MINUTES

SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE

BOARD OF REGENTS

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HELD IN

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

September 27, 2017

(Approved October 19, 2017)
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CONVENE

Chairman Charles W. Schwartz convened a special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System at 10:03 a.m., Wednesday, September 27, 2017, in the Board of Regents Meeting Room, on the campus of Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Chairman Schwartz said the purpose of this meeting was for consideration and action on two items as shown in the agenda materials and posted with the Secretary of State.

The following members of the Board were present by telephone:

- Mr. Charles W. Schwartz, Chairman
- Ms. Elaine Mendoza, Vice Chairman
- Mr. Phil Adams
- Mr. Robert L. Albritton
- Mr. Anthony G. Buzbee
- Mr. Morris E. Foster
- Mr. Tim Leach
- Mr. Bill Mahomes
- Mr. Clifton L. Thomas, Jr.
- Mr. Stephen Shuchart (Student Regent)

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Schwartz announced that a quorum of the Board was present and said that the Board would recess to executive session to consider matters as permitted by Chapter 551, Sections 71 and 74 of the Texas Government Code, including Item 1. He said that in accordance with the law, no final action, decision, or vote with regard to any matter considered in the executive session would be made or taken.

(Note: The Board met in executive session from 10:05 a.m. until 10:31 a.m.)

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Chairman Schwartz reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:32 a.m. and announced that the Board had met in executive session from 10:05 a.m. until 10:31 a.m., and conferred with Chancellor Sharp, administration and System attorneys on legal matters, including Item 1.
Chairman Schwartz presented Item 1. He then called for a motion to adopt Item 1. Regent Adams moved for adoption of the minute order contained in Item 1. Regent Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Schwartz asked if there was any discussion. There being none, Chairman Schwartz called each regent’s name to properly record their vote. The record of the vote is as follows: Adams – yes, Albritton – yes, Buzbee – yes, Foster – yes, Leach – yes, Mahomes – yes, Mendoza – yes, Thomas – yes, and Chairman Schwartz voted “yes.”

The following minute order was approved (169).

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MINUTE ORDER 169-2017

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE APPROXIMATELY 5.520 ACRES OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED IN HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, is authorized to negotiate, execute and deliver all documents, and to take all other action necessary, to purchase approximately 5.520 acres of land, together with improvements located at 1020 Holcombe Boulevard, Houston, Texas, being all of Ten Twenty Holcombe Boulevard, a subdivision in Houston, Texas according to the map or plat thereof recorded under Film Code No. 550292 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas at a sales price not to exceed $62M, plus applicable closing costs. The form of the purchase contract and the documents of conveyance must be approved for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel. The amount of $62M plus applicable closing costs is appropriated from Account No. 01-084243, Permanent University Fund Debt Proceeds.

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System reasonably expects to incur debt in one or more obligations for this project, and all or a portion of the proceeds received from the sale of such obligations is reasonably expected to be used to reimburse the account(s) for amounts previously appropriated and/or expended from such account(s).

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Chairman Schwartz presented Item 2. He said the recent storm (Hurricane Harvey) was one of the most devastating storms in Texas history, flooding over 80,000 homes with rain up to 40 inches falling in certain areas. Chairman Schwartz said the storm was so massive that FEMA activated all of its teams throughout the United States to assist Texas. He said they were extremely proud of the System’s role in response to Hurricane Harvey. Chairman Schwartz said that Texas Task Force 1 and its supporting partners, the Texas A&M Texas Forest Service, the Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, countless faculty, students and friends, had provided lifesaving services to the state. On September 7, 2017, Governor Greg Abbott appointed Chancellor John Sharp as Commissioner of the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas. The governor, pursuant to the authority granted him under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code, also authorized The Texas A&M
University System, its member universities and agencies and its employees, to participate in and support the work of the Commission. He said that the governor’s call to duty was consistent with the unique service mission of the Texas A&M System and will expedite the state and local recovery, as well as the rebuilding of public facilities and infrastructure so critical to the Texas economy and the well-being of our state’s citizens.

Chairman Schwartz called for a motion to adopt Item 2. Vice Chairman Mendoza moved for adoption of the minute order contained in Item 2. Regent Adams seconded the motion. Chairman Schwartz asked if there was any discussion. There being none, Chairman Schwartz called each regent’s name to properly record their vote. The record of the vote is as follows: Adams – yes, Albritton – yes, Buzbee – yes, Foster – yes, Leach – yes, Mahomes – yes, Mendoza – yes, Thomas – yes, and Chairman Schwartz voted “yes.”

The following resolution was approved (170).

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MINUTE ORDER 170-2017

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM’S SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNOR’S COMMISSION TO REBUILD TEXAS, BOARD OF REGENTS, THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Whereas, Hurricane Harvey reached the Texas coast on August 25, 2017 and caused tremendous damage and destruction along the Coastal Bend, throughout Southeast Texas and also in Central Texas; and

Whereas, Hurricane Harvey has resulted in the tragic loss of many lives and property damage that is still being assessed but will clearly cost tens of billions of dollars to repair and remediate; and

Whereas, the swift repair and restoration of the public infrastructure – roads, bridges, schools, utility structures and systems and government buildings – devastated by Hurricane Harvey is of critical importance to the Texas economy and the people of Texas; and

Whereas, Governor Abbott recognizes the importance of effective leadership at the state level to assist local governments in the recovery and rebuilding effort, and has appointed Chancellor John Sharp to serve as the Commissioner of the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas; and

Whereas, Governor Abbott also authorized The Texas A&M University System, its member universities and agencies, and its employees, to participate in and support the work of the Commission; and

Whereas, Governor Abbott took the just-described actions by Proclamation dated September 7, 2017, pursuant to the authority granted him under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code; and
Whereas, Chapter 85 of the Texas Education Code vests the authority for the governance and administration of The Texas A&M University System in this Board of Regents; and

Whereas, it is appropriate for this Board to formally endorse the Governor’s appointment of Chancellor Sharp and similarly authorize the employees of The Texas A&M University System to support the work of the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System supports and endorses Governor Abbott’s appointment of Chancellor Sharp to serve as Commissioner of the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas; and, be it, further

Resolved, that the Board of Regents authorizes the universities, agencies and employees of The Texas A&M University System to participate in and support the work of the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas, and finds that this participation and support is entirely consistent with the unique service mission of our universities and agencies; and, be it, further

Resolved, that the Board of Regents finds that the activities of the Chancellor and the A&M System in support of the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas will benefit the state of Texas by applying the technical, operational and extension expertise of The Texas A&M University System in a manner that will expedite the state and local recovery and rebuilding of public facilities and infrastructure in the region affected by Hurricane Harvey; and, be it, further

Resolved, that this resolution be included in the minutes, with official copies thereof signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System.

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ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, on motion of Regent Mahomes, Chairman Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Vickie Burt Spillers
Executive Director, Board of Regents