

Belton Independent School District

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Board Workshop Meeting, February 2, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer

Chris Flor

Rucker Preston

Jeff Norwood

Brandon Bozon

Riley Beck

Erin Bass

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 5:01 p.m., 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.

2. Public Comments:

Jose Martinez - Reductions, Librarians

3. Board Workshop:

A. 2025-2026 Budget Workshop

Dr. Malinda Golden, Superintendent, reviewed the financial landscape, noting that while the 2025-2026 budget was balanced thanks to approximately \$2.1 million in one-time disaster pennies following May 2024 storms, the District faces a projected deficit for the 2026-2027 school year as that revenue expires and costs for insurance and utilities rise. Officials highlighted that achieving long-term priorities—such as increasing capital project funding and maintaining competitive compensation—would require significant reductions.

To bridge this gap, the administration presented "Phase 3" reductions estimated to save \$4 million by adhering to staffing guidelines and redesigning instructional support models, ensuring that all impacted staff will still have positions within the District.

Gabi, Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, discussed the proposed changes include moving to shared instructional coaches at the elementary level and using Core Content Lead Teachers at secondary campuses, as well as replacing standalone elementary interventionists with teacher leader stipends to facilitate Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. Furthermore, Library Services will transition to an "Innovation Specialist" model, where staff will serve Gifted and Talented students and provide literacy and STEM experiences, thereby making these positions eligible for the Teacher Incentive Allotment and state-funded raises.

Melissa Lafferty, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the 2026-2027 reduction financials reflecting the incorporation of the structural changes.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, Board President

Erin Bass, Board Secretary