

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON CONTRACT AWARD FOR TEXTBOOKS
FOR THE ELEMENTARY READING/LANGUAGE ARTS PROGRAM 1-5

NOVEMBER 10, 2008

Background Information:

On behalf of the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, the Purchasing Department is requesting approval to award a contract to Houghton-Harcourt School Publishers, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL, 32887, in the amount of \$1,487,724.52, including shipping, for reading/language arts textbooks and related instructional materials for the Grades 1-5 Integrated Language Arts program in all elementary schools.

Discussion:

The current program, adopted county wide over 7 years ago, is now out of print. Materials can no longer be ordered to meet the increased needs to replace worn out books and materials. A newer version of the current program, the 2008 Houghton-Harcourt *Storytown*, is being purchased to replace the out-of-date program. The updated 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 Voluntary State Curriculum.

Copyright material is not a competitively bid commodity and pricing is established by the publisher; hence, materials are sold to all 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:

- 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

The total market value of the complimentary material is \$3,855,075.73.

The cost proposal stipulates a purchase and delivery date by December 31, 2008, based on the current catalog prices and shipping expenses.

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

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the award of the contract in the amount of \$1,487,724.52 to Houghton-Harcourt School Publishers.