

Belton Independent School District

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Board Workshop Meeting, December 15, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer	Brandon Bozon
Chris Flor	Riley Beck
Rucker Preston	Erin Bass

Board Members Absent:

Jeff Norwood

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 Jeff Norwood's absence, 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. Academic Progress Report: Advanced Academics

Dr. Golden introduced the session's focus: supporting the District's vision to empower every learner to pursue their dreams. She introduced Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, to facilitate the discussion on career readiness and the growing partnership with Temple College.

Ms. Nino led the board in a "walk and talk" activity centered on posters illustrating various career pathways, including aerospace, medical, and engineering. She challenged the board to imagine a bold news headline five years in the future about a student who achieved remarkable success due to their experiences in Belton ISD. Board members suggested headlines featuring graduates as assistant DAs, successful chefs on the Food Network, or CEOs of innovative drone businesses.

Ms. Nino went on to provide an academic update through the lens of College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR), performance data and growth, and advising strategy and resource discussion. Board Member Chris Flor noted the financial benefits of earning an associate degree in high school, potentially allowing students to graduate from a university at age 20. Nino acknowledged that improved advising was a key strategy to help families navigating complex options.

Dr. Golden introduced Dr. Christy Ponce from Temple College, and expressed the District's goal for every student to have the opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree. Dr. Ponce highlighted that Belton ISD already has the highest dual enrollment participation in the region and the largest number of students in the TBI program. She also discussed a new "university center" on the Temple College campus where students can earn bachelor's and master's degrees locally at a low cost.

Board Member Riley Beck raised concerns regarding financial barriers for AP exams and tuition. Nino explained several cost mitigation strategies.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to provide ongoing updates on the partnership's strategic progress.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, Board President

Erin Bass, Board Secretary