

Belton Independent School District
Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item
June 16, 2025

Item: Recognitions

Contact Person: Christine Parks

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 – Tarver Elementary School

Tonight's pledges were led by three bright students from Alice J. Tarver Elementary: Collyn Adams, Lennon Baccari and Noah Perez.

Collyn is a fifth grader who enjoys math and spending time outdoors playing catch. Her friends describe her as honest, caring and kind.

Lennon, a second grader, loves science—especially investigating, observing and exploring. Outside of school, she enjoys swimming.

Noah, also in fifth grade, lists science as his favorite subject. In his free time, he likes fishing, playing video games and hanging out with friends. His peers know him as funny, happy, and respectful.

Student Showcase – National History Day

Tonight, we are excited to spotlight the work of seventh-grade students Emery Hobson and Sarah Jackson, whose documentary project, *Betty Crocker and Women's Roles*, earned first place at the Texas State National History Day (NHD) competition.

Their achievement was part of a strong tradition of excellence in Belton ISD's history education program. This year, 41 students from across the district advanced to the state competition—our second-largest group in district history—demonstrating remarkable research, critical thinking and communication skills aligned with our Journey of a Graduate competencies.

National History Day challenges students to dive deep into historical topics of personal interest, conducting rigorous primary-source research and presenting their findings in meaningful ways. Emery and Sarah's documentary stood out among top student projects from across Texas, earning them a spot at the National History Day competition held in Washington, D.C., earlier this month.

They were among six students from Belton ISD who advanced to nationals, continuing our district's strong legacy of success on the national stage. Please join us in celebrating their hard work, curiosity and incredible achievement.

Technology Student Association National Qualifiers

We're proud to recognize seven Lake Belton High School students who qualified for the Technology Student Association National Conference as part of Robotics Skills Team 1.

These talented Career and Technical Education (CTE) students earned their spot at nationals by demonstrating strong problem-solving, collaboration and technical skills in both regional and state competitions. Their success highlights the strength of Belton ISD's CTE programs and the guidance of their sponsor, Jessica Persilver.

Please join us in celebrating their achievement and commitment to excellence in STEM education.

Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Baseball

We're proud to recognize several Belton ISD student-athletes who have been named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State teams in baseball.

To qualify for this honor, senior athletes must be in good standing with their team, demonstrate strong moral character and maintain an overall GPA of 92 or higher. Class rank and SAT/ACT scores are also considered as part of the selection process.

From Belton High School, Collin Sallee and Austin Wood were named to the second team. They are coached by Mark Krueger.

From Lake Belton High School, Cameron Bartz and Ty Green earned second-team honors, while Bryce Davis, Jory Holland, Brandon Holley, Tate Lisenbe and Rohde Smith received honorable mention. They are coached by Chris Peacock.

Please join us in congratulating these student-athletes for their excellence both on the field and in the classroom.

Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Golf

We're also proud to celebrate several Belton ISD student-athletes who earned Academic All-State honors in golf through the Texas High School Coaches Association.

From Lake Belton High School, under the direction of Girls Coach Kelli Widmer, Lexie Holler received honorable mention. On the boys' side, coached by David Sims, Hudson Nix was named to the First Team, while Eli Mascarenas and Rawley Soliz earned Honorable Mention.

From Belton New Tech @Waskow, Colton Fry was named to the Second Team, and Ethan Borchers received Honorable Mention. They are coached by Ben Bralley.

These students exemplify excellence both academically and athletically, and we're proud to recognize their achievements.

Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Softball

Belton ISD is proud to recognize three student-athletes who earned Academic All-State honors in softball from the Texas High School Coaches Association.

From Belton High School, Jacklyn Munoz and Hailey Schutz were awarded honorable mention under the leadership of Coach Morgan Birkel.

From Lake Belton High School, Alexis Ortiz received honorable mention, coached by Kelsie McEachern.

These recognitions reflect the dedication of our student-athletes to excel both on the field and in the classroom. Congratulations to all!

Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Swimming

Belton ISD is proud to recognize three student-athletes from Belton High School who earned Academic All-State honors in swimming through the Texas High School Coaches Association.

Under the direction of Coach Christopher Knipp, Raef Airhart and Liliana Nelson were named to the second team, and Mackenzie Gingerich received honorable mention.

These students have demonstrated a strong commitment to both academic achievement and athletic excellence. We're proud to celebrate their accomplishments.

Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Track

Belton ISD is proud to recognize nine Lake Belton High School student-athletes who earned Academic All-State honors in track through the Texas High School Coaches Association.

Under the leadership of Boys Coach Brandin Byrd, Zach Dodd was named to the first team, while Neil Dayawansa and Julian Walker earned second team honors. Travellis Harrison received honorable mention.

