her outstanding service to Sparta Elementary. Now in her third year of teaching, all at Sparta, Ms. Baggett is known for her compassion, dedication and unwavering belief in her students.

Principal Debi Younger describes her as a teacher who refuses to let students fail, continually encouraging them to reach their full potential. She builds strong relationships with students, families and staff, and is a dependable teammate who is always willing to help.

Ms. Baggett's commitment to her craft and the success of her students is evident in their strong performance and in the positive impact she has across the campus.

Belton ISD is proud to celebrate Melissa Baggett as the Rotary Educator of the Quarter.

Department Showcase - Special Education

This month's department showcase features Belton ISD's Special Programs team, a group of 98 educators who support more than 2,900 students with disabilities across the district. Their work includes behavior support, therapy services, speech and language support, counseling, assistive technology and program coordination.

This recognition aligns with National Special Education Day on December 2, which honors the educators who make inclusive learning possible.

Community Partner – Grace Art Gallery

Tonight, we are proud to recognize Grace Art Gallery as a valued community partner that provides meaningful opportunities for Belton ISD students and staff to share their artistic talents.

Through exhibitions like Emerging Voices on November 14, 2025, and the upcoming staff showcase on February 5, 2026, the gallery offers a professional platform for artists across our district to be celebrated.

Belton ISD is grateful for Grace Art Gallery's continued partnership and its commitment to uplifting the creative voices of our students and educators.

Fiscal Implications:

None.

Administrative Recommendation(s):

None.