

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

**DECISION ON A CONTRACT FOR CONTRACTUAL SPEECH LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGIST SERVICES**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Background Information:

On behalf of the Department of Special Education, the Purchasing Department is requesting approval of a contract for two (2) full time contractual Speech Language Pathologists from Pediatric Development Services, located at 12520 Prosperity Drive, #210, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20904, in the amount of \$171,292.50.

It is anticipated that this vendor may be utilized again if they are able to provide resources when additional Special Education services are required. For any single procurement exceeding \$100,000, board approval will be requested.

Discussion:

Federal and State laws and regulations require school systems provide various types of services for Students with Disabilities (SWD) and the Infant and Toddlers (IFT) program to support the educational needs as set forth in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). These services include, but are not limited to, speech language pathology. The full-time speech language pathologists will be utilized to cover the increased caseload/workload in a virtual capacity to ensure all virtual/hybrid sessions are being met, during the 2020-2021 school year. Currently, at the state and local levels, a shortage of speech language pathologists exists.

Due to the shortage of speech language pathologists, and the inability to hire through the current contracted suppliers, the services provided by this vendor are considered a single source.

The funding source for these services is the Special Education restricted funds budget.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the contract to Pediatric Development Services in the amount of \$171,292.50.