



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Isidoro Nieto, President
Dr. Richard Rivera, Vice President
Andrew Gonzalez, Secretary
Erasmus Lopez
Patrick Kennedy
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez
Armando Cuellar

*Dr. Priscilla Canales,
Superintendent of Schools*



956-969-6503 319 W. Fourth Street / P.O. Box 266, Weslaco, TX 78599-0266

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:
Place:
Recording Location:
Date
Time:

Special Board Meeting
Virtual Meeting
319 W. Fourth Street
July 28, 2020
12:05 P.M.

Notice for this meeting was posted online for at least 72 hours as permitted by the suspended portions of the Texas Open Meetings Act as approved by Governor Abbott. The meeting was livestreamed at the following web link: <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/c09d6b9a-dc31-43a9-94b3-338c40292ef6>

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order by Isidoro Nieto, Board President.
- II. A quorum was established. The following board members participated in the meeting by video conference through the use of Google Meets.

Isidoro Nieto, President
Andrew Gonzalez, Secretary
Armando Cuellar, Trustee
Patrick B. Kennedy, Trustee
Erasmus Lopez, Trustee

*Dr. Jaime Rodriguez joined the meeting at 12:26 p.m.
Dr. Richard Rivera was absent.*

III. Public Comments

The public was provided an opportunity to sign up to address the Board through the use of Google Meets and telephone transmission.

No one signed up to address the Board.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Purchase of Technology Equipment, Supplies and Other Items for Online Learning

Superintendent Dr. Canales informed the Board that the 2020-2021 school year would begin with remote instruction. As per orders from the County and City, there will be no campus instruction until after September 27, 2020.

Administrators, C&I staff and technology department staff have been conducting surveys, evaluating student needs, and procuring technology equipment, supplies and other items necessary to prepare the students and teachers for online learning for the 2020-2021 school year. Based on input received from committee members and administrative staff, the Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the purchases for the technology equipment, supplies, and other items for online learning as listed below.

Vendor	Quantity	Item Description	Unit Price	Total Cost	Procurement Type
1. Seesaw	2550	Seesaw Online Platform (PK-K)	\$ 4.95	\$ 12,622.50	Small Purchase
2. Learning A to Z	115	RAZ +Online Reading (1-2 nd)	\$ 184.75	\$ 21,246.25	Sole Source
3. M&A	17,000	Thinkwrite TW-120 Student Headsets w/Mic	\$ 15.25	\$ 259,250.00	Buyboard Cooperative
4. M&A	400	Cyber Acoustic 5008 Teacher Headsets w/Mic	\$ 16.75	\$ 6,700.00	Buyboard Cooperative
5. M&A	10,000	Logitech B100 Student Mice	\$ 5.75	\$ 57,500.00	Buyboard Cooperative
6. Dell (DIR)	150	Teacher Laptops	\$ 673.00	\$ 100,950.00	State of Texas DIR
7. Strictly	20	HP – 2-in-1 14” Touch-Screen Chromebook Teacher Touch Screen Chromebook	\$ 699.50	\$ 13,990.00	TIPS Cooperative
8. M&A	400	Aver U70+Document Camera	\$ 199.95	\$ 79,980.00	Buyboard Cooperative
9. Amplified IT	600	Google Voice for Secondary	\$ 118.95	\$ 71,340.00	Sole Distributor/Reseller
10. Region I ESC	1200	Zoom Video Conferencing Licenses	\$ 15.50	\$ 18,600.00	State Approved
TOTAL				\$ 642,178.75	

Mr. Kennedy wanted to know which budget would be used for this purchase. According to Mr. Andres Sanchez, the funds will be transferred from function 11 (payroll) to cover the cost. Funds from the fund balance will not be used.

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve the purchases for technology equipment, supplies and other items for Online Learning as recommended. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion.

A lengthy discussion was held on the items recommended for purchase. Below are questions and comments made by the Board.

Questions/Comments from the Board:

- Andrew Gonzalez wanted to know if this purchase was part of a Technology Grant?
 - Staff did not include these items through the state grant because those items are expected to arrive until October or November.
 - Staff will purchase these items as soon as possible to ensure that the items are received prior to the start of the new school year.

