

Belton Independent School District

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Board Workshop Meeting, June 16, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Chris Flor

Riley Beck

Rucker Preston

Jeff Norwood

Brandon Bozon

Board Members Absent:

Manuel Alcozer

Erin Bass

1. Call to Order:

Chris Flor, Board Vice President, called the workshop meeting of the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 5:01 p.m., noted that Manuel Alcozer and Erin Bass were absent, that the meeting had been duly called 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:

3.A. Legislative Update

Christine Parks, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on the 89th Legislative Session. Ms. Parks reviewed the District's Legislative Priorities and spoke about the advocacy efforts at the Capitol and with local legislators. She informed the Board that over 1500 bills related to education were submitted, and of those, approximately 148 passed through legislation and provided the Board a list of bills that impact public education overall, as well as those few that directly impact and connect to the District's Legislative Priorities. She also provided a general overview of the additional funding resulting from the 89th legislative session which remains inadequate. Dr. Golden spoke to the nuances in funding and, while grateful for what will be received, stated that the District will continue advocacy work to ensure legislators understand the needs of the District. Ms. Parks shared next steps through policy revisions, budget templates, and pending TEA guidance. See report.

3.B. Budget & Compensation

Dr. Golden reviewed the Board budget reductions over the last year, Phase I reductions from the Budget Advisory Committee for the 2024-2025 school year, and additional reductions that continue into the 2025-2026 budget, totalling a reduction of approximately \$12,423,658. Of that amount, \$5,585,836 is for the 2025-2026 school year.

Melissa Lafferty, Chief Financial Officer, spoke to House Bill 2 funding. Belton ISD will receive nearly \$3.5 million specifically for teachers.

HB2 Funding Estimates

Classroom teachers \$3,486,719

- \$2,500 for teachers with 3 & 4 years of experience
- \$5,000 for teachers with 5 or more years of experience

Other funding for salary increases \$482,242 (excludes admin)

- Approximately a 1% increase for all other staff (excluding teachers with 3 or + years)

Ms. Lafferty reviewed budget assumptions that include HB2 funding for Basic Allotment, along with the District's budget reductions, resulting in a deficit budget of potentially over \$2 million dollars.

Todd Schiller, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, informed the Board that insurance premiums are increasing by about 13% overall. The cost impact to the employee is no less than 20% and up to 170%, indicative of doubling and tripling insurance premiums, therefore, negating a 1% salary increase. Dr. Golden added that due to lack of funding to meet the increased cost of living, paired with increased insurance premiums, many staff will realize a reduction in pay. See report.

Dr. Golden concluded the conversation by thanking the Budget Advisory Committee as well as District leaders for their work in reducing the Budget, and Melissa and Todd for putting together options for consideration.

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

Chris Flor, Board Vice President

Erin Bass, Board Secretary