

Belton Independent School District

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Board Workshop Meeting, March 30, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.

Dragon Room, 400 N. Wall Street, Belton TX, 76513

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer

Chris Flor

Rucker Preston

Brandon Bozon

Riley Beck

Erin Bass

Board Members Absent:

Jeff Norwood

1. Call to Order:

Manuel Alcozer, Board President, called the workshop meeting of the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 5:00 p.m., that the meeting had been duly called, noted Jeff Norwood was absent, and that notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

2. Public Comments:

None.

3. Board Workshop:

A. Educational Innovation

Dr. Malinda Golden, Superintendent, opened the session by explaining that the focus of the workshop was to explore "educational innovation." This topic heavily emerged as an "Opportunity" during a recent SWOT analysis conducted by the board and the strategic planning committee. Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, then led the discussion with the Board, indicating the overarching goal is to explore how to maintain Belton ISD as a "destination district" of choice that provides premier opportunities and future-ready experiences for students. This meeting was an exploratory discussion.

The Board broke into small groups to review and discuss several sample models of education, emphasizing that multiple pathways could be utilized in the future. They discussed creating campuses of choice, micro-school model, hybrid learning with flexible in-person and online learning. Board members then reviewed specific student profiles to see how innovative models could serve diverse populations currently in the Belton ISD system.

As the board brainstormed, they discussed several operational hurdles to include:

Funding: Questions were raised about how the district will afford specialized facilities or programs given recent budget constraints.

State Mandates and Testing: Members questioned how innovative models will ensure students are still adequately prepared for standardized testing, such as the STAAR test and EOCs.

Transportation: Providing equitable transportation to specialized programs (like the existing New Tech campus) or hybrid schedules is a major concern.

Extracurricular Activities: The Board stressed the importance of allowing students in specialized programs to maintain their "Belton Tiger" identity through participation in sports, band, and fine arts.

In conclusion, district leadership clarified that any future implementation of innovative models will start as small pilots, and that active research is underway. Members of leadership have been traveling across the state to observe successful innovative public school models.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, Board President

Erin Bass, Board Secretary