



Agenda of Policy Committee Meeting

The Board of Trustees Belton Independent School District

A Policy Committee Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Belton Independent School District will be held February 1, 2021, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Big Red Room, 400 N. Wall Street, Belton, TX 76513. One or more trustees may participate via video conference.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Review and Discuss the Following Items:**
 - A. CW(LOCAL): Naming Facilities - 1st Reading 2
 - B. EIC(LOCAL): Academic Achievement/Class Ranking -
Learning/Study 5
- 4. Issues/Concerns for Future Agenda or Administrative Reports**
- 5. Adjourn**

DRAFT (Final Version)

Belton ISD
014903

NAMING FACILITIES

CW
(LOCAL)

Guidelines

The following guidelines shall govern the permanent naming or re-naming of new or existing District-owned facilities or portions of facilities. Names selected for District schools or buildings shall be meaningful to students and community members, be a source of pride, and reflect the traditions of the District.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, facilities are defined as:

1. A school campus building;
2. Rooms within a school building;
3. Structures related to a school building;
4. Athletic fields and facilities; and
5. Any other building or adjacent land area that is the property of the District and the Board.

Criteria

The criteria for the naming or renaming of a District facility shall include the following:

1. A facility or part of an existing facility may be named for an individual, group, or organization, for a place such as a landmark or neighborhood, or for any other reason determined by the Board.
2. The name must not already be in use by another District school or facility.
3. If a facility or part of an existing facility is named or renamed for an individual, group, or organization, the following shall apply:
 - a. The individual may be living, or if deceased, dead for at least 12 months prior to the submission of the individual's name for consideration by the Board. However, the Board may consider naming a facility at any time for an individual who served in the U.S. military and died in the line of duty.
 - b. The individual, group, or organization must embody exemplary qualities that can serve as a model of excellence and should adhere to the District's core beliefs and values.
 - c. The individual, group, or organization must have made a significant contribution, which may include a financial donation, to the District, local community, state, or nation or have a connection to the District.

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CW
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Nominations

A person who wishes to submit a name for consideration shall identify the facility and provide a clear, concise explanation of why the name should be honored. Supplemental materials such as news clippings, letters of recommendation, and other printed resources may be submitted along with the nomination.

Nominations shall be submitted using the District's facility name nomination form.

The Board Facilities Committee, in consultation with Superintendent shall review all nominations and determine if further consideration is warranted. The Board Facilities Committee shall then determine whether to:

1. Move the nomination forward for consideration by the full Board;
2. Establish a school name selection committee to consider nominations to name or rename new or existing District-owned facilities or portions of facilities; or
3. Take no action.

New District
Campus

A school name selection committee shall be established when naming a new District campus.

Recommendation Process

The Board Facilities Committee or school name selection committee, when applicable, may:

Renaming Existing
Facilities

1. Recommend a nomination submitted through the nominations process;
2. Recommend one or more alternate nominations to the Board for its consideration; or
3. Take no action regarding the renaming of an existing facility .

Naming New
Campuses

The school name selection committee shall select no more than three nominations to be recommended to the Board. Appropriate processes for considering and determining a recommendation shall be established by the school name selection committee chairperson. The committee shall also establish a process for gathering stakeholder input, including student input, on the facility name.

School Name Selection Committee

The Board Facilities Committee has the authority to establish a school name selection committee in accordance with this policy.

The selection committee shall consist of 12 to 20 members who shall be residents of the geographic area served by the District. The membership shall include a diverse group of civic leaders,

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educators, parents, and others who have a sincere interest in the process. At its discretion, the Board Facilities Committee may or may not include Board members on the selection committee.

The Board Facilities Committee shall name one of the members of the school name selection committee as chairperson. The chairperson shall serve as the leader of the committee and shall work with the administration prior to making a final recommendation to the Board. The chairperson and all members of the committee shall serve at the discretion of the Board.

Approval

The Board shall have final approval of the naming or renaming all District-owned facilities or portions of facilities.

Dedication Plaques

The Board shall have a plaque prepared bearing the names of the Board members, administrators, architects, and contractors directly connected with each project, including those at the passage of the bond and at the completion of the project.

Dedication Ceremonies

A new school building shall be dedicated at an appropriate ceremony planned by the administration and held as soon as possible after occupancy.

Mascots and School Colors

The Superintendent shall determine the process to seek appropriate stakeholder input when choosing a mascot and school colors for a District campus. In consultation with administration, the Board shall have final approval in selecting new elementary, middle school, and high school mascots and school colors.

Review and Discuss EIC(LOCAL) Academic Achievement/Class Ranking

February 1, 2021

Learn, Study and Discuss EIC(LOCAL)
and how it impacts a student's learning
experience

Students should have a learning experience that allows them to pursue their hopes and dreams, and contributes to growing them to have life-long competences of perseverance, adaptability, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and empathy.

