



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 13

DATE OF MEETING: May 2, 2016

REQUESTED BY: Michael Y. Taylor, Public Library Director

SHORT TITLE: Approval of a Purchase Order to Hatch Early Learning, Inc. for the Purchase of Early Literacy Children's Computers: \$15,740.

BACKGROUND: This purchase would primarily be funded by additional State Aid to Public Library funds through a budget ordinance amendment approved by the Board of County Commissioners on April 4. We now specifically propose to purchase six 'turn-key' computers, three for each library, designed for pre-K and early elementary children and preloaded with dozens educational programs that teach early learning skills in entertaining ways.

For about the last 18 years, the library owned 8 computers with early literacy software purchased with Smart Start funds in the late 1990's. The computers were in line with our goals of supporting early childhood literacy in Pender County. The aged computers were replaced 7-8 years ago, but the specialized pre-K learning software was retained and migrated to the new hardware. All but three of these 2nd generation computers have now been taken out of service and the remaining three are on their last legs. The 1990's software is also way out-of-date and is not compatible to new operating systems.

We only found two companies that offered a turn-key product for this age group with both hardware and software designed for small children. Hatch Early Learning offered the more economical product, and we believe the hardware is more durable than the more proposal of the more expensive vendor. These also include size appropriate chairs and workstations for pre-K age children. We feel confident about the choice as is the same company we purchased our original pre-K computers in the late 1990's that served us so many years.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider approving a purchase order to Hatch Early Learning, Inc. for \$15,740. Funds are for this purchase are budgeted. This purchase order to Hatch Early Learning, Inc. is requested for approval from:

Library Line Item 630-407200 (Other Equipment)