

Called Meeting - Budget Workshop
Thursday, February 26, 2026 6:00 PM Central

Meeting Room
960 E. Commerce Street
Fairfield, TX 75840

J. Kevin Benedict: Present
Eric Chavers: Present
Ashlee Daniel: Present
John Fryer: Present
Penny Meredith: Present
Kim Whitaker: Present
Jeff Wright: Present
Present: 7.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Benedict called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

1.a. Announce Quorum

A quorum was present. All members were present.

1.b. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wright gave the invocation and led the pledges.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mr. Craig, along with Sharon Gibson, business manager, and Lisa Tate, director of human resources, went through the preliminary budget numbers for the 2026-27 school year based on preliminary values that have been released by the Freestone County Tax Appraisal District, along with our estimated student enrollment, which again looks to decline slightly based on recent trends. Overall, the district looks at another deficit budget for the 2026-27 school year. There was preliminary discussion about the costs associated with operating four campuses, when student enrollment would lean more towards a three campus model. However, there are some essential programmatic needs that would be needed from a facility standpoint in order to make this work effectively. There was also discussion on different strategies to increase our student enrollment numbers by using some CTE collaborations with surrounding districts, something that is encouraged and incentivized by the Texas Education Agency.

4. ADJOURN

Adjourned: 7:59 PM

J. Kevin Benedict, Board President

Kim Whitaker, Board Secretary