



Board Meeting Recap

February 23, 2026

Recognitions

Student Showcase – Lake Belton High School Automotive

Tonight's student showcase featured Lake Belton High School automotive students, who shared an overview of the campus automotive technology program and the hands-on learning experiences that will prepare them for careers in the skilled trades. Through coursework and real-world application, students develop technical skills in vehicle maintenance, diagnostics and repair while building problem-solving, teamwork and workplace readiness skills. These students are supported by their automotive teacher, Brent Sharp.



Texas Music Educators Association All-State Band



We are proud to recognize Lake Belton High School student Adam Namkung, who was selected as a member of the Texas Music Educators Association 5A All-State Band, the highest honor a high school musician can achieve. Adam advanced through three rounds of auditions and attended an All-State clinic and concert with the top student musicians in Texas on February 14 in San Antonio. Congratulations to Adam and his instructor, Bobby Yerigan, on this outstanding achievement.

Texas Music Educators Association All-State Choir



We are proud to recognize five students from Belton High School and Lake Belton High School who were selected for the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Choir, the highest honor a high school vocalist can achieve. The students advanced through a rigorous, multi-round audition process and attended an All-State clinic and concert with top student musicians across Texas on February 14 in San Antonio. Congratulations to the students and their choir directors, Terrance Livingston, Tonya Lovorn and Charlotte Wurman.

Texas Music Educators Association All-Region Jazz



We are proud to recognize 13 middle school students from Belton Middle and Lake Belton Middle who earned honors through the TMEA All-Region Jazz process. After two rounds of blind auditions, students were selected for the All-Region Jazz Band, the highest honor for middle school jazz musicians, with additional students earning First Alternate recognition. They will rehearse with distinguished educators on February 28 and perform in Temple that evening. We congratulate our students and thank directors Chris Pulley and Grant Shane for their leadership.

Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Football

We are proud to recognize 25 student athletes from Belton High School and Lake Belton High School who were named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Football teams. To earn this distinction, senior student athletes must be in good standing with their team, demonstrate strong character and leadership, maintain an overall GPA of 92 or higher, and meet additional criteria that include class rank and SAT or ACT scores. Congratulations to these outstanding student athletes for excelling both on the field and in the classroom.



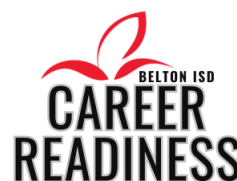
NFF National Academic Excellence Award Finalist

We are proud to recognize the Lake Belton High School Broncos varsity football team, comprised of 70 student athletes, for being named a finalist for the National Football Foundation National Academic Excellence Award for the fourth consecutive year. The Broncos are one of only seven 5A programs in the state to earn this distinction. This award recognizes high school football teams that demonstrate excellence in the classroom, requiring a minimum cumulative team GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Congratulations to the Lake Belton High School Broncos on this outstanding academic achievement.



CTE State Qualifiers

We are proud to recognize Career and Technical Education students from across the district who have advanced to state-level competitions. Through strong



performance in local and regional events, more than 45 students earned qualification to compete at the state level. These achievements reflect the rigor of Belton ISD's CTE programs and students' readiness for college, careers and industry pathways.

Business Professionals of America State Qualifiers

Students qualified in 24 competitive categories, demonstrating skills in accounting, business, finance, information technology, health, digital media production, and applied computer applications. These achievements reflect the strength of Belton ISD's CTE programs and students' readiness for college, careers and industry certifications.

Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) State Qualifiers

Students qualified in 12 competitive categories following strong performances at the area competition in January, demonstrating excellence in content knowledge, clinical skills and professional presentations. These students will represent Belton ISD at the State HOSA competition in March. Their achievements reflect a commitment to excellence and readiness for careers in the health sciences.

The Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award

We are proud to continue the Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award, recognizing middle school students who exemplify the district's core competencies. Thomas "TJ" Davis Jr., a student at North Belton Middle School, is recognized for his growth and strong demonstration of the Journey of a Graduate competencies, particularly perseverance. TJ consistently shows grit and determination in his learning, reflecting Belton ISD's commitment to preparing students for success beyond the classroom. We are proud to honor TJ with the Journey of a Graduate Milestones Award.



Congressman John Carter Career & Technical Education Award

The Congressional District Texas-31 Career & Technical Education Award, presented by Congressman John Carter, recognizes outstanding high school students who have demonstrated excellence and commitment in Career & Technical Education programs. The award highlights students who have completed rigorous CTE coursework, developed industry-aligned skills, and prepared for high-skill, high-wage careers through real-world learning experiences and career pathways.



