



Agenda of Special Meeting

The Board of Trustees Belton Independent School District

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Belton Independent School District will be held May 10, 2021, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Pittenger Fine Arts Center, 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. **Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding** **2**
Canvassing Returns and Declaring Results of the May 1, 2021
Trustee Election for Area 4
4. **Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding a** **4**
Resolution of the Belton ISD Board of Trustees to Extend Deadline
to Include Dual Credit Grades in GPA Calculation for the Class of
2020-2021 - Modification of EIC(LOCAL)
5. **Adjourn**

ORDER DECLARING RESULTS OF REGULAR TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF BELL §

On the 10th day of May, 2021 the Board of Trustees of the Belton Independent School District convened with the following members present:

_____, President

And the following absent: _____, constituting a quorum, and among other proceedings had by said Board of Trustees was the following:

There came to be considered the returns of the regular election held on the 1st day of May, 2021, for the purpose of electing two members to the Board of Trustees and said returns of said election having been duly canvassed by the Board of Trustees, each of the candidates in said election received the following votes:

<u>Name of Candidate</u>	<u>Single Member District</u>	<u>Total Votes Received</u>
Chris Flor	Area 4	81
Brent Coates	Area 4	66

It is, therefore found and declared and so ordered by the Board of Trustees of the Belton Independent School District that the above mentioned trustee election was duly called, the notice of said election was duly posted, and that said election was held in accordance with law, that at said election Chris Flor (Area 4) was elected to the Board of Trustees of said School Board subject to the oath of office.

I certify that the figures on the tally sheets correspond with the figures on the returns.

Suzanne M. McDonald
President, Board of Trustees
Belton Independent School District

Date of Canvassing

**Early Voting and Election Day Results
Belton ISD Trustee (Area 4)
May 1, 2021**

	Early Voting	By Mail	Election Day	Totals
Chris Flor	25	4	52	81
Brent Coates	10	2	54	66
Under Votes	0	0	2	2
Totals	35	6	108	149



Signature of Chief Elections Officer

May 7, 2021

Date

Belton Independent School District
Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda Item

May 10, 2021

Item: Consider, Discuss, and Take Appropriate Action Regarding a Resolution of the Belton ISD Board of Trustees to Extend Deadline to Include Dual Credit Grades in GPA Calculation for the Class of 2020-2021 – Modification of EIC(LOCAL)

Contact Person: Dr. Deanna Lovesmith

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.

Background Information:

EIC(LOCAL) defines the criteria used to determine class ranking for graduation purposes. At the July 2018 board meeting, the policy was revised to include the following language:

“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 for senior rank.”

The intent of the language was to be able to include dual credit courses while meeting deadlines for local graduation ceremonies. With the impacts of COVID-19, community college and district calendars have changed. Temple College has extended their end of year semester dates, with grades being due to the college on May 19. Belton ISD has extended the school year to allow for a June 10 graduation date.

Given these extensions, we are seeking a board resolution that would extend the date from May 15 to May 24 to receive grades for dual credit courses.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Administrative Recommendation(s):

Approve Resolution as presented.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BELTON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXTENSION OF DEADLINE TO INCLUDE DUAL CREDIT GRADES IN GPA
CALCULATION FOR THE CLASS OF 2020-2021 – MODIFICATION OF EIC(LOCAL)**

WHEREAS, Belton ISD Board Policy EIC (LOCAL) defines the criteria used to determine class ranking for graduation purposes;

WHEREAS, at the July 2018 board meeting, the policy was revised to provide that 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 the college no later than May 15 and that courses for which grades are not received by May 15 shall not be included in the rank at the third nine-week for senior rank;

WHEREAS, the intent of the 2018 change was to be able to include dual credit courses while meeting deadlines for local graduation ceremonies;

WHEREAS, community college and district calendars for the 2020-21 school year were altered due to the impact of COVID-19 with Temple College extending its end of year semester dates and grades being due to the college on May 19, 2021 and Belton ISD extending its school year to allow for a June 10, 2021 graduation date;

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. For the class of 2020-21, the Board hereby extends the deadline to include dual credit grades received from Temple College to May 24, 2021.

Passed by a vote of _____ to _____ on May 10, 2021.

Suzanne M. McDonald
President, Board of Trustees

Janet Leigh
Secretary, Board of Trustees

**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.