

Belton Independent School District
Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item
May 13, 2024

Item: Recognitions

Contact Person: Jennifer Bailey

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 — Belton Early Childhood School

Tonight's pledges were led by Belton Early Childhood School students Azai Muschett and Mila Mercado-Chavoustie.

Azai loves math and sports, and he plays flag football. His friends describe him as funny and caring.

Mila's favorite subject is art because she likes to make things. She loves to ride her bike, play outside, and feed ducks at the creek. Her friends admire her kindness and sense of style. She is also fun to play with.

Student Showcase — Belton Middle School Jazz Band

Tonight, we're proud to showcase the Belton Middle School Jazz Band. This talented group of 25 7th- and 8th-grade students is continually refining their skills and earning top honors at events like the Temple Jazz Festival. Ten students even secured spots in the prestigious TMEA All-Region Jazz Band, a testament to their remarkable talent. The Belton Middle School Jazz Band is under the direction of Chris Pulley.

VASE Contest Winners

Six Belton ISD students qualified for the 2024 Texas Art Association's High School Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) state competition. Congratulations to Seth Hayhurst, Berkley Regner, and Kayleigh Borowski from Belton High School, and Isabella Dickson-Walter, Liam McCullagh, and Diana Williams from Lake Belton High School. Teachers are Jannet Alardin, Macon Tolleson, and Madyson Ward at Belton High School, and Emily Simeroth at Lake Belton High School.

Out of over 2,100 artworks that advanced to state, only 165 received a Gold Seal. McCullagh and Williams are the first Lake Belton High School students to receive Gold Seal awards. Previously, only one other Belton ISD student had received a Gold Seal.

Texas Association of Pupil Transportation State Finalist

BISD is celebrating Sparta Elementary second-grade student Avery Abroms for earning third place in the Division I Texas Association of Pupil Transportation School Bus Safety Poster Contest. This competition raises awareness about school bus safety and provides students with the chance to win scholarships. The teachers are Stacy Bostick and Jessica Picarazzi.

Esports State Championship Finalists

The district is celebrating the achievements of the Bronco Esports State Championship Finalists. Representing Lake Belton High School are Aiden Scammell, Ivan Hoang, and Thomas Lara from APEX Legends, along with Gabriel Vacula from Mario Smash Bros. Solos. The Bronco Esports Team sponsor is Kristie Shepherd.

Texas Dance Educators Association All-State Qualifiers

Daphne Ortiz, a student at Belton High School, is being recognized as a 2024-25 All-State dancer. Selected as one of only 250 dancers in Texas, she proudly represented both Belton ISD and BHS at the Texas Dance Educators Association Convention in January. Her coaches are Rachel Hill and Emma Marsland.

Band Solo & Ensemble State Qualifiers

BISD is honoring the following musicians for qualifying for the state level at the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest. They have demonstrated their outstanding musical abilities on a statewide stage, further emphasizing the excellence of the BISD Fine Arts programs.

From BHS:

Soloists: Hope Bovell, Liam Bower, Abigail Fuller, Thaddeus Henderson, Jennifer Huscanga, Jeremiah Joseph, Brennan Lanham, Alyssa Nickerson, and Elijah Seavey

Ensembles: Logan Floyd, Mackenzie McCaleb, Jussi Pera, Javier Garcia, Ezra Kahler, Zander Goebel, Noelle Dieter, Noah Gonzalez, Colby Franklin, Aiden Orsag, Robert Richeson, Judah Kaler, Nathaniel Neiser, and Alyssa Vahrenkamp

The musicians at Belton High School are directed by Kevin Kwaku, Chris Kreger, Matthew Vaadi, and Ian Smith.