What we know:

- Calculating the top 10% of students is required by the state.
- Slight differences in gpa exist between being in the top 10% and being in top 25% of students.
- The way courses are weighted impacts how students choose courses.
- Class rank allows colleges to label a student without looking at a student's academic achievement record. Many districts in the state have stopped ranking students past the top 10%.
- Colleges conduct a holistic review of a student's application when high schools do not provide rank information. A holistic review includes:
 - Information about the high school provided in a school profile
 - Performance on college entrance exams
 - The student's grade point average (GPA)
 - Type/rigor of courses taken
 - Grades received in intended areas of study
 - Essays and recommendation letters

What we don't know:

- The impact of our weighting of courses and class rank on the mental health of our students.
- The impact of our class ranking on student collaboration and learning culture.
- A detailed plan of the changes before entering into conversations with multiple stakeholders.

- How does ranking Belton ISD students impact them during their college admissions process (for students outside of the top 10%)?
- What barriers exist that prevent students from following their pathway?
- How does class rank and course weighting impact JOG competencies?

Consistent Application for Graduating Class

The District shall apply the same class rank calculation method and rules for local graduation honors for all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student first earned high school credit.

Disruption of Normal Grading Practices

If the District experiences a significant disruption in the ability to collect grades for calculating weighted grade point average (GPA) and class rank, the Board may consider a Board resolution to modify provisions in this policy.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2022.

Calculation

Class rank and weighted grade point average (GPA) shall be based on semester grades earned in English, mathematics beyond Algebra I, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English beyond Level 1, and all dual credit courses and dual enrollment OnRamps courses in these areas. The weighted grade average shall also include grades earned in all Advanced Placement (AP) dual credit courses in EMT, engineering, and computer science. Courses receiving more than one credit for a single class period shall be calculated as one credit.

Exclusion

The calculation of a student's GPA, both unweighted and weighted, for class rank shall exclude grades earned in middle school; a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; local credit courses; summer school courses taken for remediation or acceleration; dual credit courses not reflected on the student's class schedule during the fall or spring semesters or during the summer; distance learning in the form of traditional correspondence courses or credit recovery or for remediation; or through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

Weighted Grade System

The District shall categorize and weight courses in accordance with provisions of this policy and EIC(EXHIBIT).

Categories

Level 4

Eligible AP courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level 4 courses.

Level 3

Eligible dual credit, OnRamps, and Pre-AP courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level 3 courses.

Level 2

All Regular courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level 2 courses.

Level 1

Skills-Based courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level 1 courses.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

Weighted Grade
Point Average

The District shall convert the semester grade to grade points in accordance with the weighted grade points chart published in EIC(EXHIBIT) to determine a weighted GPA.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating class of 2021.

Calculation

Graduation requirements and plans specified for each grade level shall have no bearing on the GPAs that determine class rank and honor graduates; honor graduate status shall be determined by weighted grade average only. Class rank at the end of the junior year shall be used for college application purposes.

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in all high school credit courses taken in grades 9–12, unless excluded below. Grades earned in courses taken prior to grade 9 shall not be included in the calculation of class rank. Courses receiving more than one credit for a single class period shall be calculated as one credit.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, the graduating class of Belton High School shall include Belton High School students and Belton New Tech High School @ Waskow students.

Class rank and weighted grade averages shall be based on semester grades earned in English, mathematics beyond Algebra I, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English beyond Level 1, and all dual credit courses in these areas. The weighted grade average shall also include grades earned in all AP courses, dual enrollment OnRamps courses, and dual credit courses in the areas of engineering, computer programming, computer science, technology, and web design.

A grade below a 70 shall not be weighted.

Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in middle school; a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; local credit courses; summer school courses taken for remediation or acceleration; dual credit courses not reflected on the student's class schedule during the fall or spring semesters or during the summer; distance learning in the form of traditional correspondence courses or credit recovery or for remediation; or through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

Weighted Grade
System

Pre-AP and honors courses shall receive 10 additional points per semester grade, and AP courses shall receive 20 additional points per semester grade.

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

Eligible dual credit and OnRamps courses shall receive 15 additional points per semester grade.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to all students, regardless of their graduating class.

Transferred Grades

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under at least the Level 1 category and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank.

When a student transfers semester grades for courses from an accredited school that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District's weighted grade system, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District if the same courses are offered to the same class of students in the District.

Local Graduation Honors

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year. The third nine-week grading period grade shall be used as the semester grade for the purpose of GPA calculation for all courses with the exception of dual credit.

