

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON CONTRACT FOR CLASSROOM LIBRARIES

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Background Information:

The Procurement Department, on behalf of the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, is requesting approval of a contract to Book Source Publishers, located at 1230 Macklind Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63110, in the amount of \$265,526.16.

Discussion:

The HCPS Comprehensive English Language Arts (ELA) Program provides students the time and opportunity to independently read text. The Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment is requesting the purchase of additional classroom library books for K-5 teachers to have as additional resources and to provide students increased access to a variety of fiction and nonfiction books. Research supports the claim that rich classroom libraries have a positive impact on student reading achievement and benefit students in building a reading habit. According to the National Council of Teachers of English, "Classroom libraries—physical or virtual—play a key role in providing access to books and promoting literacy; they have the potential to increase student motivation, engagement, and achievement and help students become critical thinkers, analytical readers, and informed citizens."

The basis for the pricing is via piggybacking a contract established by Prince William County Public Schools (Virginia), RFP# R-KS-178008.

The funding sources for this purchase will be as follows: \$169,531.70 from the Transitional Supplemental Instruction Grant and \$95,994.46 from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Grant.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the contract to Book Source Publishers, in the amount of \$265,526.16.

This contract is effective through January 31, 2024.