

Belton Independent School District
Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item
October 21, 2024

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 – Hubbard Branch Elementary School

This evening, the pledges were led by Hubbard Branch Elementary students Kaylee Bailey and Benjamin Gamino.

Fifth grader Kaylee loves music and art. She sings in the Hubbard Branch Honor Choir and is known for her big heart. Her friends would describe her as caring to everyone.

Fourth grader Benjamin enjoys reading and loves playing baseball. His friends describe him as funny.

Student Showcase – Belton New Tech High School @Waskow Graphic Design

The graphic design program at Belton New Tech @Waskow emphasizes creating visuals to meet commercial photography needs, such as packaging, displays, or logos. The program also covers designing clothing and accessories, as well as producing special effects, animation, and other visual elements using film, video, computers, and electronic tools. These skills are applied to areas like video games, movies, music videos, and

commercials. The speakers for the program are Makayla, Daniel, Jessica, and Jayden, led by their instructor, Mel Peterman.

National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist

Belton ISD is proud to announce that two Belton High School seniors, David Shelburne and Steven Arantes, have been named semifinalists in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. This achievement places them among the top academic performers in the nation.

As semifinalists, Shelburne and Arantes are now eligible to compete for National Merit Scholarships, which provide substantial financial support for college. Finalists will be announced in April 2025, with about half of the semifinalists earning the prestigious Merit Scholar title.

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

Emily Dossman has been honored by the Temple Rotary Club as the Rotary Educator of the Month for September, recognizing her outstanding contributions to Belton ISD. Emily is a fourth-grade teacher at Sparta Elementary School and is in her eighth year of education, with seven of those years spent at Sparta.

Dr. Deanna Lovesmith, Director of GT Services, praised Ms. Dossman, saying: "Emily is a lifelong learner and an exceptional teacher. She continuously pushes herself to improve, often changing grade levels to gain a broader understanding of different learning stages, all while pursuing her doctorate. As GT director, I have seen her quickly implement strategies to foster critical thinking and support her gifted learners. Emily was also invited to write a curriculum for gifted students at Baylor University. On a personal note, as a parent, I was fortunate to have her as my son's second-grade teacher. She made a profound impact on him, and I am forever grateful."

Belton Rotary Educator of the Quarter

Maribel Velez has been recognized by the Belton Rotary Club as the Rotary Educator of the Quarter for her exceptional service to Belton ISD. Maribel teaches dual language at Chisholm Trail Elementary School, where she instructs students in both English and Spanish. She is in her ninth year of education and her fourth year at Chisholm Trail.

Veronica Champion-Lares, Coordinator of Dual Language, praised Ms. Velez, saying: "Maribel is a dedicated learner who strives to provide the highest quality education for her

bilingual students. She consistently seeks professional development opportunities to enhance her teaching practices and ensure her students' success. Maribel has also played a key role in developing the curriculum for dual language classrooms, positively impacting both staff and students across the entire program."

New Administrator Introduction

National Principals Month

Each October, we celebrate National Principals Month, highlighting the vital role principals play in shaping successful schools. Belton ISD's achievements as a district are directly tied to the dedication and leadership of our campus principals, who work tirelessly on behalf of our students and staff.

Belton ISD's principals are Sheila Surovik, Belton Early Childhood School; Julee Manley, James L. Burrell Elementary; Ashlie Thomas, Charter Oak Elementary; Sydnie Sewell, Chisholm Trail Elementary; Jeanna Sniffin, High Point Elementary; Lexie Newberry, Leon Heights Elementary; Christy Chandler, Lakewood Elementary; Hope Orsag, Hubbard Branch Elementary; Rebecca Vaughn, Joe M. Pirtle Elementary; Felicia Gibson, Southwest Elementary; Debi Younger, Sparta Elementary; Brooke Itz, Alice J. Tarver Elementary; Megan Crook, Belton Middle School; Kris Hobson, Lake Belton Middle School; Dominic White, North Belton Middle School; James Larremore III, South Belton Middle School; Claudia Knox, Belton High School; Steele Hantgin, Lake Belton High School; Kimberly Winters, Belton New Tech High School @Waskow; Tammie Baggerly, BISD Delta Program; and Sandy Garrett, District Alternative Education Program.

Their hard work and dedication deserve our appreciation and recognition this month and beyond.

Department Showcase - HR

The Belton ISD Human Resources team is the backbone of our world-class staff, working diligently to recruit and retain the dedicated professionals who make a lasting impact on our students every day. They provide essential support to our greatest asset—our people—by offering clear guidance on policies, working conditions, compensation, and benefits. By staying ahead of workforce trends, fostering a positive culture, and ensuring compliance with legal and legislative requirements, they play a crucial role in the success of our district. We're deeply thankful for their vital contributions to the Big Red Community. Currently, BISD Human Resources supports over 2,147 employees and 315 substitutes, and they've proudly welcomed 254 new team members since May 1, 2024.

Community Partner Recognition - Belton & Temple Fire Departments

Belton ISD is proud to celebrate our strong partnership with the Belton and Temple Fire Department during Fire Safety Month. Together, we are committed to promoting the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community. Our collaboration with the fire department plays a crucial role in educating our school community on fire safety practices, ensuring our schools are prepared, and responding swiftly in emergencies. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing support and dedication to keeping our campuses safe. This partnership reflects our shared commitment to a safe learning environment where students can thrive.

Belton Fire Department is led by Chief Jon Fontenot, and Temple Fire Department is led by Chief Mitch Randles.

Fiscal Implications:

None.

Administrative Recommendation(s):

None.