From LBHS:

Soloists: Cahaya Lane, Adam Namkung, Gabe Jones, Jacob McCready, Olivia Cromwell, Ben Shimabukuro, Abby Hajovsky, Abbie Kuykendall, and Ethan Suarez

Ensembles: Lilyan Graves, Cahaya Lane, Elizabeth McCready, Adam Namkung, Daniel Bernhard, Christopher Clement, Jonathon Crow, Evan Eckert, Abby Henderson, Nate Herrera, Raistslin Kirkland, Abby McNiel, Lilly Allman, Madison Coleman, Harmony Collins, Levi Dale, Naomi Hwang, Mikayla Munson, Danica Garza, Selah Graves, Gabe Jones, Chase Anderson, Joseph Doney, Joshua Naumann, Andy Thomas, Matthew Antuna, Graycin Barrett, Marc Crosby, Luke Frobish, Roberto Jennings, Daeja Parsons, Ethan Smith, Jayden Bautista, Jared Colambo, Olivia Cromwell, Abby Hajovsky, Asher Hansgen, Nolan Koloroutis, Abbie Kuykendall, Ben Shimabukuro, and Ethan Suarez

At Lake Belton High School, the musicians are led by directors Bobby Yerigan, Craig George, Jacob Guerrero, and Grant Shane.

Belton High School Orchestra Solo & Ensemble State Qualifiers

BISD is proud to recognize the Orchestra Solo and Ensemble State Qualifiers from Belton High School. We applaud the accomplishments of Soteria Shin, Coleman Pennington, and Matthew Herrera. We wish them continued success as they compete at the state level. They are under the direction of Preston Patterson.

UIL Theatrical Design State Qualifiers

Belton ISD is celebrating five UIL Theatrical Design State Qualifiers for representing the district at the state level. These individuals have demonstrated exceptional creativity and skill in the field of theatrical design. Yesmeen Zayed and Brennan Winn are students at Belton High School and are instructed by Marie Phillips. Liam McCullagh, Gissel Lemus, and Nola Ferrell are students at Lake Belton High School and are led by Ty Carter and Shelby Cozart.

Texas Color Guard Circuit State Contest Qualifiers

The BHS guard team advanced to the state level in the Texas Color Guard Circuit State Contest in the Scholastic AA Division. Congratulations to Alantis Berry, Rylee Blattner, Karli Moon, Jadyn Bourland, Austyn Diskin, Ashley Farmer, Scarlett Finch, Chloe Hutchinson, Jhaneice Jones, Arianna Reynolds, Blanche Rosario-Taylor, Milagros Salinas, Alijah Sims, Tatiana Smith, Liandimar Torres-Agosto, Hadlie Trahan, Lillie True, and Adrianna Tyler. This achievement reflects the outstanding commitment and hard work of the students and their dedicated coach Briana Merritt.

Texas Girl Coaches Association Academic All-State - Cheer

Belton ISD is honoring five student-athletes who have been honored as Academic All-State for cheer by the Texas Girl Coaches Association. Students from Lake Belton High School are Makaylyn Atkinson, Shelby Chaney, Brooklyn Cory, Landyn Johnson, Chandler Stahl, and Allison Wren. They are coached by Laura Bulls.

Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Recipients

Soccer

BISD is proud to recognize the student-athletes who earned the distinction of being named Academic All-State by the Texas High School Coaches Association for soccer.

BHS: Boys: Ashutosh Ghamande, Rafael Payan, Connor Vela, Ian Walsh, and Dominik Pfeifer. **Girls:** Delaney Bouteller, Jezabel Vasquez. Carlo Mosnia coaches the boys' team at BHS, and Oscar Bersosa leads the girls' team.

LBHS: Boys: Nathan Ogden, Kaden Gillians, Nathan Sanders, and Dawson Vuong. **Girls:** Charlee Maddux, Emma Jez, Hailey Erskine, Ava Navarro, Ella Wheelless, Macey Weber, Austin Inman, and Meili Mason. At LBHS, Andrew Kirshner coaches the boys, while Jamie Tibbetts coaches the girls.

Tennis

Congratulations to the student-athletes who were named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State teams for tennis.

Students from BHS are: Matthew Herrera, Addison Alexander, Noah Zajicek, Nicholas Repka, and Braeden Parker. They are coached by James Stinson.

Students from LBHS are: Maya Davies Honea, Ava Locklin, Owen Gersbach, and Brodie Reed. They are coached by Niki Morgan.

Swimming

Two Lake Belton High School swimmers were named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State swim teams: Aden Namkung and Rylan Reasoner. Their coach is Natalie Hazlewood.

SkillsUSA State Competitors

Belton ISD is celebrating the students who advanced to the SkillsUSA state competition. SkillsUSA is a skilled trade and workforce development organization for students.

