

Belton Independent School District

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Board Workshop Meeting, January 27, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer
Chris Flor
Erin Bass
Janet Leigh
Suzanne McDonald
Jeff Norwood
Rucker Preston

Board Members Absent:

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, noting Mr. Manuel Alcozer and Mr. Rucker Preston 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. 2025-2026 Budget Workshop:

Dr. Malinda Golden led the conversation on budget, telling the story of the history of Belton ISD fund balance, identifying the milestones and legislative changes within each year that most greatly impacted fund balance. She then reviewed inflation costs that have the greatest impact on Belton ISD's current budget to include special programs, transportation, underfunded prekindergarten, and inflated liability and insurance costs, thus significantly impacting the Districts purchasing power.

Dr. Golden reminded the Board about the budget reductions within the 2023-2024 budget and reviewed that process. Melissa Lafferty, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed basic allotment, Belton ISD's current financial state should there be no additional funding to the basic allotment, as well as projections if there is any increase to the Basic Allotment from the 89th Legislative Session.

Dr. Michael Morgan informed the Board of the purpose of the Budget Advisory Committee and their evaluation process when prioritizing budget reductions. Dr. Golden then shared the final list of ranked reductions, and phase I, II and III reduction recommendations that will be implemented over the course of the year, considering the implications of the Legislative Session.

Chris Flor stressed that the lack of funding anticipated from this Legislative Session will result in the implementation of the phased reduction approach.

Dr. Golden wrapped up the meeting by sharing with the Board an extensive list of student and staff accomplishments, and reminded them that exceptional learning experiences will continue to happen in our schools, regardless of the financial environment.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, Board President

Erin Bass, Secretary