

Belton Independent School District

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Board Workshop Meeting, March 25, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.

Dragon Room, 400 N. Wall St. Belton, TX

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer

Jeff Norwood

Suzanne McDonald

Rucker Preston

Chris Flor

Janet Leigh

Board Members Absent:

Erin Bass

1. Call to Order:

Manuel Alcozer called the workshop meeting of the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 5:02 p.m. He stated that a quorum of Board Members was present, noting Mrs. Erin Bass was absent, that the meeting had been duly called, and that notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Public Comments:

None.

Board Workshop:

A. Goal 5 Update: Budget & Compensation Overview

Dr. Malinda Golden introduced Melissa Lafferty, Chief Financial Officer, and Todd Schiller, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, to provide an overview of the Budget Assumptions for the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Lafferty reviewed the budget planning calendar, noted that anticipated enrollment growth has slowed, and reviewed average daily attendance. Historical salary increases were reviewed along with preliminary and certified values processes. Ms. Lafferty shared the financial impact of the \$100K homestead exemption and the tax breaks for those aged 65 and older as a result of the 88th Legislative Session. The loss of other funding sources including School Health & Related Services (SHARS), retroactive back pay of taxes, and the shortfall on certified values was discussed. Data regarding the Belton ISD historical fund balance was provided to discuss the financial challenge of the 2011-2012 school year when the fund balance fell below 20% to 18%. For the 2023-2024 school year, Belton ISD could potentially realize a budget deficit of (\$11,928,993), leaving a 19% of fund balance.

Dr. Golden informed the Board on current strategies to generate revenue as well as ways to mitigate expenses with the least impact to students in the classroom,

including reducing campus and department budgets, increased class sizes, reducing positions through attrition, improving attendance and more.

Mr. Schiller gave an update on teacher market comparisons by area and region, confirming that Belton ISD remains competitive in the mid-range across districts. He provided local and area market comparisons for all other positions and informed the Board that the focus on paraprofessional positions over the last few years has helped with retention rates. Mr. Schiller reviewed historical salary increases, new position history, and provided 2024-2025 total budget impact with various salary projections and considering the current financial environment.

Dr. Golden provided a recap of the current strategies deployed to reduce current year and next year's budget and expressed gratitude to leaders across the District who are making these decisions for their campuses and departments.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, President

Erin Bass, Secretary