

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON CONTRACT AWARD FOR ELEMENTARY READING PROGRAM

MAY 10, 2021

Background Information:

The Purchasing Department, on behalf of the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, is requesting approval to award a contract to Heinemann Publishers, a division of Greenwood Publishing Group, LLC, P.O. Box 6926, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03802, in the amount of \$197,890.97.

Discussion:

The Units of Study in Reading and *Units of Study in Phonics* program was reviewed and selected by the Elementary Reading Ad-Hoc Committee and approved in June 2019 by the General Curriculum Committee. The decision to approve and implement a new program was based on the need to replace the Harcourt *StoryTown* program that was published in 2004.

The *Units of Study* program is aligned to Maryland College and Career Ready Standards and incorporates research-based opportunities for reading aloud, shared reading, small group reading and independent reading of text. The phonics program provides a systematic sequence of foundational reading skills and supports direct teaching of letter-sound relationships and sight words. This program not only provides students with rich text experiences and direct instruction in skills and strategies but is also a program that is founded on the belief of providing teachers with rich professional development and growth as teachers of reading.

For the 2020-2021 school year, sixteen (16) elementary schools implemented the new program. This purchase will provide the *Units of Study* resources to the remaining eighteen (18) elementary schools and will allow for a consistent elementary reading program across the district.

Copyright materials are not a competitively bid commodity and pricing is established by the publisher.

Funding for this purchase is the FY21 Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment'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 award the contract to Heinemann Publishers, a division of Greenwood Publishing Group, LLC, in the amount of \$197,890.97.