

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON CONTRACT AWARD ON  
SOCIAL STUDIES MATERIALS  
FOR TWELVE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

Background Information:

On behalf of the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, the Purchasing Department is requesting approval to award a contract to Nystrom, Herff Jones Education, 3333 Elston Avenue, Chicago Illinois, in the amount of \$195,161.00 for Social Studies Department maps, atlases, and support materials for twelve secondary schools.

Discussion:

Curriculum revisions for the Grade 9 American Government course include a greater emphasis on visual learning and interactive activities. Materials from the Nystrom Company were reviewed by twelve teachers of the curriculum team, under the direction of Mr. George Toepfer, Supervisor of Social Studies, and have been integrated into the revised curriculum documents.

Additionally, the Office of Social Studies purchased a Nystrom map and atlas package for Grades 7 and 8 designed to support the revised curriculum in 2006. The high school counterpart courses in World History and United States History, Grades 10 and 11, will be reviewed in the next curriculum cycle, which will allow the Nystrom map and atlas package to be infused into these grade levels. These materials have been reviewed by high school teachers and provide a solid transition as students study World History and United States History in high school.

Copyright material is not a competitively bid commodity. Pricing is established by the publisher and materials are sold to all schools at the same cost per item. In this case, Nystrom has offered free on-line support materials and professional development to assist teachers as they integrate these instructional materials. The materials will be shipped to a central location rather than on a school-by-school basis, allowing HCPS to realize additional savings.

Funding for this purchase will be from the central office textbook account of the 2008-2009 operating budget.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the award of the contract in the amount of \$195,161.00 to Nystrom, Herff Jones Education for high school maps, atlases, and support materials for twelve secondary schools.