BHS: Logan Chavez, Austin Govea, Brendan Hall, Chloe Hall, Koral Palomarez, Camryn Vanderveer, Taylin Rynkowski, Alexia Martinez, Jacqueline Gantivar, Misael Cuevas, Oscar Flores, Evan Hall, Kylar Quinn, and Jose Esquivel. The EMT teams both placed at state. Brendan Hall and Chloe Hall placed second and Koral Palomarez and Camryn Vanderveer placed third. Earning gold and advancing to the national competition: Misael Cuevas, Oscar Flores, Evan Hall, and Kylar Quinn (Teamworks). The teachers are Willie Ward, Michael Ferguson, Russ Arnold, CoryLunn Upton, and Michael Carrillo.

LBHS: MeiLi Mason, Lydia Stewart, Joseph Villalobos, Alex Wells, and Alexander Richardson. Mason placed third in Pin Design and Villalobos placed third in plumbing. Their teachers are Brittany Truitt, Rodney Johnson, and Brent Sharp.

HOSA State Qualifiers

Belton ISD is very proud to have sent students to the state competition for HOSA - Future Health Professionals. Representing BHS at state were Zoe Ray and Caitlyn Wingo. Ray placed fifth for her research poster. Their teachers are Stephanie Yaryan and Brandi Frieden.

Representing LBHS at state were Shrey Gupta, Tinley Bynum, Daniella Garcia, Mikayla Munson, Cadence Ellis, Olivia Gallant, and Valeria Palacios Gutierrez. Their teacher is Mary Keeton.

Technology Student Association State Qualifiers

The district was well-represented at the Technology Student Association state competition.

Advancing to state from BHS were Faith Perez, Sue-Ellen Grant, Trent Bowman, Pablo Rosa Ruiz, and Demetrio Salazar. Their teacher is Pietro Giustino.

From LBHS, state competitors were Lauryn Allain, Braedyn Brannum, Graysen Brindley, Vincent Brown, Kyle Campbell, Samuel Casanova, Joseph Doney, Ephraim Fry, Neva Guerra, Nolan Koloroutis, Cahaya Lane, Elizabeth Lozano, Robert Marshall, Logan Mayberry, Ayden Meeks, Brooke Phillips, Zachary Rahm, Madox Richner, Noah Santos, James Savino, and Aidan Scammell. Their teacher is Jessica Persilver.

Texas Association of Future Educators State Qualifiers

Three LBHS students advanced to the state competition for the Texas Association of Future Educators. They are Victoria Shimabakuro, Austin Corten, and Victoria Sibley. Congratulations to Shimabakuro and Corten for advancing to nationals in the Varsity Interactive Bulletin Board competition. Their teacher is Kimberly Williams.

FCCLA State Competitors

Twelve students represented BISD at the state Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competition. This is a national career and technical student organization for students in Family and Consumer Sciences education.

From BHS: Faith Luce, Noelia Martinez, Carolina Mendez Ordaz, Kyra Gallant, and Jakeria Hall. Their teacher is Stacy Scott.

From LBHS: Tatum Engelke, Cecelia Grau, Abran Guajardo, Damon Herring, Stephanie Martinez, and Jocelyn Solis. Guajardo placed second place. The teachers are Nicholas Warren and Melinda Hodge.

FFA State Qualifiers

Belton ISD is celebrating the students from Belton High School, Belton New Tech @Waskow, and Lake Belton High School who advanced to the state FFA competition. Their teachers are Lindsey Chapman and Brad and Lori Hobbs.

Nursery landscape

Jane Gauntt
Raef Airhart
Abigail Lonnecker
Sophia Detert

Garrett Roger
Rylan Norwood
Macie estill
Keaton Gallion

Madalynn Melton
John Gauntt
Ryana Traves
Danica Kuhnau

Vet science

Kadence Sigler
Yulissa gray
Syrenity Wilson
Rylea Robertson

Horse

Chapman
Bailee Baker
Bailey Peterson
Mary Read
Virginia Rosenbaum
Alana Murphy

Judging-

Wool Team

Trinity Collins

Emerson Sexton
Makaylyn Atkinson
Katelyn Ward
Reese Sexton
Parker Munz

**Environmental Natural
Resource (ENR)**

Wildlife

Mallory Larson

YMCA Judicial State Competitors

We are celebrating the 16 Belton New Tech @Waskow students who competed at the YMCA state judicial competition: Cayden Ratliff, Kaycee Piskroz, Alayna Prager, MacKenna Hughes, Elizabeth Davis, Isabelle Ryals, Claire Shattuck, Zoe Shattuck, Sam McKenzie, Alexia Howard, Isabelle Allen, Jaelan Hurtado, Benjamin Garcia-Soto, Joshua Morgan, Logan Wilson, and Kory Turner.