Dual credit courses included in the third nine-week grading period shall include the final grade for the course if a grade is received by May 15. Courses for which grades are not received shall not be included in the rank at the third nine-week period for senior rank.

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class rank as required by state law. The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class rank for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second-highest rank based on the weighted GPA or weighted grade average, respectively.

A valedictorian and salutatorian shall be named at Belton High School, Belton New Tech High School @ Waskow, and Lake Belton High School.

To be eligible for such recognition, a student must have:

1. Been a registered, full-time student at the campus of graduation during the last four semesters prior to graduation. To be considered registered for a full semester, a student must enroll no later than the close of school on the tenth day of the beginning of the first semester.
2. Been enrolled in at least four academic courses each year of high school.

Early graduates (three-year graduates) may participate in the graduation ceremony but shall not be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors.

The final class rank shall become a permanent record on the academic achievement record (AAR); no re-ranking shall occur after graduation for transcript purposes.

Breaking Ties

In case of a tie in weighted GPAs or weighted grade averages after calculation to the fourth decimal place among the top ranked students, the District shall calculate the numerical grade averages of all Pre-AP and AP courses taken in grades 9–12 to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian.

If the tie is not broken after applying these methods, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

Honor Graduates

A student ranked within the top 15 percent of his or her graduating class shall be designated as an honor graduate. District honor graduates shall include the following:

1. Students whose class rank is within the top two percent of the graduating class shall be designated summa cum laude graduates.
2. Students whose class rank is within the top three to five percent of the graduating class shall be designated magna cum laude graduates.
3. Students whose class rank is within the top six to ten percent of the graduating class shall be designated cum laude graduates.
4. Students whose class rank is within the top 11 to 15 percent of the graduating class shall be designated as graduating with honors.

When calculating the number of students in a specific percentile of a graduating class, the number shall be rounded to a whole number.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

**Highest-Ranking
Graduate**

The student meeting the local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall also be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.

*Belton High
School and
Belton New Tech
High School @
Waskow*

Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, between the student named valedictorian for Belton High School and the student named valedictorian for Belton New Tech High School @ Waskow, the highest-ranking student among the named valedictorians shall be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.

Early Graduation

A student wishing to graduate early must obtain an early graduation application from the principal's office. Completed applications for three-year graduates should be returned by May 1 of the sophomore year. A student who has declared his or her intent to graduate in three school years and has completed a minimum of 16 credits shall be included in the senior year rank.

Point System for Rank

Students will be ranked for class standing on the following system:

Level 1 Skills-Based Courses		Level 2 Regular Courses		Level 3 Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre- AP), Dual Credit Courses, and OnRamps		Level 4 AP Courses	
Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points
100	4.0	100	5.0	100	6.0	100	7.0
99	3.9	99	4.9	99	5.9	99	6.9
98	3.8	98	4.8	98	5.8	98	6.8
97	3.7	97	4.7	97	5.7	97	6.7
96	3.6	96	4.6	96	5.6	96	6.6
95	3.5	95	4.5	95	5.5	95	6.5
94	3.4	94	4.4	94	5.4	94	6.4
93	3.3	93	4.3	93	5.3	93	6.3
92	3.2	92	4.2	92	5.2	92	6.2
91	3.1	91	4.1	91	5.1	91	6.1
90	3.0	90	4.0	90	5.0	90	6.0
89	2.9	89	3.9	89	4.9	89	5.9
88	2.8	88	3.8	88	4.8	88	5.8
87	2.7	87	3.7	87	4.7	87	5.7
86	2.6	86	3.6	86	4.6	86	5.6
85	2.5	85	3.5	85	4.5	85	5.5
84	2.4	84	3.4	84	4.4	84	5.4
83	2.3	83	3.3	83	4.3	83	5.3
82	2.2	82	3.2	82	4.2	82	5.2
81	2.1	81	3.1	81	4.1	81	5.1
80	2.0	80	3.0	80	4.0	80	5.0
79	1.9	79	2.9	79	3.9	79	4.9
78	1.8	78	2.8	78	3.8	78	4.8

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(EXHIBIT)

Level 1 Skills-Based Courses		Level 2 Regular Courses		Level 3 Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre- AP), Dual Credit Courses, and OnRamps		Level 4 AP Courses	
77	1.7	77	2.7	77	3.7	77	4.7
76	1.6	76	2.6	76	3.6	76	4.6
75	1.5	75	2.5	75	3.5	75	4.5
74	1.4	74	2.4	74	3.4	74	4.4
73	1.3	73	2.3	73	3.3	73	4.3
72	1.2	72	2.2	72	3.2	72	4.2
71	1.1	71	2.1	71	3.1	71	4.1
70	1.0	70	2.0	70	3.0	70	4.0

No grade points will be given for a grade below 70.