For the 2026 recognition, Ethan Curtis was selected to represent Belton ISD, reflecting his dedication, achievement, and career readiness through his CTE pathway. This honor recognizes Ethan's professionalism, technical skill development, and preparation for future success in college, career, and the workforce. Ethan was unable to attend the official recognition ceremony, but his accomplishments proudly represent Belton ISD and the strength of its Career & Technical Education programs.

Temple Rotary Educator of the Month

Belton ISD is proud to recognize Mrs. Gabby Manibusan as the Temple Rotary Club's Educator of the Month for January for her outstanding service to students at James L. Burrell Elementary. Mrs. Manibusan is a dedicated fourth-grade teacher who creates a structured, supportive classroom where students feel safe, confident and empowered to think critically. She encourages problem-solving, independence and strong academic growth. Her leadership and commitment to students make her highly deserving of this honor. Belton ISD is proud to celebrate her as the Temple Rotary Educator of the Month.



AP School Honor Roll by College Board

We are proud to announce that Belton New Tech @Waskow has been named to the 2025 AP School Honor Roll for the third consecutive year. This recognition highlights the campus's commitment to expanding access to Advanced Placement courses, strengthening college readiness and fostering a strong college going culture. Congratulations to the dedicated AP teachers whose work made this achievement possible.



Department Showcase - Career & Technical Education

This month's department showcase highlights Belton ISD Career and Technical Education, a key part of the district's Career Readiness Department alongside Advanced Academics and MCJROTC. Through hands-on, real-world learning, CTE prepares students for future careers while providing opportunities to earn industry-recognized certifications. In the past year, 930 students earned 1,116 industry-based certifications. Belton ISD is recognized as a CTE District of Distinction, reflecting the strength of its programs and the dedication of its educators. Denise Ayres leads the department as Director of PK-12 Career Readiness.



Community Partner – Johnson Brothers Ford

We are proud to recognize Johnson Brothers Ford as a valued community partner supporting Belton ISD automotive programs. Through generous donations of automotive parts and employment opportunities for students, Johnson Brothers Ford helps connect classroom learning to real-world industry experience. Belton ISD is grateful for Johnson



Brothers Ford's continued partnership and commitment to investing in the future of our students.

Communications Department wins 4 State Awards

BISD's Communications Department has once again earned state-level recognition, with all four submitted entries receiving honors at the Texas



School Public Relations Association Star Awards. The recognized work was part of the department's broader efforts to support districtwide communications, storytelling and engagement, led by Communications Director Candice Griffin and Multimedia Specialist Marty Sullivan II. The following projects were recognized at the 2026 TSPRA Star Awards ceremony on Wednesday, February 18:

Bronze Star Award in the Special Event category for the 80s-themed Convocation

Gold Star Award in the Education Good News Campaign category for the Teacher of the Year campaign

Gold Star Award in the General Event category for Golden Moments Celebrating the Class of 2025

Gold Star Award in the Feature Story category for Back to Elementary

Action Items

Issuance of 2025 Bonds and Refunding of Bonds Series 2015 and 2016: APPROVED

Issuing Bond 2025

- \$6 Million in bonds approved by voters in November for technology devices.

- Bonds to be repaid over 5 years.
- Annual payment projected at \$1.3M per year from 2027-2031.
- Quick payoff has minimal impact on future bond capacity

Refunding Bonds 2015 and 2016

- In the last ten years, the district has successfully executed five refundings, saving District taxpayers \$14,978,871 on an actual dollar basis.
- When a school district "refunds" its bonds, it is issuing new debt at a lower interest rate to pay off older, more expensive debt.
- The primary goal is to save the district (and its taxpayers) money on interest payments.
- We have two bond series which are callable (eligible for refunding) right now.
 - U/L Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2015 (2-15-25 call)
 - U/L Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2016 (2-15-26 call)
- Refunding bonds affects the **I&S side of the tax rate**.
- When a district successfully refunds a bond for a lower rate, it reduces the amount of tax revenue needed to pay off the debt.
- This can lead to a lower I&S tax rate or allow the district to pay off its debt years earlier than planned.
- By refunding/refinancing these bonds, this will be a savings to taxpayers of over \$760,000

Resolution Declining to Adopt a Period of Prayer and Reading of the Bible or Other Religious Text: APPROVED

