

Belton Independent School District

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Board Workshop Meeting, August 17, 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

Riley Beck

Board Members Absent:

1. Call to Order:

Chris Flor, Board President, called the workshop meeting of the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 5:00 p.m. He stated that a quorum of Board Members was present, that the meeting had been duly called, noting that he was joining the meeting remotely, 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. Priority 4: 2026-2027 Proposed Budget & Tax Rate

Ms. Melissa Lafferty, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the general fund 2025-2026 original budget, final amended budget, the estimated actual budget, along with the 2026-2027 proposed budget. Ms. Lafferty highlighted a projected surplus for the previous fiscal year, which bolstered the district's financial reserves to 23%. Key priorities in the new proposal include a 1.5% staff salary increase and nearly \$1.8 million dedicated to special education positions. The board also reviewed a lower total tax rate compared to previous years, noting that property values remained stagnant and the district avoided a tax increase. Additional discussions covered mandatory accelerated instruction funding, debt service management, and the school nutrition program's strategy for handling its fund balance. Through collaborative planning, the district successfully moved from past fiscal concerns to a stable financial position while addressing essential facility and instructional needs.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Chris Flor, Board President

Rucker Preston, Board Secretary