The BNT@W competitive legal teams compete in the YMCA Youth and Government program's two judicial categories: mock trial and appellate court. All of the appellate court attorneys placed in the top 10 and one team placed first at the district competition and qualified for state. Additionally, two student justices placed first and third at the district competition and qualified for state. The teacher is Neill Plemons.

Barbara Jordan UIL Essay Competition Winner

Congratulations to Phoenix Carlisle from Lake Belton High School. She was the winner of the Barbara Jordan UIL Essay Competition. This competition provides students an opportunity to explore the contributions of African Americans to Texas history, as well as honor the legacy of its namesake, Barbara Jordan.

National Merit Finalist

Congratulations to Shrey Gupta from Lake Belton High School. He is among 15,000 high school students nationwide to be selected as finalists for the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. To be selected as finalists, students submitted applications with information about their academic record, school and community activities, leadership characteristics, and awards earned. This is one of the highest honors a high school student can receive.

New-to-the-Profession Teacher Recognition

The district is celebrating the following 89 student-centered educators who are finishing their first year of teaching. These educators are dedicated to continuous learning to ensure their students are successful. They have participated in monthly learning with the INSPIRE Academy and received support from their mentor teachers. We offer our congratulations for completing their first year with Belton ISD.

Scott Adams	Donna Fox	Lori Nipper
Jeremiah Adams	Cassandra French	Valerie Orozco
Norman Ainsworth	Samuel Fritz	Brooke Ortega
Melissa Baggett	Jessica Gawron	Dennis Osagiede
Brenda Batts	Peter Gingerich	Beth Pannenberg
Jane Boone	Manuel Gonzales	Jayna Parker
Jared Bouchie	Elsa Gonzalez	Cara Patranella
Jilliane Bounds	Nicole Guerrero	Marcia Pinto Reis
Haley Brent	Ashley Hallmark	Noah Preszler
Crissy Brown	Janice Hewett	Tyler Raulston
Traci Carter	Bethany Hewitt-Mendes	Dahlia Rendon
Taylor Chevalier	Melinda Hodge	Sonia Rivera
Vanessa Chisolm	Sonia Holleman	Rachel Rodriguez
Quinton Combs-Drake	Sidney Holman-Mansell	Maria Santos
Casey Cooper	Whitnie Hughes	Lauren Schachner
Alexandria Cryer	Savannah Johnson	Andrew Shaffer
Haley Cudd	Cowan Kaipo	Flishia Shannon
Alycia Cuffee	Miles Kehoe	Sarah Short

Shelby Curry	Kirby Kelly	Robert Stenson II
Autumn Dakenbring	Azzie Knox	Ewan Thomson
Jakob Daude	Lauren Landry	Johnny Timmons
Steven Dekeratry	Cynthia Ley-Rodriguez	McKenzie Tuyo
Aaron Doble	Yolanda Lyons	Madyson Ward
Austin Doffing	Francisco Maldonado	Nicolas Warren
Andrea Elieson	Sydney McAfee	Taylor Wells
Angela Finn	Jennifer McAfee	Trinity White
Ericka Flemming	Xiomara Melendez Valle	Jenna Wilck
Allie Folger	Briana Merritt	Shania Woods
Brendan Forrest	Laura Minor	Kimberly Ybanez
Kaiya Fowler	Melissa Moehle	

Temple Rotary Educators of the Month

Lindsey Neece is the Temple Rotary Club Educator of the Month for April. She is being celebrated for her outstanding service to Belton ISD. Neece serves as a sixth-grade math teacher at Lake Belton Middle School. She is in her eighth year in education.

