

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON PURCHASE FOR TEXTBOOKS
FOR RED PUMP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 13, 2010

Background Information:

On behalf of the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, the Purchasing Department is requesting approval to award a contract to Harcourt School Publishers, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL, 32887, in the amount of \$134,265.02, which includes shipping, for reading/language arts textbooks and related instructional materials for Red Pump Elementary School grades 1-5.

Discussion:

The 2008 Houghton-Harcourt *Storytown*, is being purchased for Red Pump Elementary to support the county-wide reading and language arts program. The program reflects current best practices for teaching and assessing reading and writing and is in alignment with the federal guidelines of No Child Left Behind. Teacher support materials and a variety of differentiated student materials provide for the needs of various learning styles. *Storytown* was placed on the Maryland State Department Approved list in August 2008.

A committee reviewed the program that is being recommended and found that the curriculum is in alignment with the existing Grade 1-5 reading/language arts curriculum, and the State Curriculum. Since this is the current program being used in all of the elementary schools in Harford County, it is important to supply teachers and students at Red Pump Elementary with access to the same materials.

Copyright material is not a competitively bid commodity and pricing is established by the publisher; hence, materials are sold to schools at the same cost per book.

Additionally, the Houghton-Harcourt School Publishers have offered a reduced shipping cost, as well as the following complimentary materials for each teacher at Red Pump Elementary:

- teacher's edition
- audio text collection
- big book collection
- sound spelling cards
- read aloud anthology edition

- picture card collection
- story re-telling cards
- decodable book collection
- graphic organizer charts
- reading and language arts transparencies
- instructional routine cards
- teacher resource books
- benchmark assessment booklets and teacher edition
- library books collection
- leveled readers collection
- content literacy leveled readers for science and social studies

The total market value of the complimentary material is \$197,114.65. Funding for this purchase is from Capital Project Funds for Red Pump Elementary School.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the award of the contract in the amount of \$134,265.02 to Harcourt School Publishers.