

**Belton Independent School District**  
***Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item***  
***April 15, 2024***

**Item:** Recognitions

**Contact Person:** Jennifer Bailey

**Presented for:** ☐ Action ☒ Report Only

**Supporting Documents:** ☒ None ☐ Attached ☐ Provided Later

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**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 — Miller Heights Elementary School**

Tonight's pledges were led by Miller Heights Elementary fifth-grade students Antonio Camarenamora and Gracelyn Garelick.

Antonio serves as a member of Knight Watch, the school's student leadership and safety squad. Outside of school, he plays soccer. Friends say Antonio is funny, very friendly, and a great soccer player.

Gracelyn also enjoys playing soccer outside of school and actively participates in the FC Belton Youth Soccer League. Friends say she is driven, kind, and helpful.

**Student Showcase — Belton New Tech @Waskow Drone Program**

Students involved in the drone program at Belton New Tech @Waskow are tonight's student showcase. By taking the course Intro to Unmanned Aviation, these students are getting hands-on training for FAA Part 107 certification which will open doors to careers in the booming drone industry. This course is within the robotics pathway. The drone program is led by Stephen Tysor.

## **Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Qualifiers**

Belton ISD is celebrating eight student-athletes who were named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State teams in basketball.

From Belton High School boys basketball: Shawn McLean (first team), Gian Carlo, Trap Johnson, and Brett Shadrick (second team). Their coach is Jason Fossett.

Members of the LBHS girls basketball team being recognized are Aijah Bailey-Ray and Jayden Hayward (second team); Miracle Wimberly and Ella Wagenaar (honorable mention). Their coach is Tiffney Barnes.

## **Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Academic All-State Qualifiers**

Congratulations to the athletes from the Belton High School girls basketball team who were named to the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Academic All-State team: Sa'deja Ellis and Skylar Ellis. Their coach is Anne Marie Zuilhof.

## **Swimming State Qualifiers**

Five student-athletes represented BISD at the UIL Swim and Dive State Championships. Among them, BHS swimmer Liliana Nelson achieved 15th place overall in the 200-yard freestyle and 12th place overall in the 500-yard freestyle. Addison Richardson took home 14th place overall in the 500-yard freestyle event. They are coached by Christopher Knipp.

David Stewart, a swimmer from LBHS, secured 15th place overall in the 100-yard freestyle, while Rylan Reasoner clinched 16th place overall in the 500-yard freestyle. Both athletes are coached by Natalie Hazlewood.

Representing BNT@W, swimmer Claire Thomas attained 14th place overall in the 200-yard freestyle and 10th place in the 500-yard freestyle. She is coached by Brett Ringgold.

## **Powerlifting State Qualifiers**

Eight athletes from Belton ISD competed in the 2024 state powerlifting meet. BHS student Jacci Myers achieved third place, marking her fourth consecutive qualification for state. Daniel Arana earned 15th place. Both are coached by Barry Campbell and Chris Harbin.

Six LBHS athletes achieved impressive placements in their respective weight classes: Madyson Updyke took home 10th place, Victoria Shimabukuro sixth, Jaya Lisenbe seventh, Adam Walden fifth, Seth Fritz fifth, and Christian Morales second. These athletes are coached by Gregg Rudolph and Matthew Uzzell.

### **Choir Solo & Ensemble State Qualifiers**

The choirs from Belton High School and Lake Belton High School had strong showings at the Regional UIL Solo and Ensemble. At BHS, 19 students qualified for state as soloists and 13 students qualified for state as ensembles. At LBHS, 32 students qualified for state as soloists.

State-qualifying soloists from BHS are Emily Anderson, Jerry Brooks, Matthew Farwell, Addison Fogle, Anna Grace Gainey, Canaan Hammonds, Savannah Manculich, Noely Martinez-Ramirez, Liam McRae, Katie Millington, Palu Muringathuparambil, Gabriel Navarro, Ava Novak, Daylyn Porter, Sarrah Townsend, Jez Vazquez-Miranda, Tyler Waldrep, Shakhirah Williamson, and Gavin Young.

State-qualifying ensemble members from BHS are Emily Anderson, Jerry Brooks, Diego Coleman, Leah Cox, Valeria Gloria, Canaan Hammonds, Oliver Lynch, Lyric McGinnis, Liam McRae, Ava Novak, Daylyn Porter, Tyler Waldrep, and Gavin Young.