Kari Norman, the instructional coach at Lake Belton Middle School, stated the following about Neece, "Lindsey is an exemplary educator who consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to fostering an inclusive and effective learning environment. Her practice of differentiated instruction ensures that each student's unique learning needs are addressed. Lindsey's empathy towards her students establishes a positive teacher-student relationship and contributes to a nurturing classroom culture. Her use of formative assessments allows for real-time feedback, enabling her to make timely adjustments to lessons and plans based on the evolving needs of her students. Lindsey's incorporation of real-world examples in math lessons enhances the relevance of the material, making learning more engaging and applicable. Her willingness to embrace new teaching methods and adapt to changes demonstrates a forward-thinking and innovative mindset. Lindsey's approach to teaching is characterized by flexibility, empathy, and a genuine passion for student learning, making her an outstanding educator."

For May, Bree Strnad is being recognized by the Temple Rotary Club as the Rotary Educator of the Month for her outstanding service to Belton ISD. Strnad serves as a Special Education Teacher and Cheerleading Coach at North Belton Middle School. She is in her eighth year in education and second in BISD.

Avery Polchinski, the assistant principal at North Belton Middle School, stated the following about her, "Bree is an outstanding educator, and we are extremely fortunate to

have her at North Belton Middle School. She goes above and beyond for our campus by being a special education teacher, case manager, and our cheerleading coach. She has a young baby, but she still gives her spare time to be the choreographer for the Penguin Project production of Finding Nemo, Jr. She always has a positive attitude and an uplifting spirit. Our students are positively affected by her on a daily basis. Thank you, Bree, for being a great influence on students and staff at North Belton Middle School.”

Department Showcase - Health Services

Belton ISD is honoring the Health Services Department. This team employs 33 full-time health services staff, including 22 registered nurses, 10 Licensed Vocational Nurses, and one health aide. BISD school nurses provide direct support to all students and staff. So far this year they have seen 5,022 students in campus clinics involving over 79,000 individual office visits. Nurses create daily or emergency health plans and attend 504s and ARDs to meet the specific health needs of hundreds of students. They support students through volunteer work throughout the community. They annually provide preventive vision, hearing, and spinal screenings.

Our nurses also provide annual health education and training to our students and staff. Over 1,800 BISD staff have been through training such as Stop-the-Bleed, Basic Life Support, First Aid, Hands-Only CPR, and the use of life-saving medications such as epinephrine and the opioid antagonist, naloxone. Health fairs at BISD middle school campuses provide information on vaping/smoking, nutrition, hygiene, and life-saving skills. Our BISD Health Services Department is a crucial resource to BISD.

New Administrator Introductions

Deputy Superintendent

Michael Morgan has been named deputy superintendent for Belton ISD. Morgan has been a member of the BISD family for 17 years. He most recently served as the assistant superintendent of operations, leading work in over ten departments, including transportation, school nutrition, custodial services, grounds, student services, health services, safety and security, emergency preparedness, facilities, and construction projects. Morgan earned his bachelor's degree from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University) and master's degree from Concordia University in Irvine. He is currently working toward a doctorate through Texas Tech University.

Director of Student Services

BISD is proud to introduce the new Director of Student Services Dr. Lee Vi Moses. Moses is an experienced administrator, having served as principal of Rogers High School since 2013. In his position, he will provide support to campus leaders, and oversee districtwide services including the BISD transfer process, assistant principal training, and more. He earned his bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University, a master's degree from Sam Houston State University, and his doctorate from Lamar University.

**Community Partner Recognition -
Education Connection & Faith-Based Organizations**

This month, Belton ISD is honoring our partnership with the non-profit Education Connection and the Literacy Partners Program. This program has allowed almost 200 students to get 3,000 extra minutes of reading each week by bringing in trained volunteers to work with students one-on-one for 15 minutes. Many of these volunteers are involved in BISD because of Education Connection's mission to connect with faith-based organizations. We are also thanking the six local churches that have adopted BISD campuses: Belton Church of Christ, First Baptist Belton, First Baptist Temple, St. Luke's Catholic Church, Temple Bible Church, and Trinity Church.

Fiscal Implications:

None.

Administrative Recommendation(s):

None.