Mr. Gonzalez asked staff to try to obtain as many grants as possible even if some items are expected to arrive after the school year begins.
- Patrick Kennedy asked if the items ordered through sole source were in order.
 - Legal counsel replied that everything is in order as long as the vendor provides a sole source letter/information to the administration.
 - Mr. Sanchez confirmed that a sole source letter was provided to the district and is on file.
- Armando Cuellar wanted to know if the items were going to arrive prior to the start of the school year.
 - Most of the items should arrive by August, but there is a possibility that an item could arrive after the start of the school year.
- Erasmo Lopez wanted to know if the teachers and principals had input on the items being recommended?
 - Dr. Canales shared that meetings were held with the Teaching/Learning Continuum Committee as well as technology staff to determine the needs for students and staff. Recommendations on the kind of equipment/devices and resources necessary were based on input received by staff. These resources will allow district staff to start the school year strong in providing the best education to WISD students. Staff will continue to research new technology resources for future purchases, if needed.

Mr. Abel Aguilar confirmed that meetings were held with the committee members and staff to determine the needs of students and staff. They wanted to ensure that all devices/equipment and connectivity is ready for all students and staff by day one of the new school year.

➤Will the products (devices/equipment) being purchased be distributed equally to all elementary, middle, and high school campuses?

As per Mr. Aguilar, principals and staff are currently working to identify families that are in need of devices. Campuses already have some devices on site to begin the distribution process. However, as the new products come in, staff will distribute devices accordingly and equitable to all families and campuses.
- Mr. Lopez asked Mr. Andres Sanchez to provide information to the Board on the amount of federal monies TEA will be providing to school districts to aid with technology resources due to the COVID-19 crisis.

➤ Mr. Nieto wanted to know if the district was in line with the number of hotspots available to students/parents who did not have internet access in the spring, and if the district was providing more than one device to families who had more children.

•Staff is following up with parents to make sure all students have internet access. ECHS and WEHS already have their hotspots and an additional 1000 hotspots were secured for the district. In addition, the district obtained 700 more hotspots from the Sprint grant.

•Campuses are working with families to provide devices on a one-to-one basis. For example, a family of three will receive a device for each child.

•Mr. Lopez asked the Technology Director to try to provide a contact number where students can call and speak to someone to assist with technical issues.

›According to Carlos Martinez, Technology Director, students can call 956-969-6956 through the end of this week between the hours of 7:30 to 6:00 p.m. and from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. starting on Monday, August 3. Students who need to swap equipment will need to go through their campus.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Patrick Kennedy and seconded by Andrew Gonzalez to approve the purchases for technology equipment, supplies and other items for Online Learning as recommended.

Mr. Lopez commented later in the meeting that technology resources should be distributed per student and not by campus, because there are some campuses that have more students.

A separate agenda was posted on Monday, July 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to address emergency agenda items at this meeting due to unforeseeable damage caused by Hurricane Hanna - Texas Government Code §551.045.

A. Superintendent's Report: Impact of Hurricane Hanna

Superintendent Dr. Canales presented a report on the damages caused by Hurricane Hanna.

›In preparing for the storm, staff was proactive by placing sandbags and cleaning out the gutters at the campuses and facilities.

›Staff moved the buses to higher ground so there was no damage to the fleet.

›Staff worked hard to clear the water from inside the buildings.

The following facilities and campuses incurred damages:

