



# **Board Meeting Recap**

February 2, 2026 (rescheduled from Jan. 26 due to weather)

## **Workshop: Budget Update**

Like many school districts across Texas, Belton ISD continues to navigate a challenging financial landscape. We all feel the weight of inflation at home—the rising cost of groceries and utilities—and the district faces those same pressures on a large scale.

Our funding is tied to a complex web of state and federal structures, property values, and enrollment trends. We appreciate the steps the state legislature took to increase funding during the last session. However, the structure of that funding and the total dollars allocated did not fully close the gap created by our current economic reality. When combined with slowed enrollment growth and continued inflation—which has driven our costs up 24% since 2021—these additional funds were not enough to offset the deficit.

When these factors shift, our budget must shift with them. For the past two years, we have been proactive, reducing expenditures by more than

\$13 million through implementing strategies informed by our PEIMS and staffing audits, adjustments to staffing ratios, central office staff reductions and optimized department and campus budgets.

While we balanced this year's budget using one-time "disaster penny" relief following the 2024 tornadoes, we know that temporary fixes are not long-term solutions. To ensure a stable, balanced budget for the coming year, we are implementing recommendations from our Budget Advisory Committee.

Because 85% of our budget is dedicated to the people who teach and support our students, we cannot address our deficit without looking at staffing. We are currently redesigning some of our service models to be more efficient. While some support structures may look different next year, our core promise remains:

**Student Support** - Intervention services for students in need will continue. We are moving to a model where classroom teachers oversee interventions for grades K-2 and 3-5. By providing stipends for this work, we empower the teachers who know students best to support them through Tier 1 and 2 instruction and grade-level intervention times.

**Teacher Support** - We are maintaining systems that empower our educators.

*Elementary:* A new model retains six Instructional Coaches district-wide to support campuses.

*Secondary:* Our new model allows campus content leads to remain in the classroom while receiving stipends to support specific content areas.

**Library Services** - Every library will continue to be led by a certified professional. We are redesigning the Librarian role into an "**Innovation Specialist**." This certified position will continue to support literacy, library lessons, and book check-outs, while also leading GT Services and STEAM innovation.

Along with continuing to provide these services, every member of our team has a secure place in Belton ISD. Staff members impacted by these redesigns will continue to be employed with the district in other positions.

Our commitment to you is stability. By making these thoughtful adjustments now, we are securing a sustainable future where we maximize our use of resources for both and future current priorities in order to best support our students, our staff and our community.

## Financial Transparency Webpage

For more information about the district budget and planning process, please click the link above to explore our financial transparency webpage.

## Recognitions

### Student Showcase: Belton New Tech @Waskow Appeals Court

The student showcase featured Belton New Tech @Waskow students Kaycee Piskorz and Isabelle Allen, who presented appellate arguments from opposing sides of a case at the state level. Both students are experienced members of the campus legal studies program and multi-year state qualifiers in moot court and mock trial. They are currently competing as student appellate justices at the YMCA Youth and Government State Moot Court Competition in Round Rock. These students are supported by their legal studies teacher, Dr. Mark Durfee.



## Texas Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra



Congratulations to Lake Belton High School senior Emily Jeong on being selected for the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra. This honor marks her fourth consecutive year earning All-State recognition, an outstanding achievement in one of the most competitive music programs in the state.

## Texas Thespian National Qualifiers



Six Belton High School students earned national qualification through the Texas Thespian Excellence Awards, advancing to represent their program at the International Thespian Festival this summer after receiving superior ratings from all three state-level judges. The program also celebrated a leadership milestone as junior Olivia McCrae was selected as a Texas Thespian State Festival Officer, becoming the sixth Belton High School student to serve in a state-level leadership role over the past seven years. State officers support more than 600 theatre troupes across Texas through festival planning and leadership workshops. This achievement reflects strong program support, guided by their theatre instructor, Melissa Stuhff.

## Pathfinders

We are proud to celebrate four Belton ISD elementary students from James L. Burrell Elementary School and Lakewood Elementary School who were selected for the prestigious Pathfinder program.



This national initiative nurtures young mathematicians by supporting and inspiring exceptional mathematical talent from elementary school through high school, while providing expert guidance and access to advanced STEM enrichment opportunities.

