

January 26, 2022



Message from Superintendent



Welcome to our first edition of Belton ISD eNews! As a member of the Big Red Community, you'll receive this regular communication from the district about every other week. We hope it will be a helpful resource to keep you informed of news and district-wide happenings.

On Monday evening, I presented [recommendations to our Board of Trustees](#) to consider calling for a bond election to address growing enrollment, program equity, aging facilities, and safety updates. This presentation comes after spending over 28 hours meeting with a [Bond Exploration Committee](#) (BEC) of parents, community members and business leaders who reviewed the district's enrollment growth, facility needs and desired student experiences. Through their work, the BEC recommended the district call a bond election for May 2022 and prioritized a list of needs.

The BEC served in an advisory role to me. I took their list of 22 priorities and narrowed the list to my recommendation for the board to consider. At Monday's regular meeting, I outlined for trustees my prioritized list of proposed projects totaling \$168.2 million including proposed projects such as:

- building two elementary schools,
- an addition at Southwest Elementary,
- campus safety and security updates,
- land acquisition for future facilities,
- Career & Technical Education and fine arts improvements at Belton High School and Belton New Tech High School @ Waskow,
- a facility for the Delta Program, the district's special education program for students ages 18-22 designed to teach life skills,
- security enhancements,
- HVAC, roofing, plumbing, electrical repair/replacement and
- technology infrastructure and devices.

This narrowed list of recommendations represents projects of the highest need, impact on student learning experiences and project feasibility. My focus was on district needs — not wants — that potentially impact every student at every campus. These projects are some of the pressing priorities needed so that Belton ISD is able to continue offering exceptional learning experiences for all of our students, regardless of where they live in the district.

It is ultimately the board's decision whether or not to call for a bond election and what projects may be included in the final recommendation. They will deliberate that over the next few weeks and are scheduled to make a decision by February 15. We will keep you informed should the process move forward.

We hope this newsletter is a positive addition to our communication with Belton ISD families. As always, we appreciate you and your support of our Big Red Community!

Sincerely,
Matt Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

News



New District Receptionist Welcomes Visitors to Belton ISD Administration Building

12 Belton ISD Students Earn All-State Honors

District Saves Taxpayers \$4 Million Through Refinancing of Bonds

New Tech Registration for 2022-2023 School Year Opens Feb. 1

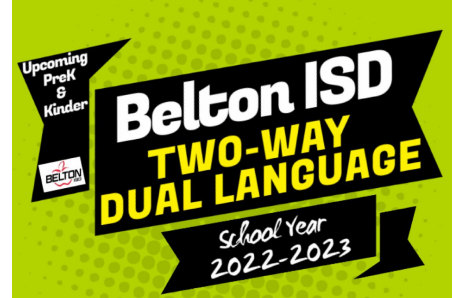
What's Happening

Spanish Language Parent Classes

Belton ISD is offering English as a Second Language (ESL) and Spanish as a Second Language (SSL) parent classes from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays running through April 5 at the Administration Building, 400 N. Wall St. in Belton. Childcare is provided. Adults must register at <https://bit.ly/3GHEKrQ> (ESL) and <https://bit.ly/3AaiB2W> (SSL).

Two-Way Dual Language Program Parent Meetings

Parents of students who will be in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year are invited to learn more about the dual language program offered in Belton ISD. The program integrates native English speaking students with native Spanish speakers so all learn to read, write, listen and speak both languages equally well. **Read more.**



Belton Theatre Presents Spring Musical

Belton Theatre is presenting *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*, which runs 7 p.m. on Feb. 4-5 and 2 p.m. on Feb. 6, at the Belton High School Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$5 for students and senior citizens and \$10 for adults. They can be purchased at beltontheatre.ludas.com.



Upcoming Events

- January 27: **Dual Language Parent Meeting**
- February 1: **Dual Language Parent Meeting**
- February 4-6: **Matilda The Musical**
- February 7: **Policy Committee Meeting**
- February 7: **Board Workshop**
- February 7: **Transfer Application Opens**
- February 8: **Dual Language Parent Meeting**
- February 10: **Dual Language Parent Meeting**
- February 15: **Special Board Meeting**
- February 16: **Facilities Committee Meeting**
- February 21-22: **Student Holidays**
- February 21: **Regular Board Meeting**

Take the
Journey

Stay Connected

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Belton ISD | PO Box 269, Belton, TX 76513

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