DISTRICT FACILITIES IMPACTED

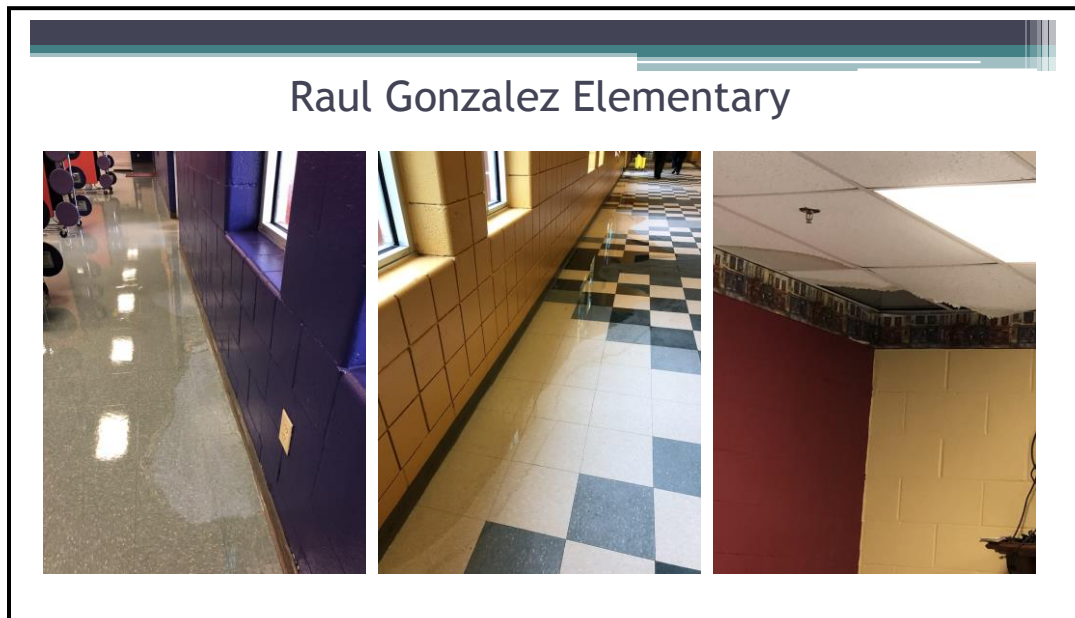
The following facilities incurred damages due to Hurricane Hanna:

- Rudy Silva Elementary School
- Raul Gonzalez Elementary School
- Maintenance Department
- KWES Department
- Ceiling Tile Damages in Most of the Schools and Some Departments

RUDY & SILVA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- >Water entered the campuses of Rudy Silva and Gonzalez Elementary. The buildings were surrounded by water.
- >Ceiling tiles at Gonzalez were dampened with water and need to be replaced.
- >The city and county assisted the district in pumping the water out from these locations.

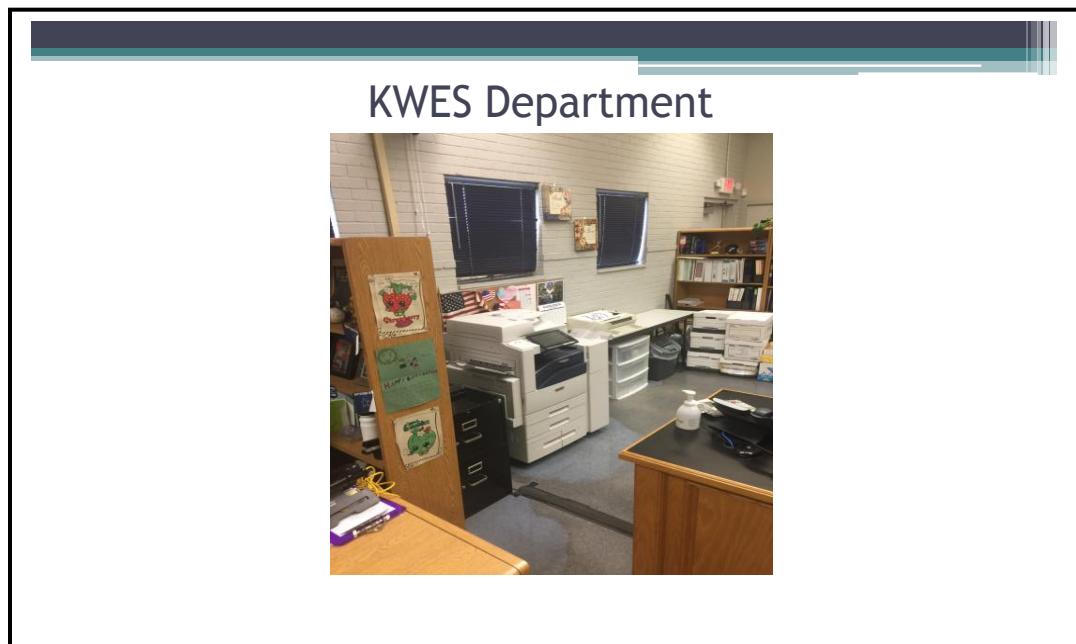
Andrew Gonzalez suggested that the district make water retention ponds by the playground areas at these campuses in order to alleviate flooding to school and neighborhoods in the future.