Girls coach Rachael Davee guided Natalie Maldonado, Lillian Rivas and Chelsie Miller to second team recognition, with Abigail Rydberg, Emmi Lloyd and Katie Firmin receiving honorable mention.

These recognitions reflect the dedication and discipline of our student-athletes, both on the track and in the classroom. Congratulations to all!

Track State Qualifiers

We're proud to recognize Lake Belton High School's Abigail Rydberg, who earned the silver medal in the 5A Girls Pole Vault at the UIL State Track & Field Championships.

Coached by Rachael Davee, Abigail's outstanding performance at the state level reflects her dedication, athleticism, and competitive spirit. Please join us in congratulating her on this remarkable achievement!

2025 American Legion Texas Boys State Statesmen

We are proud to recognize Lake Belton High School student Nick DaSilva, who has been selected to attend the prestigious 2025 Texas Boys State program, sponsored by the American Legion.

Texas Boys State is a premier leadership and citizenship program that offers rising seniors the opportunity to learn about the democratic process, develop leadership skills and

engage in hands-on experiences that simulate local and state government. Nick will represent Lake Belton High School and Belton ISD among an elite group of student leaders from across the state.

Please join us in congratulating Nick on this accomplishment and welcoming him to the Texas Boys State family!

New Administrator Introductions

Courtney Brewer, High Point Elementary Principal

Courtney Brewer has been appointed as the Principal of High Point Elementary in Belton ISD. Brewer has served as the campus's interim principal since February 2025 and brings a strong background in instructional leadership, coaching and relationship-building. She previously served as assistant principal at High Point Elementary, North Belton Middle School and Belton Early Childhood School. Brewer began her teaching career in Killeen ISD before joining Belton ISD, where she earned multiple campus recognitions, including Teacher of the Year. She holds a Bachelor of Science in EC-6 Generalist with ESL Certification from Texas A&M University–Central Texas and a Principal Certification in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University.

Holly Griffith, Lakewood Elementary Principal

Holly Griffith has been appointed as the Principal of Lakewood Elementary in Belton ISD. Griffith brings more than a decade of experience in education, including the last four years as assistant principal at Lakewood. She has led campus initiatives in professional learning, collaborative planning and data-informed instruction. A graduate of Lamar University with a master's degree in educational administration, Griffith also completed Belton ISD's Aspiring Principals Academy. Her leadership is rooted in fostering a supportive school culture and driving academic growth for all students.

Will Yuengel, District Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Principal

Will Yuengel has been appointed as the Principal of the District Alternative Education Program (DAEP) for Belton ISD. With nearly 15 years of experience in education, Yuengel has served as the DAEP Interim Principal since March 2025 and previously as the Assistant Principal beginning in 2022. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Baylor University and a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Concordia University.

Region 12 Bilingual Paraprofessional of the Year

We're proud to celebrate Claudia Carrillo, who was recently named the 2025 Region 12 BESA Paraprofessional of the Year.

Claudia was recognized at the Bilingual/ESL Support Awards Ceremony for her exceptional instructional support and dedication to emergent bilingual students in Belton ISD. With a background in education from Mexico and nearly 20 years of service in our district, Claudia is much more than a paraprofessional—she is a co-teacher, mentor and advocate. Her nurturing spirit, instructional expertise and deep commitment to student success make her an invaluable member of our bilingual education team.

Project Lead the Way Distinguished Schools

We're proud to announce that Lakewood Elementary, Belton High School and Lake Belton High School have been named 2024-25 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished Schools.

This recognition celebrates schools that are empowering students to develop in-demand, real-world skills through high-quality STEM programming. Being named a PLTW Distinguished School reflects each campus's commitment to excellence in STEM education and preparing students to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

Congratulations to the students, staff and leadership teams at Lakewood Elementary, Belton High School, and Lake Belton High School on this outstanding achievement. We look forward to seeing their continued success!

Community Partner – Freedom Urgent Care

Tonight, we are honored to recognize Freedom Urgent Care as our Community Partner Showcase.

Since 2017, Freedom Urgent Care has been a dedicated supporter of Belton ISD's Project Heartbeat, playing a vital role in serving our McKinney-Vento students. Their ongoing contributions have included providing school immunizations, free sports physicals and urgent medical care for uninsured, unaccompanied, homeless youth—often stepping in on short notice to meet critical needs.

Most recently, they generously sponsored the Mentor Program End of Year Celebration, offering a movie experience and meal for BISD mentors, students and guests. Not only did they fund the event, but Freedom Urgent Care staff also volunteered their time to help create a meaningful experience for our students.

Their continued partnership supports several key programs, including the McKinney-Vento initiative, the Mentor Program and the Belton ISD Resource Center. We are deeply grateful

for their compassion, generosity and unwavering commitment to the students and families of Belton ISD.

Fiscal Implications:

None.

Administrative Recommendation(s):

None.