

Belton Independent School District

Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, February 23, 2026 - 6:15 p.m.

Pittenger Fine Arts Center, 400 N. Wall Street, Belton, TX 76513

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer
Chris Flor
Rucker Preston
Jeff Norwood

Brandon Bozon
Riley Beck
Erin Bass

Board Members Absent:

1. Call to Order, Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Manuel Alcozer, Board President, called the regular meeting of the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 6:20pm. He stated that a quorum of Board Members was present,, that the meeting had been duly called, and notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

2. Recognitions

Student Pledges – Southwest Elementary School

The evening's pledges were led by second grader Rosebud Block and third grader Ian Block from Southwest Elementary School.

Student Showcase – Lake Belton High School Automotive

The evening's showcase featured LBHS automotive students, who shared an overview of the campus automotive technology program and the hands-on learning experiences that will prepare them for careers in the skilled trades. These students are supported by their automotive teacher, Brent Sharp.

Texas Music Educators Association All-State Band

Belton ISD is proud to recognize LBHS student Adam Namkung, who was selected as a member of the Texas Music Educators Association 5A All-State Band, the highest honor a high school musician can achieve.

Texas Music Educators Association All-State Choir

Belton ISD recognized five students from BHS and LBHS who were selected for the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Choir, the highest honor a high school vocalist can achieve.

The students advanced through a rigorous, multi-round audition process and attended an All-State clinic and concert with top student musicians across Texas on February 14 in San Antonio. They are under the direction of directors Terrance Livingston, Tonya Lovorn and Charlotte Wurman.

Texas Music Educators Association All-Region Jazz

Belton ISD recognized 13 middle school students from Belton Middle and Lake Belton Middle who earned honors through the TMEA All-Region Jazz process.

Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Football

Belton ISD recognized 25 student athletes from Belton High School and Lake Belton High School who were named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Football teams. To earn this distinction, senior student athletes must be in good standing with their team, demonstrate strong character and leadership, maintain an overall GPA of 92 or higher, and meet additional criteria that include class rank and SAT or ACT scores.

NFF National Academic Excellence Award Finalist

Belton ISD recognized the LBHS varsity football team, composed of 70 student athletes, for being named a finalist for the National Football Foundation National Academic Excellence Award for the fourth consecutive year. The Broncos are one of only seven 5A programs in the state to earn this distinction.

CTE State Qualifiers

Belton ISD proudly recognized Career and Technical Education students from across the district who have advanced to state-level competitions. Through strong performance in local and regional events, more than 45 students earned qualification to compete at the state level.

Business Professionals of America State Qualifiers

Belton ISD recognized Career and Technical Education students who advanced to the state level through Business Professionals of America competitions. These achievements reflect the strength of Belton ISD's CTE programs and students' readiness for college, careers and industry certifications.

Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) State Qualifiers

Belton ISD recognized health science students who advanced to the state level through Health Occupations Students of America competitions. These students will represent Belton ISD at the State HOSA competition in March. Their achievements reflect a commitment to excellence and readiness for careers in the health sciences.

The Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award

Belton ISD proudly presented the Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award, recognizing middle school students who exemplify the district's core competencies. Belton ISD celebrated Thomas "TJ" Davis Jr., a student at North Belton Middle School, for his growth and strong demonstration of the Journey of a Graduate competencies, particularly perseverance.

Congressman John Carter Career & Technical Education Award

The Congressional District Texas-31 Career & Technical Education Award, presented by Congressman John Carter, recognizes outstanding high school students who have demonstrated excellence and commitment in Career & Technical Education programs. The award highlights students who have completed rigorous CTE coursework, developed industry-aligned skills, and prepared for high-skill, high-wage careers through real-world learning experiences and career pathways. For the 2026 recognition, Ethan Curtis was selected to represent Belton ISD, reflecting his dedication, achievement, and career readiness through his CTE pathway.

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

Belton ISD proudly recognized Mrs. Gabby Manibusan as the Temple Rotary Club's Educator of the Month for January for her outstanding service to students at James L. Burrell Elementary. Mrs. Manibusan'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.

AP School Honor Roll by College Board

Belton ISD announced that Belton New Tech @Waskow has been named to the 2025 AP School Honor Roll for the third consecutive year. This recognition highlights the campus's commitment to expanding access to Advanced Placement courses, strengthening college readiness and fostering a strong college going culture.

Department Showcase - Career & Technical Education

The evening's showcase highlighted Belton ISD Career and Technical Education, a key part of the district's Career Readiness Department alongside Advanced Academics and MCJROTC. Belton ISD is recognized as a CTE District of Distinction, reflecting the strength of its programs and the dedication of its educators. Denise Ayres leads the department as Director of PK-12 Career Readiness.

Community Partner – Johnson Brothers Ford

The Board recognized Johnson Brothers Ford as a valued community partner supporting Belton ISD automotive programs. Through generous donations of automotive parts and employment opportunities for students, Johnson Brothers Ford helps connect classroom learning to real-world industry experience.