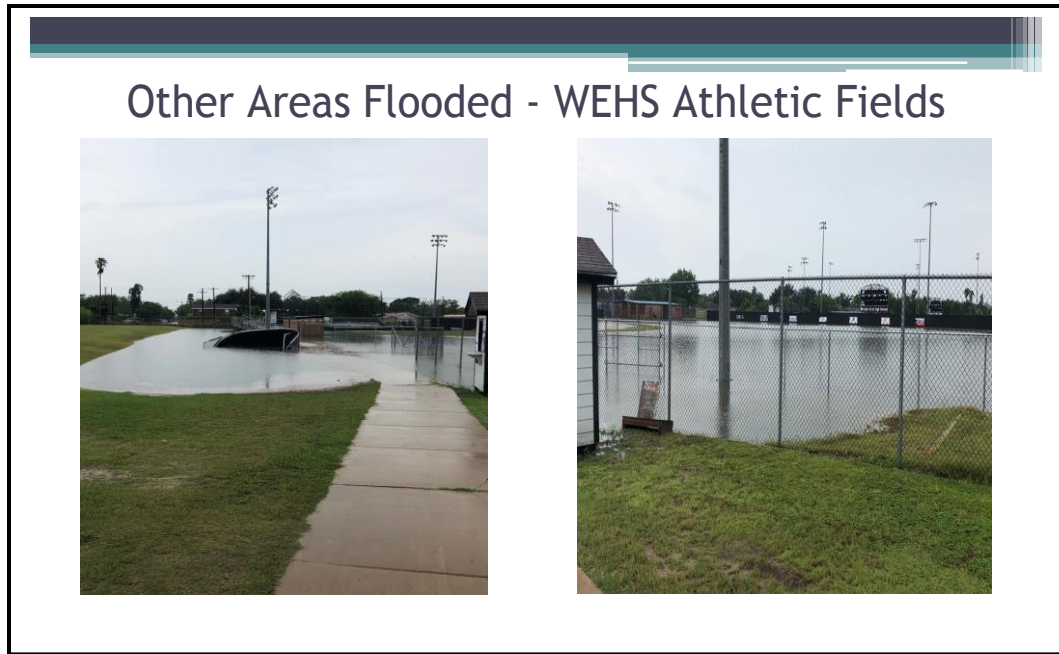
>Ceiling tiles at the Maintenance Department were saturated.



>Water entered the building at the KWES Department.

