



BISD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 15, 2025

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President Grant Lischka at 5:30pm with all board members present with the exception of Jared Lischka and Heather Novicke

2. Invocation was provided by Daniel Symm, BJHS Principal

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. OPEN FORUM/COMMUNICATIONS

Public Comments were made by:

- Katheryn Mateus regarding stating that there is public confusion regarding what land is being proposed for development of the a dog park and stating that there is inaccurate description of the use of the land being proposed for development of a dog park stating multiple times that the land is specifically the land that was designated as the "Josephine Zeiske Memorial Park" and stating that the land is continuing to be used for birthday parties, picnics, and baby showers. And stating that any issues at the park have been dealt with appropriately and that parents often use the space to do homework with their children and noting the land as a neighborhood park for public use in the largest neighborhood in Bellville and suggesting that the park should be moved to other district land and noted that she disagrees with the response she received from the District's attorney regarding legal process for changing the use of the are in question and noting that the community should be meaningfully involved in the decision to change the use.
- Ms. Fox shared that the issue regarding the dog park is a lack of transparency and continued to refer to it as the Josephine Memorial Zeiske park and shared that the Board has a moral obligation to listen to the community and noted that there was not an open and honest discussion with the community and noted that the "Friends of Zeiske Park" and Facebook Page is designed to make the community aware of the changes proposed to the park since the district did not and noted the need for community involvement stating that the community did not previously have the opportunity to fund raise to make improvements to the park prior to agreement signed between the district and the non-profit organized to construct the dog park.

6. REPRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

- A. Students and Staff of the Month from each campus were recognized by campus principals.
- B. The BISD Financial Audit was presented by Amber Hensley with Patillo, Brown, & Hill to present the district's Annual Audit noting a clean/unmodified audit review with zero findings in the single-audit testing of the Child Nutrition Department.
- C. The BISD Business Department was recognized and spotlighted for their work and service in BISD including areas of accounting, payroll, PEIMS, and purchasing noting specific strengths in areas of continued professional growth and cross training and performance highlights including a perfect score on the FIRST Report, and the recent financial and PEIMS audits.

6. REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. GOAL 1: LEARNING

1. Reports on progress with learning and academics was shared by Natalie Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Academics noting that we'll have mid-year data available for review in January, and



BELLVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

518 SOUTH MATHEWS STREET | BELLVILLE, TX | 77418 | PH: (979) 865-3133 | WWW.BELLVILLEISD.ORG

focusing on efforts to meet our “Wildly Important Goals” and Path to B or Better individual improvement plans for each campus and noting the efforts to focus on data review and action steps for targeted improvement in January during the week staff returns with some flexibility for BJHS with their moving agenda. In addition to MAP data, we’ll be taking mid-year released STAAR benchmarks to get additional data for gauging progress and performance moving forward. Ms. Jones shared insights on the implementation of our Growth and Appraisal Process with teachers receiving more specific and constructive instructional feedback following each learning walk and noting admiration for the principal team having courageous conversations focusing on growth and instructional effectiveness. Ms. Jones also shared some celebrations we’ve seen with individual teachers and teaching teams so far with our new curriculum implementation.

B. GOAL 2: LEADERSHIP

1. Finance & Operations Report was presented by Mr. Dennis Jurek, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations noting the District’s budget is tracking along well in comparison to projections and current expenditures and historic trends. Ms. Jurek noted expenditures on the 2023 Bond report noting we’re tracking along as expected with where we are in the progress of bond project completion. The capital project on the capital expenditures budget shows expenditures for the West End shade structure which is covered through donations from the West End PTO. Mr. Jurek noted funds transferred for investment in the LoneStar Pool with intent to maintain 2-3 months in generally operating accounts and amounts received beyond that being moved into the investment pool earning at a higher interest rate.
 - a. Mr. Jurek reviewed the District’s Fund Balance Strategy with the Board noting an increase into fund balance in the amount of approximately \$1,000 from 2024-2025 with essentially a break even budget; Mr. Jurek also noted that the Board took steps to uncommit approximately \$980K for the softball projects in the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Jurek reviewed the purposes of fund balance and the various levels designated for committed and uncommitted funds within the fund balance.
2. Capital Improvement Update was presented by Dr. Michael Coopersmith, Chief Operations Officer noting details for the schedule and expectations for upcoming tours of the new BJHS campus, plans for delivery, and plans for moving into the new campus. Dr. Coopersmith that all will be complete by the time students arrive on January 12, 2026 - but when individuals walk this week there are still areas being finished including cabinets being installed in science labs, areas of the gym floor and locker rooms, exterior trim, sidewalks, and landscaping, and ceiling tiles in certain areas, etc. Dr. Coopersmith also noted the white piping outside is temporary irrigation for landscaping. The West End gym addition is in the stage of interior finishes. Package C Reminder, includes: OBI Demolition, refresh at current junior high for interior improvements and outdoor classroom (with students starting there in August 2026);
 - a. Plans for varying groups to walk through the new BJHS were reviewed including: BISD Board (Dec. 17), Bellville Emergency Services (Dec. 18), BJHS Staff (Dec. 19), BISD Staff (Jan. 8), LRFPC (Jan. 8), BJHS Students & Parents (Jan. 9), Ribbon Cutting & Community Open House (Jan. 9)
3. Report on Vision & Strategic Action Plans: Dr. Poenitzsch shared the monthly Leadership Report and engaged the board in reflecting upon the original purpose of education from Horace Mann’s 12th report in 1848 and having a discussion the Board regarding the current and future purpose of education noting the two primary values of education as an organization being 1) access for all and 2) the ability to adapt and evolve.



BELLVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

518 SOUTH MATHEWS STREET | BELLVILLE, TX | 77418 | PH: (979) 865-3133 | WWW.BELLVILLEISD.ORG

- a. Student Representative Board Report was shared by Katelyn Krenek, Student Board Representative, noting highlights from recognizing students and staff at board meetings, and the value of the cross-stakeholder group engaged through DAC, and sharing highlights of culture facilitate through Ms. Richardson as the College and Career Advisor at the High School, and with community noting appreciation for both sides having opportunities to discuss thoughts and opinions on the issues of home school and virtual/hybrid learning options.
- b. Discussion of BISD's research and draft framework for offering a Hybrid Learning Program beginning in the 2026-2027 school year; -the board discussed statistics regarding educational and work trends (see attachment). The Board was open to the idea of pursuing a Hybrid Learning Program in the future and a small pilot program in 2026-2027.
- c. Dr. Poenitzsch reviewed an updated draft of a District of Innovation to be applicable for 2026-2031, noting each component of the plan and the rationale for inclusion in BISD's DOI.
- d. Dr. Poenitzsch also presented recommended revisions to the District's Local Accountability Plan for renewal beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and reviewed each component of the plan.

C. GOAL 3: CULTURE Report was presented by Dr. Poenitzsch, Superintendent, noting enrollment this year compared to last year and noting that there have not been any recent personnel transitions in the District.

D. GOAL 4: COMMUNITY Report was presented by Dr. Poenitzsch, noted a multitude of community engagement events for the Christmas Season in December. Dr. Poenitzsch also shared a letter written by her to the community to engage in the discussions surrounding the proposal and district's agreement to a partnership for development of a dog park at the property surrounding the BISD Administration Building.

7. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following items were approved with a motion by Sarah Buenger, seconded by Regina Gillum with Grant Lischka, Regina Gillum, Kenneth, Kenneth Stein and Grant Lischka voting Yes; Jared Lischka and Heather Novicke not present, and no one voting No. (Vote 5-0)

- A. Minutes from the FIRST Hearing on November 17, 2025
- B. Minutes from Budget & Transportation Workshop on November 17, 2025
- C. Minutes from Regular Board Meeting on November 17, 2025
- D. Budget Amendments and Donations

8 ACTION ITEMS

The following items were approved

- A. The BISD Financial Audit with a motion by Jim Batson, seconded by Kenneth Stein with Grant Lischka, Regina Gillum, Kenneth, Kenneth Stein and Grant Lischka voting Yes; Jared Lischka and Heather Novicke not present, and no one voting No. (Vote 5-0)
- B. BISD Fund-Balance allocations through the GASB Resolution with a motion by Sarah Buenger, seconded by Regina Gillum with Grant Lischka, Regina Gillum, Kenneth, Kenneth Stein and Grant Lischka voting Yes; Jared Lischka and Heather Novicke not present, and no one voting No. (Vote 5-0)



BELLVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

518 SOUTH MATHEWS STREET | BELLVILLE, TX | 77418 | PH: (979) 865-3133 | WWW.BELLVILLEISD.ORG

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board remained in Open Session.

11. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The board remained in Open Session.

A. There was no action taken on any items following the Executive Session.

12. DISCUSSION ITEMS: BOARD REPORT

- Dr. Poenitzsch shared December and January Dates of Events

13. ADJOURN

The board adjourned at 7:48pm with a motion by Sarah Buenger, seconded by Kenneth Stein.

BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Pending January 22, 2026

BOARD PRESIDENT: GRANT LISCHKA

BOARD SECRETARY: KENNETH STEIN