State-qualifying soloists from LBHS are Maranda Armstrong, Cadence Avila, Peyton Beaver, Sophia Campos, Elizabeth Chamberlin, Madison Colon, Leila Duttine, Coltin Farnsworth, Aidan Fenton, Elijah Firkins, Joaquin Garza, Madelyn Handley, Erin Hankins, Anna James, Taylor Love, Erik Martin, Spencer Martin, Daniel Martinez, Corbin Mock, Skylar Moreno, Ashley Navarrete, Pate Palomino, Jordan Powell, Zachary Reyes, Isabela Romero, Joshua Sembrick, Scarlet Strickland, Derek Toledo, Amy Wallar, Kimberly Wildes, Landon Williams, and Hannah Wood.

These talented students will compete at the state competition on May 25. We wish them the best of luck.

Tonya Lovorn is the choir instructor at Belton High School and Terrance Livingston is the choir instructor at Lake Belton High School.

### **Texas Theatre Scholar Award Recipients**

Belton High School students Anaise Lopez, Maddison Frazier and Luci Littlefield are being commended for their distinction as Texas Theatre Scholars.

To attain this recognition, students must fulfill various criteria, including active participation in their school's theatre programs, maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its local equivalent for all academic coursework, and demonstrating exemplary behavior and moral character. Their instructor is Belton High School Director of Theatre Melissa Stuhff.

### **International Competition for High School A Cappella Finalists**

Congratulations to the Belton High School Madrigals for advancing to an international high school a cappella competition. The Madrigals placed third overall.

Members of BHS Madrigal are Emily Anderson, Jerry Brooks, Diego Coleman, Matthew Farwell, Addison Fogle, Canaan Hammonds, Savannah Manculich, Kaitlyn McDonald, Liam McRae, Katie Millington, Ava Novak, Sarrah Townsend, Jez Vazquez-Miranda, Tyler Waldrep, Shakhirah Williamson, and Gavin Young.

### **VEX Robotics State & National Qualifiers**

Belton ISD is celebrating the 23 students who qualified for the VEX Region 4, UIL 5A, and Technology Student Association State Championships.

Representing Belton High School are Faith Perez, Leo Williamson, Eugene Garrett, Ryanna Rainwater, Vanessa Monroy, Sue-Ellen Grant, and Trent Bowman. Their instructor is Pietro Giustino.

From Lake Belton High School: Joseph Doney, Braedyn Brannum, James Savino, Robert Marshall, Madox Richner, Kyle Campbell, and Samuel Casanova. Their instructor is Jessica Persilver.

From Belton New Tech @Waskow: Anshuman Adhikkari, Asher Norvell, Nathan Gonzolas, Justin Scheepstra, Chinonso Ogwudu, Mekhi Montanez, Davin Thomison, Jaden Capella, and Desmond Long. Their instructor is Stephen Tysor.

### **Business Professionals of America State & National Qualifiers**

Thirty-seven Belton ISD students qualified for the state Business Professionals of America (BPA) competition. This program offers opportunities to develop workplace skills learned through the business education curriculum.

The BPA team consists of the following business, marketing and finance students from Belton High School: Maverick Karanasos, Anahitaa Malhotra, Lyric Medina, and Rafael Payan. Special congratulations to Anahitaa Malhotra who placed second and has advanced to the national competition. Their teachers are Amanda Simpson and Kiapo Cowan.

The BPA team consists of the following students from the STEM, IT, business and health science pathways from Lake Belton High School: Dave Apte, Megan Bansal, Braedyn Brannum, Carmen Bolick, Vincent Brown, Alexandra Bui, Neil Dayawansa, John Hale, Patrick Hart, Emily Jeong, Rachel Kim, Scarlett Landry-Williams, Cahaya Lane, Thomas Lawrence, Kaywe Lin, Miles Magyar, Robert Marshall, Ayden Meeks, Eden Matney, Marcus Mun Quiceno, Hudson Nix, Cage Passentino-Slone, Pearl Patel, Soha Ramani, River Rhodes, Andrew Rose, Michael Sandlin, James Savino, Anthony Seals, Ethan Suarez-Camacho, Aden Villegas, Jillian Webb, and Hailey Woodward. Their teacher is Megan Shick.