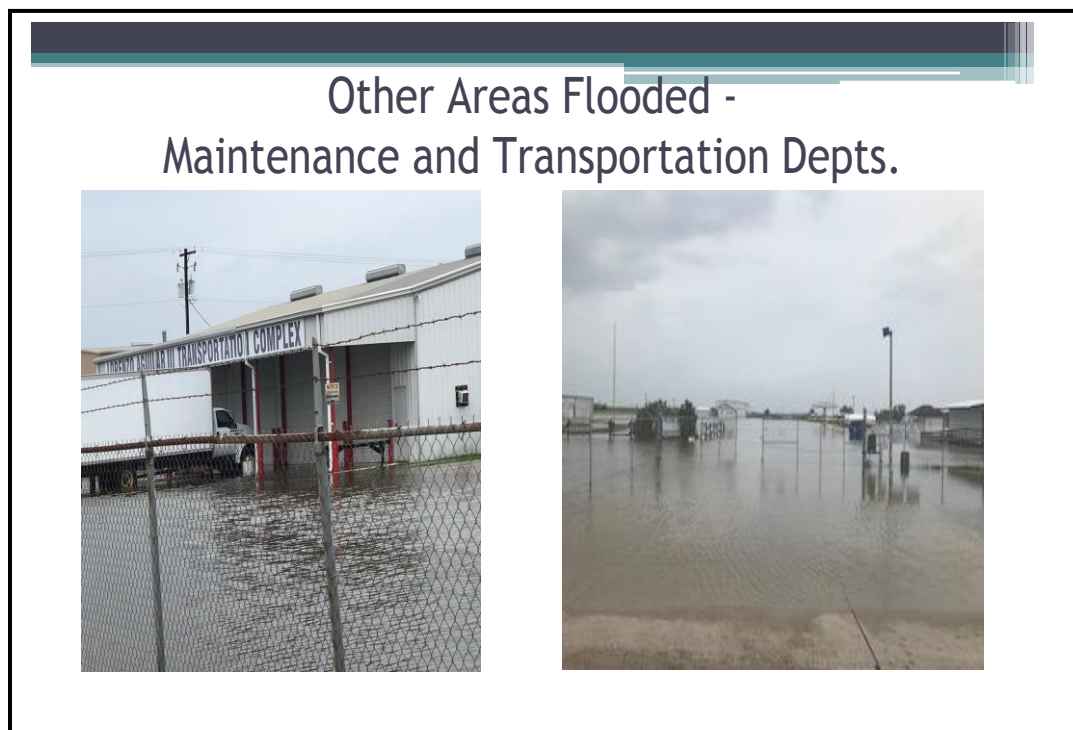


>The pictures below show other areas that were flooded:

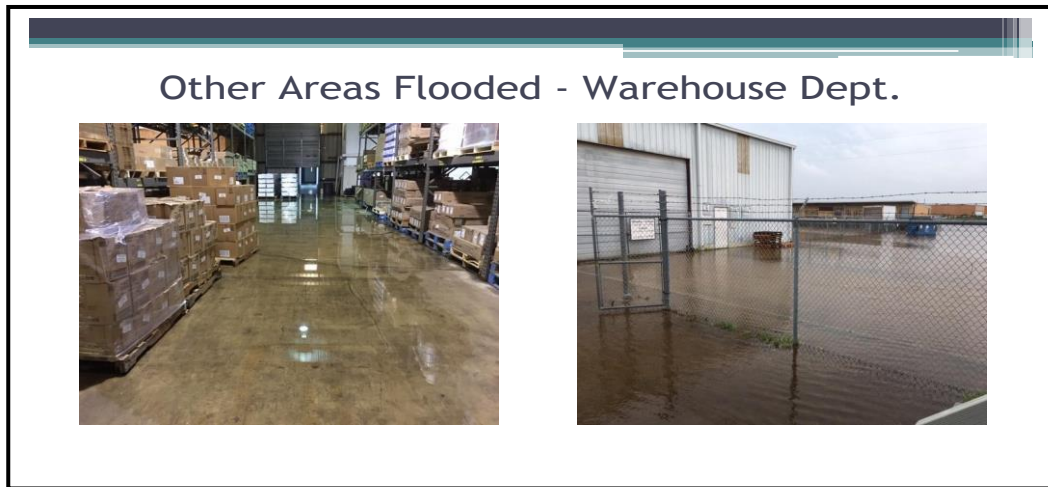


Mr. Nieto asked if the baseball field sustained any damage to the fence due to the wind or rain. Mr. Oscar Riojas replied that he did not notice any damage to the fences at the fields.

> The Maintenance and Transportation areas are prone to flooding so staff moved the busses to higher ground.



- > The Warehouse Department is also prone to flooding.
- > Staff was proactive in placing equipment and supplies on pallets.
- > The building was surrounded by water.



Mr. Kennedy thanked Dr. Canales for keeping the board members informed throughout the storm and acknowledged staff for all their efforts. He asked staff to keep the Board informed on what the insurance company would cover for damages sustained to facilities and schools.

Mr. Gonzalez asked staff to verify if any of the new facilities had water leaks that could be construction related as oppose to wind related. Since the buildings are new, they should not have any roof leaks and therefore staff would need to address any issues now to avoid additional problems down the road. He thanked Dr. Canales and her staff for their work and for keeping them informed during the hurricane.

Mr. Lopez requested a list of all the buildings that incurred damage to their roofs. Dr. Canales replied that the principals visited their campuses on Sunday to access the damages. Administrative staff will continue to assess damages and provide information and pictures to the Board via the weekly update.

Mr. Cuellar shared that during his employment with the district his campus would always have roof leaks. He wanted to know what the district was proposing to do to put an end to re-occurring leaks at some of these campuses. He mentioned if staff was being proactive in rearranging furniture, etc. in buildings that have existing leaks to prevent them from damage and avoid having to replace any furniture or equipment.

