

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON

SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS FOR LIBRARY SERVICES

AUGUST 4, 2008

Background Information:

The Purchasing Department on behalf of the Supervisor of Library Services is requesting a decision by the Board to award a contract to Gale Cengage Learning (formerly Thompson Learning) 27500 Drake Road Farmington Hills, MI 48331 in the amount of \$111,178.00 for annual software subscription site license renewals for middle and high schools, various resource centers, a business and county research center and a testing and education reference center.

Discussion:

Library media instruction is an essential part of students' K-12 educational experience. The rapid change in communication technology requires quality library media programs with a wide variety of resources which enable students to access, evaluate, interpret, and apply information from electronic materials. In an effective program, students' experiences with information move away from learning traditional library media location skills taught in isolation. Students learn information literacy skills that are embedded into the curriculum. Each of the databases has been used in one way or another by every subject area in our school system. These databases are proprietary and only available from Gale Cengage Learning. The FY 09 Library Instructional Budget is the funding source to be used.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve a contract award to Gale Cengage Learning for software subscription site license renewals.