

Belton Independent School District

Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, April 15, 2024 - 6:15 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer
Erin Bass
Suzanne McDonald
Rucker Preston

Chris Flor
Janet Leigh

Board Members Absent:

Jeff Norwood

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, Jeff Norwood was absent, 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 — Miller Heights Elementary School

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

Student Showcase — Belton New Tech @Waskow Drone Program

The Belton New Tech @Waskow was the evening's student showcase. The course, Unmanned Aviation, provides students hands-on training for FAA Part 107 certification. 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 celebrated eight student-athletes who were named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State teams in basketball.

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

LBHS girls basketball team: 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

The Board recognized 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 were celebrated by the Board for 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.

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

The Board commended Belton High School students Anaise Lopez, Maddison Frazier and Luci Littlefield 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 celebrated 23 students who qualified for the VEX Region 4, UIL 5A, and Technology Student Association State Championships.

BHS: Faith Perez, Leo Williamson, Eugene Garrett, Ryanna Rainwater, Vanessa Monroy, Sue-Ellen Grant, and Trent Bowman. Their instructor is Pietro Giustino.

LBHS: Joseph Doney, Braedyn Brannum, James Savino, Robert Marshall, Madox Richner, Kyle Campbell, and Samuel Casanova. Their instructor is Jessica Persilver.

BNT@W:: 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

37 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

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 was 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.

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

The Temple Rotary Club honored 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.

Department Showcase — Student Services/Safety and Security

April's department showcase was 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.

Community Partner Recognition - The Carlson Law Firm

Belton ISD recognized 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. 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.

3. Public Comments Regarding Items on the Agenda

None.

4. Action Items

A. Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding the Adoption of Science Instructional Materials for the 2024-2025 School Year

Dr. Malinda Golden, Superintendent of Schools, introduced Ms. Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, to provide a presentation on Science Materials Adoption. She informed the Board that the Instructional Materials Adoption Committee reviewed materials according to detailed state and district criteria. The Teaching & Learning Department provided members with state-adopted instructional materials in digital and print format from publishers aligned with the newly adopted K-12 Science TEKS. The committee used a detailed rubric to evaluate resources and their alignment to TEA's K-12 Science Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). In addition, members discussed and gathered campus feedback prior to making their recommendations.

The following State adopted materials are recommended by the committee:

- K-8 Science: STEMScopes, Accelerate Learning
- Biology, Chemistry and Physics: STEMScopes, Accelerate Learning
- IPC: Dynamic Integrated Physics and Chemistry, Summit K12
- Env Science: Environmental Science: Sustaining Your World, Cengage Learning
- AP Chemistry: Chemistry: A Molecular Approach, SAVVAS/Pearson, Inc.
- AP Biology: Biology for the AP Course, Bedford, Freeman & Worth
- AP Env Science: Science for the AP Course, Bedford, Freeman & Worth

Rucker Preston made a motion, seconded by Erin Bass to approve the Consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

5. Reports

A. Spring Demographer Report

Dr. Golden introduced Hudson Huff, Zonda Education, who gave an update on the Belton-Temple economy, housing market, anticipated future housing development and student enrollment in the District, to include 10-year forecasts for all grade levels and each campus.

Key takeaways include:

Texas ISD's only grew by just over 12,000 students during the 2023-2024 school year. The average growth is approximately 45,000 students a year.

2023 Belton ISD enrollment is up 164 students from last school year at an increase of 1.2% whereas Region 12 overall saw an increase of just 0.2%

- The District has 54 actively building subdivisions and 10 future subdivisions
- Groundwork is underway on approximately 1,400 lots within 10 subdivisions
- New multi-family units are on the rise, with 5 active projects equating to 659 units
- Belton ISD is forecasted to enroll approximately 15,007 students by 2028-29 and more than 16,196 by 2033-34

B. Annual Board Member Training Credit Report

Mr. Alcozer stated that all Board members exceeded annual training requirements for the reporting period (May 1, 2023 through April 14, 2024). He thanked them for their service and countless volunteer hours, beyond training credits, they dedicate to the community, students and families.

C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Golden shared highlights from across the District tied to the Belton ISD Vision, exceptional learning experiences and Journey of a Graduate competencies. These highlights include the Great American Solar Eclipse, Sparta Elementary's "Cookies" performance, students and teachers simultaneously engaging in continuous learning, the Superintendent Student Advisory Council exploring Hope Squad with Prosper ISD.

D. Board Highlights

Chris Flor initiated the conversation by sharing his experience regarding the Financial Ambassador Meeting and the importance of further informing our community on public school finance. He shared a separate personal experience regarding the lengths our educators were going to make exceptional learning experiences happen for their students. Rucker Preston spoke about his experience at the GT Parent Meeting as well as speaking about local poverty on behalf of a BNT@W students research project.

6. Consent Agenda: Consider and Take Appropriate Action

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. March 25, 2024 Workshop Minutes
2. March 25, 2024 Regular Minutes
3. March 28, 2024 Special Minutes

B. Unaudited Financial Report for the Month Ending March 31, 2024

C. Budget Amendment #7 for 2023-2024

D. Expenditures over \$50,000

1. Flyleaf Publishing for Decodables
2. Solution Tree for Professional Development
3. Accelerate Learning for STEMscopes

E. Supply, Equipment, and Service Bids

1. RFP #2312-150-336 for Athletics Equipment and Supplies
2. RFP #2312-450-335 for Classroom Instructional Materials, Supplies & Equipment (Supplemental III)
3. RFP #2402-100-348 for Sale of Property - Beal Street, Belton TX
4. RFP #2401-775-345 for Transportation Parts, Equipment & Services (Supplemental I)
5. RFP #2402-250-347 Animal Pens for the Agricultural Facility Bond Project

F. Renewal of Temple ISD Deaf Shared Services Agreement

G. Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification

H. Administrator Contract Renewals and/or Extensions and Professional Contract Renewals for 2024-2025

I. Audit Engagement Letter for 2023-2024

J. Overhead Utility Easement for Agricultural Facility Bond Project

K. Interlocal Agreement with Killeen ISD for Audiovisual Support at May 2024 Graduation Ceremonies

L. Local Policy Update 122 - 2nd Reading

1. CSA(LOCAL) - FACILITY STANDARDS: SAFETY AND SECURITY
2. CQB(LOCAL) - TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: CYBERSECURITY
3. DC(LOCAL) - EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

4. EHB(LOCAL) - CURRICULUM DESIGN: SPECIAL PROGRAMS
5. EHBC(LOCAL) - SPECIAL PROGRAMS: COMPENSATORY SERVICES AND INTENSIVE PROGRAMS
6. EHBCA(LOCAL) - COMPENSATORY SERVICES AND INTENSIVE PROGRAMS: ACCELERATED INSTRUCTION
7. FEA(LOCAL) - ATTENDANCE: COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE
8. FFAC(LOCAL) - WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES: MEDICAL TREATMENT
9. FFB(LOCAL) - STUDENT WELFARE: CRISIS INTERVENTION
10. FL(LOCAL) - STUDENT RECORDS

Suzanne McDonald made a motion, seconded by Rucker Preston, to approve the Consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

7. Board Requests for New Information and/or Reports

None.

8. Calendar of Events

Manuel Alcozer announced the calendar of events for the upcoming month.

9. Public Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

None.

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

The Board went into 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
- C. Consultation with Attorney - Texas Government Code, Section 551.071

11. Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:11 p.m.

12. Adjourn

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, President

Erin Bass, Secretary