

Belton Independent School District

DRAFT Workshop Meeting Minutes

Board Workshop Meeting, July 20, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Chris Flor

Erin Bass

Rucker Preston

Brandon Bozon

Manuel Alcozer

Jeff Norwood

Board Members Absent:

Riley Beck

1. Call to Order:

Chris Flor, Board President, called the workshop meeting of the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 5:01 p.m., that the meeting had been duly called, Riley Beck was absent, and 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

Priority 1: Academic Progress Workshop

Ms. Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, alongside Executive Directors Ben Smith and Denise Sharp, presented preliminary STAAR and EOC data. Overall, the achievement and progress scores remained stable at 80 and 76 respectively, matching last year's performance.

Elementary and Middle School Data

Third-grade math performance was 4% lower than projected. Fourth-grade scores also saw a reduction, highlighting ongoing challenges for a cohort of students impacted by the pandemic in their foundational years. Seventh-grade math showed remarkable gains, primarily due to a structural change that required advanced students to take the seventh-grade test instead of the eighth-grade test.

Writing Assessment Concerns

The Board discussed significant concerns regarding the extended constructed response (writing) portion of the assessments. Statewide data revealed that 49% of all third graders in Texas received a score of zero. Furthermore, 77% of third graders across the state scored a four or below out of a possible ten points. The District suspects these low state averages are tied to recent changes involving AI scoring. In response, Belton ISD has submitted nearly 100 writing samples to the state for human rescoring. Despite these statewide challenges, Belton students exceeded region and state writing averages in every grade level except fourth and seventh.

High School Performance

High school End of Course (EOC) exams demonstrated strong results, outperforming both region and state averages. The District saw double-digit gains in English 1 and Biology. Additionally, the District met its College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) targets and anticipates a 98% graduation rate.

Closing the Gaps

Persistent performance gaps remain a primary concern for Special Education, Economically Disadvantaged, and Emergent Bilingual student populations. Leadership emphasized the need for focus on monitoring data down to the individual student level for these specific groups.

Strategic Responses and Leadership Framework

Campus administrators are utilizing the Effective Schools Framework to conduct root cause analyses. Moving forward, the District will prioritize strong leadership planning, high-quality feedback loops, and enhanced Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). The District is also rolling out Bluebonnet Math for K-5 students, supported by bi-weekly administrative walkthroughs to monitor implementation.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Chris Flor, Board President

Rucker Preston, Board Secretary