## The Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award

Dylan Bourland, a student at South Belton Middle School, is known as a proactive leader who takes initiative without being asked and brings a thoughtful awareness to everything he does. He is dependable, adaptable, and trusted by multiple staff members for his willingness to step in and help wherever needed. Dylan also demonstrates strong empathy and responsibility, often taking on tasks others avoid and doing so with respect and maturity. His actions reflect the qualities Belton ISD strives to instill in all students—initiative, collaboration, perseverance, and service to others. We are proud to honor him with the Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award.



## Presentation of Child Safety Fees from the City of Belton

In Bell County, \$1.50 from each vehicle registration is designated for child safety initiatives. Through a longstanding partnership, the City of Belton annually directs its portion of these funds to Belton ISD. This year, the district received \$28,012.39, helping ensure safe school crossings for students across the district. This ongoing collaboration reflects the shared commitment between the City of Belton and Belton ISD to student safety and well-being and highlights the impact of strong community partnerships.



## Community Partner – Carlson Law Firm

Belton ISD is proud to recognize Carlson Law Firm as a valued community partner supporting the Legal Studies pathway at Belton New Tech High @Waskow. Through mentorship, internship



opportunities, and hands-on learning experiences, Carlson Law Firm provides students with meaningful exposure to the legal profession. Attorneys also support curriculum enrichment through workshops, firm tours and authentic audiences for student presentations. Belton ISD is grateful for Carlson Law Firm's continued commitment to preparing students for future careers in the legal field.

## **Board Appreciation Month**

Belton ISD trustees help bridge the community and the classroom while guiding decisions that support meaningful learning experiences across the district. Over the past year, each trustee dedicated more than 100 volunteer hours to board meetings, committee work, and professional training, in addition to 65 hours attending campus events, graduations and meetings with state and local leaders.

Belton ISD's Board of Trustees includes:

Manuel Alcozer, President (Area 5) – serving since 2018

Chris Flor, Vice President (Area 4) – serving since 2018

Erin Bass, Secretary (Area 2) – serving since 2021

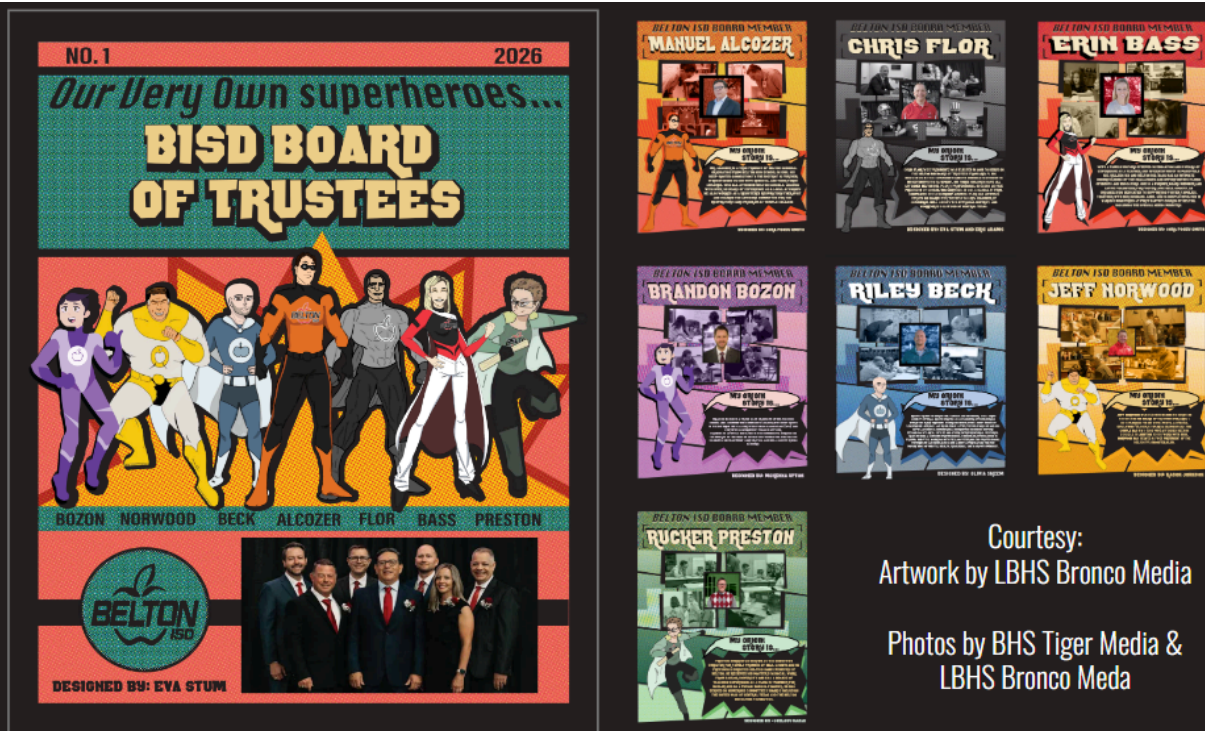
Brandon Bozon, Trustee (At-Large) – serving since 2025