Board President Isidoro Nieto responded that from previous experience as a principal, campus staff is aware of reoccurring leaks and therefore are proactive by moving furniture around and/or placing trashcans to prevent water damage to furniture and equipment. He also mentioned that the district would have more time to work on the roofs since the students will return to school until September.

Dr. Canales commented that the district has been addressing roof leaks for several years because there are some buildings that continue to have roof leaks every time there are heavy rains. Staff will meet to discuss the list of priorities which includes campuses and facilities most in need of roof repairs, and to determine what needs to be done to fix the roofs. The list was compiled by the Facilities Committee several years ago.

Oscar Riojas informed the Board that staff is aware of the buildings that have constant water leaks. Staff is looking into the leaks and trying to determine the cause of the water leaks at these buildings. The district is currently in the process of revamping the roofs at Memorial, North Bridge, and the Transition Center because they constantly have water leaks. The next buildings on the list are Cleckler-Heald, Rico, and Central Office.

Mr. Lopez asked staff to provide information on the water leaks to the architect who is currently under contract working with the roofs, in order to keep him informed of the problems.

Mr. Gonzalez suggested that staff wait to repair the leaks until the roofs are completely dry and there is no more heavy rains in the forecast to avoid having to repair the leaks again.

B. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve and/or Ratify Procurement of Materials, Labor and Other Services as Needed for the Immediate Repair of Weslaco Independent School District Facilities and/or Equipment Damaged as a Result of Hurricane Hanna in Weslaco, Texas on or about July 25 and 26, 2020, and Ensuing Thereafter, under the Authority of Texas Education Code Section 44.031(h)

As a result of the heavy rains caused by Hurricane Hanna on July 25 and 26, 2020, the district incurred damage to buildings and equipment, etc. Notice was provided to the District's property insurance carrier and remediation efforts are underway.

The District will need to repair facilities, repair or replace equipment, and perhaps other items that have not been detected. Due to this emergency situation, WISD will procure goods and services needed without following the normal procurement methods prescribed by law.

Listed below are some of the facilities and equipment damaged and services needed:

>Ceiling tiles district-wide

>Dehumidification of facilities at Rudy Silva Elementary School, Raul Gonzalez Elementary School, and the KWES Department

>Dehumidification and repairs at the Maintenance Department

Therefore, the Superintendent recommended that the Board approve and ratify procurement of materials, labor and other services as needed for the immediate repairs of the Weslaco ISD facilities and/or equipment damaged as a result of Hurricane Hanna on July 25 and 26, 2020, and ensuring thereafter, under the Authority of Texas Education Code Section 44.031(h).

Mr. Lopez wanted to know the extent of repairs the Board was going to approve since there was an architect and contractor currently working on the roofs. He wanted clarification on whether approval of this item would allow the district to hire a contractor to reroof a school or to approve a patch job.

According to Dr. Canales, there are some repairs that could be taken care of internally, but there may be some repairs that could require the services of others beyond the school district. Administration will keep the Board informed of any items that will require work externally and the anticipated cost of all the repairs.

Legal Counsel Ivan Perez informed the Board that the item beforehand was to approve any bids or quotes received or any work that has been initiated. He informed Mr. Lopez that his inquiries would be addressed on the next item to be discussed.

Erasmus Lopez made the motion to approve and ratify procurement of materials, labor and other services as needed for the immediate repairs of the Weslaco ISD facilities and/or equipment damaged as a result of Hurricane Hanna on July 25 and 26, 2020, and ensuring thereafter, under the Authority of Texas Education Code Section 44.031(h). Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- C. Discussion and Possible Action to Delegate to the Superintendent the Authority to Contract for the Replacement, Construction or Repair of School Equipment or Facilities as a Result of Hurricane Hanna which Require Emergency Replacement Construction or Repair Necessary for the Health and Safety of District Students and Staff as Permitted by Texas Education Code 44.0312(c)

As a result of the heavy rains caused by Hurricane Hanna on July 25 and 26, 2020, the district incurred damage to buildings and equipment, etc. Staff mobilized immediately after the hurricane to assess the damage caused and the District started remediation efforts.

The District will need to repair facilities, repair or replace equipment, and perhaps other items that have not been detected. Due to the emergency situation, WISD will procure goods and services needed without following the normal procurement methods prescribed by law.