BELTON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION DECLINING TO ADOPT A POLICY RELATING TO A PERIOD OF PRAYER AND READING OF THE BIBLE OR OTHER RELIGIOUS TEXT:

WHEREAS, the 89th Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill No. 11 (the "Bill"), relating to a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other

religious text in public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Bill requires the Board of Trustees to take a record vote on whether to adopt a policy requiring every campus of Belton Independent School District to provide a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text as provided by Texas Education Code § 25.0823; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes that existing state and federal law already protects students' rights to religious expression and these rights are established in BISD Board Policy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Belton Independent School District that:

1. The Board of Trustees adopts the foregoing recitals as findings of fact.
2. The Board of Trustees declines to adopt the policy described in Texas Education Code § 25.0823 relating to a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED on the 23 day of February, 2026, by the Board of Trustees of Belton Independent School District.

Current Policy & Practice

- The 89th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 11, which requires that each school board in Texas take a record vote within six months of the effective date of the act, on whether to adopt a resolution regarding a period of prayer and reading of religious text during the school day in accordance with Texas Education Code § 25.0823.
- FNA(LEGAL) already in place states: *A public school student has an absolute right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt the instructional or other activities of the school. A student shall not be required or coerced to engage in or refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.*
- Students are able to read their Bible, other religious texts, and/or pray before school, after school, and during non-instructional times during the school day.
- Students currently are involved in activities such as:

- See You at the Pole
- Good News Clubs
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Young Life
- Reading the Bible during lunch and/or non-instructional time

Requirements of New Policy if Adopted by the Board:

- Requires a signed consent form from parents and staff
- Must occur outside of instructional time
- Prayer and religious reading must not be done in the physical presence or hearing of someone who has not given consent

Recommendation & Rationale:

- Based on the criteria outlined in FNA(LEGAL) for a district if electing to adopt a local policy requiring a period of prayer and/or reading of the Bible, the recommendation would be not to adopt this into local policy.
- Legislative intent: Our understanding is that the intent of law makers was to ensure that students were not prevented from praying or reading the Bible.
- Implications of the local policy requirements: Makes it more restrictive for when, how, and where students can pray and/or read the Bible and other religious text.
- Current policy & procedures already protects students' rights to engage in prayer and reading of the Bible and a designated period/time would impact their ability to participate in current activities and practices.



Public Hearing - Regarding 2024-2025 Texas Academic Performance Report

[Download](#)

397.6 KB



Public Hearing - Regarding Accelerated Instruction Report PRES 022326.pdf

[Download](#)

573.0 KB

Consent Agenda Items

APPROVED

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. February 2, 2026 - Workshop Meeting
2. February 2, 2026 - Regular Meeting

B. Unaudited Financial Report for the Month Ending January 31, 2026

C. Gifts, Grants, and Bequests

D. Budget Amendment #5 for 2025-2026

E. Expenditures over \$50,000
1. KYA Services LLC for Playground Equipment at Pirtle Elementary
2. Jean's Restaurant Supply for Kitchen Equipment at Various Campuses

F. Supply, Equipment, and Service Bids

1. RFP #2512-575-405 Printing and Copying Services
2. RFP #2511-350-403 Custodial Supplies (Chemical and Non-Chemical)

G. Change Order #2 with CORE Construction for the Belton High School Additions and Renovations 2022 Bond Project

H. Acceptance and Close-out of the Belton High School Additions and Renovations 2022 Bond Project and Approval of Final Payment

I. Acceptance and Close-out of the District-Wide Access Control and Camera System Implementation 2022 Bond Project and Approval of Final Payment

J. Appointment of Election Judges, Alternate Judges and Early Voting Ballot Board for the Board of Trustees May 2, 2026 General Election for Two At-Large Positions

K. Application for Delay of Teacher Certification Requirements

L. Resolution Concerning Payments to District Employees During Emergency Closure Due to Inclement Weather and Reduction in Educator Required Days of Service

M. Local District Update - 2nd Reading

1. FNA(LOCAL) Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Expression

N. Policy Update 126 - 2nd Reading

1. CQB(LOCAL) Technology Resources: Cybersecurity
2. CQD(LOCAL) (ADD) Technology Resources: Artificial Intelligence
3. FO(LOCAL) Student Discipline
4. GKA(LOCAL) Community Relations: Conduct on School Premises

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

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



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Belton ISD Board of Trustees