

Belton Independent School District

Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Board Members Present:

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

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 6:15 p.m. He stated that a quorum of Board Members was present, that the meeting had been duly called, and that notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

2. Recognitions

Student Pledges – Lakewood Elementary School

The evening's pledges were led by Lakewood Elementary students Adriana Durham, first grade, and Killian Rush, fifth grade.

Student Showcase – BHS Magic Belles

The evening's showcase highlighted the Belton High School Magic Belles dance team. Under the direction of Rachel Hill and assistant director McKenzie Urteaga, the team is led by Captain Payten McNeely and junior lieutenants Addison and McKenna Christopher. The Board celebrated the Magic Belles for their talent, dedication and trailblazing spirit.

Math Stars National Finalists

Belton ISD recognized five elementary students who were named National Math Star Finalists—one of the nation's most selective math enrichment honors. The students who earned this achievement were: Elizabeth D'Arcy, Giuliana Durham, and Aayana Jain (Lakewood Elementary), Roger Wilson III (James L. Burrell Elementary) and Rosalinn "Rosie" Canto (Sparta Elementary). From this group, Aayana and Rosie advanced further and were named National Math Stars, joining just over 100 students nationwide selected this year. The National Math Stars program is a rigorous 10-year initiative that provides up to \$100,000 in support through academic advising, tutoring, technology and enrichment opportunities to nurture long-term success in STEM fields.

Department Showcase - Fine Arts

The evening's department showcase celebrated Fine Arts in Belton ISD. At the secondary level, more than 4,450 students are enrolled in Fine Arts programs, while every elementary student has the opportunity to express themselves through music and art. These experiences give students a creative outlet, build confidence and foster a lifelong appreciation for the arts. Across 18 campuses, 80 inspiring Fine Arts educators bring art, music and performance to life each day. Their passion and expertise help students discover their talents, develop new skills and find joy

in creative expression. Leadership and vision are provided by Keith Zuehlke, while Julie Utley ensures that programs remain strong, coordinated and impactful across the district.

Community Partner – Lisa’s Dance Connection

Since fall 2023, Melinda Kuntz of Lisa’s Dance Connection has worked with the Magic Belles and LBHS Silver Spurs every other week on ballet technique. As the studio’s lead ballet instructor—and mom to both a Magic Belle Officer and a Silver Spur Officer—she brings expertise and passion to her work with our students. The Board expressed gratitude to both Cara and Melinda for their dedication and the strong community partnerships that enrich fine arts in Belton ISD.

Community Partner – Pivot Performance Arts

Belton ISD proudly recognized two community partners who are making a difference for Belton ISD Fine Arts students: Pivot Performance Arts and Lisa’s Dance Connection. Cara Janczak, owner of Pivot Performance Arts, has opened her studio to the Magic Belles for acro training and routine preparation, also providing access to a Marley floor as they get ready for the Dance Team Union Nationals in Orlando this February.

3. Public Comments Regarding Items on the Agenda

None.

4. Action Items

A. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Resolution of Candidate Nominations for the Tax Appraisal District of Bell County Board of Directors

Jeff Norwood made a motion, seconded by Rucker Preston, to adopt the resolution nominating Todd Scott to the Tax Appraisal District Board of Directors as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

B. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Resolution on Senate Bill 12 and Parent Rights

Riley Beck made a motion, seconded by Erin Bass, to adopt the resolution regarding Senate Bill 12 and Parent Rights as presented. The motion passed unanimously, (7-0).

5. Reports

A. Academic Progress Report - Professional Learning

Ms. Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, provided a report on professional learning plans for the 2025-2026. See report.

B. Board Committee Reports

1. Budget Committee

Chris Flor shared that the committee reviewed the 2024-2025 final projection and 2026-2027 projected budget assumptions.

2. Facilities Committee

Jeff Norwood informed the Board that the committee discussed the Delta facility, real property, and the closing out of 2022 bond projects.

3. Policy Committee

Erin Bass shared that the Policy Committee reviewed EI(LOCAL) and FDE(LOCAL) along with the Student Code of Conduct, all of which are proposed for approval this evening.

Senate Bill 12 parental rights resolution was discussed (covered earlier in the meeting), and the Senate Bill 10 requirement to display the Ten Commandments if donated, and the guidelines surrounding this change.

Board members expressed gratitude for district leadership's thoughtful and efficient work in implementing complex legislative changes from the 89th Legislative Session.

C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Malinda Golden shared several positive updates and observations across the District, focusing on student achievement, community involvement, and facility success.

D. Board Highlights

Chris Flor led the conversation by sharing his experience at the LBHS Community Pep-Rally, a BNT@W Tennis match, and specific sessions he attended at txEDCON. Rucker Preston shared his attendance at sporting events, the Charter Oak garden ribbon cutting, and a Belton City Council meeting. Erin Bass expressed gratitude toward high school athletics and fine arts for including elementary and middle school students in high school activities.

6. Consent Agenda: Consider and Take Appropriate Action

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. August 14, 2025 - Special Meeting
2. August 18, 2025 - Workshop Meeting
3. August 18, 2025 - Regular Meeting
4. August 28, 2025 - Special Meeting

B. Unaudited Financial Report for the Month Ending August 31, 2025

C. Gifts, Grants, and Bequests

D. Expenditures over \$50,000

1. Renewal of Red River Technology, LLC for Cisco Smartnet

E. Resolution Recommending Materials for Instruction Relating to the Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking (Pre-K through Grade 5)

F. Resolution Adopting Authorized Broker/Dealer List

G. Annual Investment Report

H. Adult Meal Prices for 2025-2026

I. Certified T-TESS Appraisers for 2025-2026

J. Class Size Waivers

K. 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct

L. Superintendent Evaluation Instrument

M. Selection of Architectural Firm for Tiger Field Videoboard Replacement Project

N. Policy Update 125 - 2nd Reading

1. EI(LOCAL) Academic Achievement
2. FDE(LOCAL) Admission Safe School Transfers

Riley Beck requested to pull item 6.J. for discussion.

Erin Bass made a motion, seconded by Brandon Bozon, to approve the Consent agenda items A through N, with the exception of item J. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Beck inquired about the process by which class size waivers are determined. Dr. Golden and Mr. Todd Schiller, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, elaborated on the

determination process, involving campus principals for potential class leveling and cabinet review. Waivers are for the year, but the district continues to seek qualified individuals to fill positions, which could reduce class sizes. Student movement (in or out) can also impact class sizes, which are closely monitored.

J. Class Size Waivers

Jeff Norwood made a motion, seconded by Rucker Preson, to approve item J. Class Size Waivers as presented. The motion passed 6-1-0, Riley Beck opposing.

7. Public Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

None.

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

The Board convened in Closed Session at 7:28 p.m.

- A. Student Disciplinary Matter - Texas Government Code, Section 551.082
- B. Personnel - Texas Government Code, Section 551.074
 - 1. Personnel Matters
 - 2. Formative Evaluation of the Superintendent
- C. Consultation with Attorney - Texas Government Code, Section 551.071

9. Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:34 p.m.

11. Adjourn

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, Board President

Erin Bass, Secretary