3. Public Comments Regarding Items on the Agenda

Amy Longfield - Item 5.B. Resolution Regarding Period of Prayer
Barbara Huffman & Anna Huffman - LBHS Wrestling

4. Public Hearings

A. Public Hearing Regarding the 2024-2025 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR)

Dr. Malinda Golden introduced Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, who presented a report on the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). Texas Education Code 39.306 states the district's Board of Trustees must publish an annual report and hold a public hearing.

There were no public comments. Mr. Alcozer concluded the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

B. Public Hearing Regarding Accelerated Instruction Report

Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, presented a report on the effectiveness of BISD's Accelerated Instruction Program. Mrs. Nino shared details on specific interventions: advisory tutorials, classroom intervention, and pull out blocks; and the growth rate students have experienced as a result of these interventions. Texas Education Code 29.081 and EHBC(LEGAL) require that the district evaluate the effectiveness of accelerated instruction programs for students who have not performed satisfactorily on the state end-of-course assessment and hold a public hearing to consider the results.

There were no public comments and Mr. Alcozer concluded the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

5. Action Item:

A. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding an Order Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Belton Independent School District Unlimited Tax School Building and Refunding Bonds; Levying a Tax and Providing for the Security and Payment Thereof; Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Purchase Contract, Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement and Escrow Agreement Relating to Such Bonds; Approving the Preparation of the Official Statement; and Enacting Other Provisions Relating Thereto

Brandon Bozon made a motion, seconded by Jeff Norwood to approve the order authorizing the issuance and sale of the Belton Independent School District Unlimited Tax School Building and Refunding Bonds, Series 2026 as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

B. Consider, Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on a Resolution Regarding a Period of Prayer and Reading Religious Text During the School Day

Dr. Cassandra Spearman provided a report defining current religions freedoms allowed within existing policy, FNA(LOCAL), and

Jeff Norwood made a motion, seconded by Riley Beck, to approve the resolution declining to adopt a policy under Texas Education Code Section 25.0823 relating to a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

6. Reports:

A. Board Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee

Erin Bass provided a summary of the Policy Committee that included analysis of FNA(LOCAL), a local district update, along with four other policies from policy update 126.

2. Budget Committee

Chris Flor provided a recap of the Budget Committee to include 2026-2027 Budget Assumptions, and bond refunding, as covered earlier in the meeting.

3. Facilities Committee

Jeff Norwood provided an overview of the Facilities Committee to include potential bond savings and prioritizing those funds for investment in critical capital projects.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Malinda Golden's report covered the following: the Leon Heights Elementary's 70th Anniversary, Healthcare Horizons Program, Tarver Elementary student-owned store, student research symposiums, Superintendent Student Advisory Council, Bell County Youth Fair, Digital Learning Day, fine arts performances and the Burrell Elementary namesake visit.

C. Board Highlights

Trustees highlighted basketball success to include: the meet-and-greet with Coach Mann at Belton High School, middle school track success, fine arts theater productions, Grace Art Gallery staff art display, student career fair, and campus spelling bees.

7. Consent Agenda: Consider and Take Appropriate Action

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. February 2, 2026 - Workshop Meeting
2. February 2, 2026 - Regular Meeting

B. Unaudited Financial Report for the Month Ending January 31, 2026

C. Gifts, Grants, and Bequests

D. Budget Amendment #5 for 2025-2026

E. Expenditures over \$50,000

1. KYA Services LLC for Playground Equipment at Pirtle Elementary
2. Jean's Restaurant Supply for Kitchen Equipment at Various Campuses

- F. Supply, Equipment, and Service Bids
 - 1. RFP #2512-575-405 Printing and Copying Services
 - 2. RFP #2511-350-403 Custodial Supplies (Chemical and Non-Chemical)
- G. Change Order #2 with CORE Construction for the Belton High School Additions and Renovations 2022 Bond Project
- H. Acceptance and Close-out of the Belton High School Additions and Renovations 2022 Bond Project and Approval of Final Payment
- I. Acceptance and Close-out of the District-Wide Access Control and Camera System Implementation 2022 Bond Project and Approval of Final Payment
- J. Appointment of Election Judges, Alternate Judges and Early Voting Ballot Board for the Board of Trustees May 2, 2026 General Election for Two At-Large Positions
- K. Application for Delay of Teacher Certification Requirements
- L. Resolution Concerning Payments to District Employees During Emergency Closure Due to Inclement Weather and Reduction in Educator Required Days of Service
- M. Local District Update - 2nd Reading
 - 1. FNA(LOCAL) Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Expression
- N. Policy Update 126 - 2nd Reading
 - 1. CQB(LOCAL) Technology Resources: Cybersecurity
 - 2. CQD(LOCAL) (ADD) Technology Resources: Artificial Intelligence
 - 3. FO(LOCAL) Student Discipline
 - 4. GKA(LOCAL) Community Relations: Conduct on School Premises

Riley Beck made a motion, seconded by Erin Bass, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

8. Public Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

None.

9. Closed Session (Texas Government Code, Subchapters D and E)

The Board convened in closed session at 8:13 p.m.

- A. Student Disciplinary Matter - Texas Government Code, Section 551.082
- B. Personnel - Texas Government Code, Section 551.074
- C. Consultation with Attorney - Texas Government Code, Section 551.071

10. Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:04 p.m.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, President

Erin Bass, Secretary