Riley Beck, Trustee (Area 3) – serving since 2025

Jeff Norwood, Trustee (Area 1) – serving since 2016

Rucker Preston, Trustee (At-Large) – serving since 2023

Our Bronco and Tiger Media students worked to design graphics to honor each board member and were presented during the meeting.



## Action Items

### 2024-2025 School Year Annual Comprehensive Financial Report: APPROVED

Kent Willis, audit manager, at Pattillo, Brown, & Hill, shared financial highlights of the audit report and reported on their review of internal controls as part of their audit procedures.

#### Findings: Clean Audit Report

An unmodified opinion has been issued on the Independent Auditor's Report for the basic financial statements that are accompanied by required supplementary and other information, including compliance for major federal programs.

### Strategic Plan Charter: APPROVED

In accordance with BDF(LOCAL), Belton ISD upholds principles of transparency and effective governance by requiring Board approval for the formation of stakeholder advisory committees. This requirement

ensures oversight, accountability, and alignment with district priorities for committees established to advise on significant district initiatives. The District upholds this practice to achieve two key goals: to officially authorize an advisory group's specific purpose, process, and role, and to enhance community awareness of the important work being done.

## Order of Trustee Election May 2, 2026: APPROVED

In accordance with Election Code 3.005 and Board Policy BBB(LOCAL), the Board must approve an Order of Election and set the election date by the 78th day before Election Day, which is February 13, 2026. Election Day is Saturday, May 2, 2026. Trustees for two At-Large positions are up for election this year. Current trustees are Brandon Bozon and Rucker Preston. The filing dates for the General Election are Wednesday, January 14, 2026, through Friday, February 13, 2026 by 5:00 pm. Early Voting will be conducted weekdays only beginning Monday, April 20, 2026, through Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

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### Reports



**Mid Year Key Progress Measures Report**

[Download](#)

3.3 MB



**Goal 2 Update Academic Progress Report**

[Download](#)

1.3 MB



**Unlimited Tax School Building & Refunding Bonds, Series 2026**

[Download](#)

329.2 KB



**2022 Bond Projects**

[Download](#)

2.8 MB

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## ***Consent Agenda Items***

### **APPROVED**

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. December 15, 2025 - Workshop Meeting
2. December 15, 2025 - Regular Meeting

B. Unaudited Financial Report for the Month Ending December 31, 2025

C. Gifts, Grants, and Bequests

D. Budget Amendment #4 for 2025-2026

E. Expenditures over \$50,000

1. Renewal of CDW-G for Google Workspace
2. Renewal of Soliant Health for Special Programs
3. Renewal of Growing Places Therapy for Special Programs
4. Paragon Sports Constructors, Inc. for Tiger Field Synthetic Turf Replacement #2511-150-390

F. School Library Advisory Council Recommendation for Library Materials Purchase

G. Region 10 ESC Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative

H. Contract with Bell County Office of Elections Administration for Election Services for the May 2, 2026 Trustee Election

I. Change Order #2 with CORE Construction for the Lake Belton Middle School 2022 Bond Project

J. Acceptance and Close-out of the Lake Belton Middle School 2022 Bond Project and Approval of Final Payment

K. Change Order #3 with CORE Construction for the Southwest Elementary 2022 Bond Project

L. Acceptance and Close-out of the Southwest Elementary 2022 Bond Project and Approval of Final Payment

M. Policy Update 126 - 2nd Reading

1. CJ(LOCAL): Contracted Services
2. CJA(LOCAL): Contracted Services Background Checks
3. DBD(LOCAL): Employment Requirements
4. DEC(LOCAL): Compensation & Benefits
5. DFBB(LOCAL): Term Contracts
6. DH(LOCAL): Employee Standards of Conduct
7. FFB(LOCAL): Student Welfare, Crisis Intervention
8. GF(LOCAL): Public Complaints

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[\*\*Link to Videos of Board Meetings & Workshops\*\*](#)

[\*\*Link to Board Meeting Postings & Agendas\*\*](#)

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**C** Belton ISD Board of Trustees