

Belton Independent School District
Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item
August 18, 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 – Joe M. Pirtle Elementary School

This evening, the pledges were led by Joe M. Pirtle Elementary students Indigo Cloutier and Logan Dunlap.

Indigo is a fourth grader who loves reading. When she's not in the classroom, you'll find her painting, crafting, swimming, or playing soccer. Her friends describe her as a good listener, full of energy and bursting with creativity!

Logan is in third grade and says P.E. is his favorite subject. He enjoys playing flag football and teaming up with his friends in Fortnite. His friends say he's fast, funny and always ready for fun!

Student Showcase – Mile Markers of Success: National Competitors Q&A

Tonight, we are excited to highlight the accomplishments of Belton ISD students who spent their summer earning national recognition in career and leadership competitions.

Students from Belton High School and Lake Belton High School advanced to the national stage in Business Professionals of America , SkillsUSA and the Technology Student Association, showcasing their talents in areas like medical coding, robotics, construction and more.

As part of tonight's showcase, a few of these outstanding students joined us for a Q&A panel to share their experiences—from preparing for competition to representing Belton ISD among the best in the country. Their stories reflect the power of hands-on learning, student voice and the Journey of a Graduate in action.

Please join us in celebrating their hard work, passion and career-ready success.

BHS Theatre Award of Distinction

We are proud to recognize Belton High School Theatre for earning Exemplary Status in the Texas Educational Theatre Association's (TxETA) 2025 Award of Distinction program.

This honor celebrates theatre programs that demonstrate excellence in performance, access to resources, and community engagement. BHS earned recognition for the quality and quantity of their theatrical productions, a robust play library and access to dedicated acting spaces and strong support from campus and district leadership.

This achievement reflects the hard work of students and the leadership of theatre directors Marie Phillips and Melissa Stuhff, whose dedication to theatre education continues to enrich the lives of students and strengthen the arts in Belton ISD.

Please join us in congratulating the BHS Theatre team on this outstanding accomplishment!

New Administrator Introductions

Cheyenne Babb, James L. Burrell Elementary Principal

Cheyenne Babb has been named principal of James L. Burrell Elementary in Belton ISD. She brings more than a decade of experience in public education, including roles as both teacher and campus administrator across multiple grade levels. Most recently, she served as principal at Rockdale Junior High, a Texas Association of School Administrators Student Voice Campus. Babb is known for fostering strong relationships, empowering teachers, and building positive school culture. She holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and a master's degree in school administration from Lubbock Christian University.

Rachel Ramirez, Lake Belton Middle School Principal

Rachel Ramirez has been named principal of Lake Belton Middle School. With 18 years of experience in public education, Ramirez has served in leadership roles in Hereford and Lockhart ISDs and recently stepped into campus leadership at LBMS after serving as an assistant principal. She is known for her collaborative spirit, focus on relationships, and ability to build strong partnerships with students, staff and families. Ramirez holds multiple advanced degrees, including a master's in educational leadership from West Texas A&M University, and is a graduate of the N2Learning Principal Leadership Academy.

Department Showcase - Teaching & Learning

This month's department showcase shines a spotlight on the incredible team in Teaching and Learning.

This team plays a vital role in ensuring that each and every learner in Belton ISD has access to high-quality instruction, resources and support. They lead the way in developing curriculum, strengthening instructional practices and providing professional learning across all core content areas.

In addition, Teaching and Learning oversees a wide range of specialized programs to meet students' unique needs—including services for English learners, gifted and talented students, advanced academics, career and technology education, Section 504 and special education. They also guide school accountability, assessment and data analysis efforts districtwide.

We're grateful for this team's dedication, expertise and deep commitment to supporting our campus leaders, teachers and—most importantly—our students. This work is led by Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Gabi Niño.

Community Partner – University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Tonight, we are proud to recognize the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) as our Community Partner Showcase.

Belton ISD is partnering with UMHB researchers—Dr. Costello, Dr. Bond and Dr. Morton—to evaluate the effectiveness of our Hope Squad program. This collaboration supports our commitment to student mental health by helping us understand the program's impact and identify opportunities to strengthen it.

The UMHB research team is working alongside our schools to gather data and provide valuable insights that will enhance the Hope Squad program and promote a culture of care and connection. Together with UMHB, we are working to create a school environment where students feel seen, supported and never alone.

We're grateful for this meaningful partnership and UMHB's support in advancing student well-being in Belton ISD.

Fiscal Implications:

None.

Administrative Recommendation(s):

None.