### **Congressman John R. Carter TX 31 Career & Technical Education High School Student Awards**

The Congressional Achievement Award for Outstanding Students in Career and Technical Education is a program based on nominations, aiming to acknowledge the remarkable achievements of students pursuing career-focused skills within the 31st Congressional District of Texas. These nominated students exhibit well-rounded qualities and possess a comprehensive understanding of their chosen trade. From candidates representing Bell, Bosque, Burnet, Coryell, Hamilton, and Williamson Counties, ten finalists were selected.

Lake Belton High School student Dakota Branch was crowned the winner of the competition. Finalists included Maverick Karanasos from BHS, Sydney Skaggs from BNT@W, and Victoria Shimabukuro from LBHS. The nominees included Emma Salazar-Canales and Samantha Rodriguez from LBHS. Their instructors are Mark Fitzwater, Brandi Frieden, Melissa Fanning, Lori Hobbs, and Kimberly Williams.

### **Belton Rotary Educator of the Quarter**

Dorothy Parker is being recognized by the Belton Rotary Club as the Rotary Educator of the Quarter for April for her outstanding service to Belton ISD. Dorothy is an eighth-grade English Language Arts teacher at Lake Belton Middle School. With 27 years of experience in education, she has spent the last five years contributing her expertise to BISD.

Lake Belton Middle School Assistant Principal Jennifer Holmes said the following about Ms. Parker: “Dorothy goes above and beyond for her students. From snacks to tutoring to building relationships, Dorothy is a nurturing educator. She plans lessons that are engaging and encourage participation. Students are often so excited about her classes that they are talking about the lessons and books in the hallways. That is a high compliment from students!”

### **Temple Rotary Educator of the Month**

The Temple Rotary Club is honoring Lindsey Klinchuk as the Rotary Educator of the Month for March, in appreciation of her remarkable contributions to Belton ISD. Lindsey fulfills the role of a third-grade math and science teacher at Tarver Elementary School. With six years of experience in education, she has dedicated her entire teaching career to Tarver Elementary.

Principal Brooke Itz stated the following about Ms. Klinchuk: “Lindsey embodies and emulates leadership and service. She serves Tarver Elementary as a third-grade math and science teacher, but she also does so much for her team and any other staff member who seeks help. Lindsey is very organized and a fluid systems thinker. She has been nominated to serve as team lead for four consecutive years. She leads a collaborative vertical team and consistently volunteers to serve on district-wide committees. She always approaches a question or a situation with a solution and is an anchor for her peers. Lindsey is a trailblazer in her educational approach, and due to this, she creates a learning environment that provides exceptional experiences and opportunities for thinking for each and every one of her students. She holds high expectations, and her students never fail to rise and meet her expectations. Tarver is a better place because of her, and our staff and students are blessed that she chooses to serve this community.”

### **Department Showcase — Student Services/Safety and Security**

This month’s department showcase is the BISD Student Services and the Safety and Security teams. These staff members are responsible for many operational functions, such as the student transfer process, student records requests, attendance intervention and training, and supporting campus administrators. They also maintain the Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook, coordinate School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) meetings, and execute training for administrative staff.

The Safety and Security department operates alongside Student Services and is responsible for the district's overall safety and security. Doug Taylor, the director of

safety and security, leads the team, which includes eight school resource officers, 18 security guards, and the coordinator of emergency preparedness.

We are grateful for the behind-the-scenes work these staff members do to foster a safe learning environment for all students. They are truly World-Class Employees!

### **Community Partner Recognition - The Carlson Law Firm**

Belton ISD is recognizing the Carlson Law Firm as our community partner this evening. Kyra Leal worked with Mr. Plemons to provide mentors for Belton New Tech @Waskow students who participated in the mock trial competition. Their generous \$2,000 donation to the school's law program ensures minimal out-of-pocket expenses for students attending the state competition. Alongside this sponsorship, they provided much-appreciated swag, such as legal pads and pens, to help students during the event.

The Carlson Law Firm participates in a range of activities throughout the year positively impacting programs across BISD. With students of their own enrolled in the district, they find it personally significant to support our campuses, by helping to defray costs and enhance events.

#### **Fiscal Implications:**

None.

#### **Administrative Recommendation(s):**

None.