

Belton Independent School District

Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, December 15, 2025 - 6:15 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer	Brandon Bozon
Chris Flor	Riley Beck
Rucker Preston	Erin Bass

Board Members Absent:

Jeff Norwood

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 6:27pm. He stated that a quorum of Board Members was present, noted Mr. Jeff Norwood's absence, 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 – Alice J. Tarver Elementary School

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

Student Showcase – Holiday Card Showcase

The evening's student showcase featured the District Holiday Card Contest, which celebrated the artistic talents of elementary students from across the District. 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

The Board proudly recognized middle school musicians who earned placement in the Texas Music Educators Association All-Region ensembles. This year, 112 Belton ISD students earned all-region honors across both band and orchestra. Students are under the direction of Chris Pulley, Patrick Trahan, Dane Wurman, Kaitlyn Pineiro, Matthew Vaadi, Jordan Dolotina, Camber Arredondo, Chris Ross, Evan Simmons, Kevin Nunez Alejandro and Alyssa Meyer.

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 celebrated 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. These students are supported by their coaches Holly Lamberte and Lisa Dehart in cross

country, Cory Smith and Niki Morgan in team tennis, and Haleigh Johnson and Allison Waits in volleyball.

The Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award

Belton ISD proudly continues the Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award, which recognizes middle school students who exemplify the District's core competencies.

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

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

The Board recognized Ms. Emily Edelhauser as the Temple Rotary Club's Educator of the Month for her outstanding service to students at Belton High School.

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.

Department Showcase - Special Education

This month's department showcase featured 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

The Board recognized 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 the District to be celebrated. Belton ISD is grateful for Grace Art Gallery's continued partnership and its commitment to uplifting the creative voices of students and educators.

3. Public Comments Regarding Items on the Agenda

Sarah Cox - Staffing

Amy Longfield - Staffing

4. Action Item:

A. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Adoption of the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, provided the report. The 2026-2027 academic calendar was developed through a collaborative process led by the Districtwide Educational Improvement Council (DWEIC), which incorporated feedback from a survey of nearly 800 community members and reviewed surrounding district and university schedules. The council unanimously approved Option 1, which prioritizes instruction by providing 170 instructional days—an increase of two days over previous calendars. Based on staff feedback regarding the need for

more preparation time, the calendar includes an additional professional learning and teacher prep day at the beginning of the year. Furthermore, the schedule emphasizes alignment with local universities like Temple College to ensure that natural breaks, such as spring and fall break, are synchronized for families. See report.

Riley Beck made a motion, seconded by Rucker Preston to adopt the 2026-2027 academic calendar as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (6-0-0).

B. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Approval of New Courses for the 2026-2027 School Year

Gani Nino, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented two new practicum courses for the 2026-2027 school year designed to expand student opportunities and fulfill specific pathway requirements. The first course, Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security, was introduced to complete a pathway at New Tech High School that previously lacked a practicum experience. The second course, Extended Practicum in Health Science, allows students to receive credit for career-based experiences they are already participating in, such as the 60 hours of ride-alongs required for EMT students. These courses carry no additional cost to the District because the necessary personnel are already in place, and they have the potential to generate additional Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding.

Chris Flor made a motion, seconded by Brandon Bozon, to approve new courses for the 2026-2027 school year. The motion passed unanimously, (6-0-0).

5. Reports:

A. Goal 3 Report: Goal Setting & Onboarding

The Goal 3 report focused on achieving 80% staff participation in professional learning goals aligned with the Belton ISD's leadership definition by May 2026. Todd Schiller, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, reported that the District has already surpassed this target, reaching 81.4% participation as of December 1, 2025. The initiative involves all staff members—including teachers, custodians, and nutrition employees—setting learning goals that are integrated into their annual performance evaluations. Implementation included intensive summer training for leadership teams and the alignment of meeting agendas with specific leadership competencies such as "communicating for impact" and "promoting growth". Moving forward, the District will use this data to tailor future professional development and work with support service departments to increase participation among staff with limited computer access. See report.

B. Board Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee

The committee conducted the first reading of Policy Update 126, which primarily addresses legislative changes regarding timeliness and transparency.

2. Budget Committee

The committee discussed refining budget goals and preparing for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

3. Facilities Committee

The committee provided updates on the progress of various construction and maintenance projects.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Malinda Golden shared highlights centering on the District's vision of having students and staff enrich their communities through service and engagement.

D. Board Highlights

Rucker Preston attended the BNT@W academic awards ceremony, soccer games, BHS Basketball game supporting Marcus Wilson, and BEF Prize Patrol. Erin Bass also participated in the BEF Prize Patrol, Big Red Heart Awards, and campus visits. Chris Flor spoke about his campus visits and how the Board and the leader engage in discussion about priorities on each campus, and then tour the campuses and see examples of the initiatives on campus. He has attended multiple holiday fine arts events, and promoted the BISD Tuba Christmas event. Brandon Bozon, who also serves on the BEF Board, thanked all who applied for grants, as well as all who contributed or donated to help make teacher grants possible.

6. Consent Agenda: Consider and Take Appropriate Action

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. November 13, 2025 - Special Meeting
2. November 17, 2025 - Workshop Meeting
3. November 17, 2025 - Regular Meeting

B. Unaudited Financial Report for the Month Ending November 30, 2025

C. Gifts, Grants, and Bequests

D. Budget Amendment #3 for 2025-2026

E. Expenditures over \$50,000

1. Renewal of CDW-G for CrowdStrike for Antivirus Software
2. Renewal of Eduphoria for Software Licenses
3. Renewal of Cintas for Mop and Towel Services

F. Supply, Equipment, and Service Bids

1. RFP #2509-700-394 Software & Applications

G. Appointment of Concussion Oversight Team

H. Cooperative Purchasing Program Fee Report

I. Change Order #2 with T.F. Harper & Associates for Delta Facility Bond Project

J. Acceptance and Close Out of Delta Facility Bond Project and Approval of Final Payment

K. Policy Update 126 - 2nd Reading

1. DGBA(LOCAL) Personnel-Management Relations: Employee Complaints/Grievances
2. FA(LOCAL) Parent Rights and Responsibilities
3. FFF(LOCAL) Student Welfare: Student Safety
4. FFG(LOCAL) Student Welfare: Child Abuse And Neglect
5. FNG(LOCAL) Student Rights And Responsibilities: Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances

Chris Flor made a motion, seconded by Rucker Preston, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (6-0-0).

7. Public Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

None.

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

The Board went into closed session at 7:52 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

9. Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:36 p.m.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, President

Erin Bass, Secretary