

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT
DECISION ON A CONTRACT FOR AN INTERNET CIRCUIT

MARCH 22, 2021

Background Information:

On behalf of the Office of Technology, the Purchasing Department is requesting approval of a contract award to Cogent Communications, located at 2450 N. St. NW., Washington, DC 20037, in the amount of \$150,388 to provide an additional 10GB internet circuit.

Discussion:

Harford County Public Schools has reached critical bandwidth utilization with the current circuit. An additional 10GB circuit is required to accommodate the increase of bandwidth consumed by students utilizing video conferencing within our school buildings. Students inside our school buildings are using video conferencing so students at home can hear and collaborate. The current circuit was not designed for the bandwidth demand of the hybrid learning environment. The second circuit will also serve as a second pathway to the Internet should the existing circuit fail under a cyber security attack.

This contract has a one-time installation fee of \$2,500 and a monthly fee of \$4,108 for thirty-six (36) months.

The contract vehicle used for this purchase is the contract established with Cogent Communications in 2019, which was competitively solicited through the Universal Service Administration Company's (USAC) eRate purchasing program.

The funding source for this contract is the Office of Technology's Operating Budget.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education accept the recommendation made by the Purchasing Department and approve the contract with Cogent Communications in the amount of \$150,388. The initial Cogent contract is effective through May 31, 2022 with the option to renew for an additional three (3) years.