

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

**DECISION ON AWARD OF CONTRACT  
A/E SERVICES FOR ABINGDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
CENTRAL PLANT REPLACEMENT**

**November 15, 2021**

Background Information:

As part of the FY 2022 capital improvement budget request, the Board of Education of Harford County approved capital funding in the amount of two million, four hundred ninety-four thousand dollars (\$2,494,000.00), as required, to fund the Central Plant Replacement at Abingdon Elementary School. This project is State and locally funded. The project requires engineering, design, and construction administration services to develop construction documents that are needed to obtain pricing for construction services to replace/upgrade the existing central plant. The work includes, but is not limited to, replacing the existing 200-ton water cooled chiller, cooling tower, 100-ton air cooled chiller, dual fuel-fired boilers, domestic water heater, related pumps and piping accessories, and upgrading the central plant building automation controls. The two (2) underground fuel oil storage tanks will be removed, and the new equipment will operate utilizing natural gas. The project will expand the mechanical courtyard for the installation of the replacement air cooled chiller.

The project will support our current sustainability initiatives from the early design phases through the construction of the project, and we will pursue any eligible BGE rebates.

Discussion:

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Engineering/Architectural Design Services was issued by Harford County Public Schools' (HCPS) facilities department. In response to this RFQ, eight (8) firms submitted responses that were evaluated by a selection committee that considered team qualifications, experience, workload, references, and a price proposal.

As the result of this process, the committee has selected the engineering firm of Gipe Associates, Inc. to provide the services required to successfully complete the Central Plant Replacement at Abingdon Elementary School. Gipe Associates has successfully performed professional engineering/design services for HCPS at Youth's Benefit Elementary School, Havre de Grace Middle/High School, Fallston Middle School Chiller Replacement, and North Bend Elementary School Central Plant and Fire Alarm Replacement.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve a contract for the above-described professional design services for the Central Plant Replacement project at Abingdon Elementary School, in the amount of \$119,500.00 to Gipe Associates, Inc.