

Belton Independent School District

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Board Workshop Meeting, November 18, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer

Chris Flor

Rucker Preston

Janet Leigh

Suzanne McDonald

Board Members Absent:

Jeff Norwood

Erin Bass

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, noting Ms. Erin Bass & Mr. Jeff Norwood were 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. Board Workshop:

A. Goal 2 Update: Special Education

Dr. Malinda Golden introduced Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Sara Windham, Executive Director of Special Programs, and Kathlene Corsi, Director of Special Programs, who gave an update on Goal 2 with a focus on Special Education. Ms. Corsi led the conversation on the total number of students served by Special Programs. Growth from year to year is steady, around 200 students, equating to over 1000 students over the last 5 years. The highest growing learning disability is Specific Learning Disability, and the second fastest growing is Autism. Ms. Corsi explained that a change in law moved students with dyslexia under Special Education effective May of 2025, and out from under 504 accommodations. Current Belton ISD students with dyslexia are being evaluated and, should they continue to qualify for services, will be served under special education and no longer under 504 accommodations.

Ms. Windham informed the Board on areas of focus that include: inclusive practices, integrated systems of support, aligned tools and resources, and professional learning. Ms. Corsi reviewed a continuum of services and shared examples of nuanced student learning, leading to the development of modified services that meet specific student needs. Ms. Nino reviewed reading and math cohort data that compared the end of the year to the beginning of the year Renaissance scores and spoke to nuances in the data.

Ms. Nino went on to explain the Special Education Allotment from 2019 to 2025. Since 2020, the state required expenditures have exceeded the state allotment and this gap continues to grow. For the 2023-2024 school year alone, the difference is nearly \$6 million dollars that the District is obligated to cover due to the gap in the state allotment. Dr. Golden expressed that this is the

purpose behind the BISD Legislative Priorities and the state appropriately funding Special Education.

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

Manuel Alcozer, President

Erin Bass, Secretary