

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON AWARD FOR SOCIAL STUDIES TEXTBOOKS
FOR THIRTY TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

AUGUST 6, 2007

Background Information:

On behalf of the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, the Purchasing Department is requesting approval to award a contract to Gibbs Smith Publishers, PO Box 667, Layton, Utah, 84041, in the amount of \$122,388.00, plus shipping, for support of the Grade Four: A Study of Maryland curriculum through the purchase of Social Studies textbooks and support materials for Thirty-Two elementary schools.

Discussion:

Textbooks in support of the Grade Four curriculum that are currently in use span several publishers, are ten years or more of age, and do not support the Voluntary State Curriculum for Grade Four Social Studies. As a result of increased enrollment over the past decade, some schools currently cannot assign a common textbook to each student as well.

The textbook review committee consisted of eight Grade Four teachers under the direction of Mr. George Toepfer, Supervisor of Social Studies. Textbooks were reviewed from three publishers with the package from Gibbs Smith being selected.

The textbook review committee examined the books for readability, alignment to national, state, and local standards, historical accuracy, support of diversity of viewpoints, and support for all learners. The committee was unanimous in their choice of the Gibbs Smith program.

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 book. In this case, Gibbs Smith has offered the Teacher Support package for free.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the award of the contract in the amount of \$122,388.00, plus shipping, to Gibbs Smith Publishers for Grade 4 textbooks for thirty two schools.