Approval of the delegation to the Superintendent of the authority to contract for the replacement, construction or repair of school equipment or facilities will eliminate the need to call special board meetings later on for approve of such contracts/awards.

Questions/Comments made by the Board:

>Patrick Kennedy: Is there a limit on the amount?

- As per legal counsel, the Board has the discretion to set a limit if desired. It is up to the Board on how they want to delegate this responsibility.

>Erasmus Lopez: Recommended that the Board approve 100% of any repair needed to protect the investment of taxpayers and for the administration to bring back, for board action, any new construction for the replacement of an entire roof for proper bidding procedures.

Mr. Lopez made the motion to approve the Superintendent to make any expense needed to repair any of the school buildings to maintain the safety of our property and protect the investment of our taxpayers as needed, and to bring back to the Board for board approval any roof work that requires a big expense. Armando Cuellar seconded the motion.

>Dr. Jaime Rodriguez wanted to know if some of the repairs would be done in-house?

- Oscar Riojas replied that the district has a great group of skilled employees that are able to do some of the work, such as replacing ceiling tiles, etc. At this time, he does not foresee any major demolition or rebuilding. Most of the work will involve removal of moisture from the buildings. The Maintenance Department received a considerable amount of water that came in through the roof and will require more work such as: new ceiling, carpet, grid, drywall, insulation, and shingles. Silva and Gonzalez Elementary will require some type of remediation.

➤Erasmus Lopez wanted to know if the district had notified the insurance company of the remediation work?

•As per Oscar Riojas, Mr. Mike De La Rosa contacted the remediation carrier immediately and they were on site on Monday conducting a walk-thru of the facilities to assess the damage. According to Mr. Riojas and Mr. De La Rosa, the damage sustained by this storm was minimal compared to the damages incurred by the 2018 floods. They feel the district was very fortunate.

The Board President reminded the Board that an emergency meeting could be called in case they need to approve a major expense.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Erasmus Lopez and seconded by Armando Cuellar to approve the Superintendent to make any expense needed to repair any of the school buildings and to maintain the safety of our property and protect the investment of our taxpayers as needed, and any roof work that requires a big expense needs to be brought back to the board for approval.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Purchase of Technology Equipment, Supplies and Other Items for Online Learning

The Board revisited Item IV at the request of Erasmus Lopez.

Mr. Lopez commented that technology resources should be distributed per student and not by campus, because some campuses have more students.

V. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 12:51 p.m. to discuss the following items:

A. Personnel Matters (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074)

1. Employment of Personnel
2. Resignations
3. Deliberation Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074 and 551.071)

B. Deliberation Regarding Acquisition of Real Property (Tx. Gov't Code 551.072)

C. Consultation with Attorney Regarding: a) Pending or Contemplated Litigation: b) a Settlement Offer: or c) a Matter in Which the Duty of the Attorney to the Weslaco ISD under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas Clearly Conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Tex. Gov't. Code 551.071)

1. Discussion Regarding Legal Issues in Connection with COVID 19 and Planning for 2020-2021 School Year

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez left the meeting at 1:27 p.m. and Patrick Kennedy left the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

VI. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to Open Meeting at 2:30 p.m. to take action on the following items discussed in closed meeting:

A. Personnel Matters (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074)

1. Employment of Personnel

Non-action item.

2. Resignations

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the resignations/retirements of certified professional personnel as discussed in closed meeting.

Name	Position/Location	Reason/Effective Date
1. Cassandra Bautista	3 rd Grade Teacher Cleckler-Heald Elementary School	Ms. Bautista is relocating to Atlanta, Georgia due to her husband's promotion, effective July 8, 2020.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the resignations/retirements as discussed in closed meeting. Erasmo Lopez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Deliberation Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074 and 551.071)

Non-action item.

B. Deliberation Regarding Acquisition of Real Property (Tx. Gov't Code 551.072)

Non-action item.

C. Consultation with Attorney Regarding: a) Pending or Contemplated Litigation: b) a Settlement Offer: or c) a Matter in Which the Duty of the Attorney to the Weslaco ISD under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas Clearly Conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Tex. Gov't. Code 551.071)

2. Discussion Regarding Legal Issues in Connection with COVID 19 and Planning for 2020-2021 School Year

Non-action item.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.