

# CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

159 THORNDIKE STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141

18-59



March 20, 2018

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

CONTRACT AWARD: Instructional Materials

RECOMMENDATION: That the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for instructional materials; funds to be provided from the General Fund. Procurement procedures for this contract have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

| <u>Contractor</u>                                                      | <u>Period of Contract</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| TCI Brings Learning Alive<br>P.O. Box 1327<br>Rancho Cordova, CA 95741 | 4/2/18 – 6/30/18          | \$50,000.00   |

DESCRIPTION: This contract is for Bring Science Alive Curriculum materials for Grade 3.

SUPPORTING DATA: RULES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Chapter III, Section 12..."motions calling for the appropriation or expenditure of money shall require the affirmative vote of four members."

## BUDGET REFERENCES:

|          |        |                                                    |
|----------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|
| ACCOUNT: | 55103  | Instructional Materials                            |
| FUND:    | 15000  | General Fund                                       |
| ORG:     | 868820 | Curriculum & Instruction/Curriculum Implementation |
| PROJ:    |        |                                                    |

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Kenneth N. Salim, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: TCI! Brings Learning Alive

**Purpose:** Science Curriculum Materials

**Amount of Contract:** \$50,000

### Description/Scope of Services:

The Cambridge Public Schools is putting forth the next purchase of the elementary science program, Bring Science Alive! published by TCI. The science department entered into a district curriculum review cycle in 2013. Teachers have developed a curricular framework aligned to new MA standards and then sought out a product that could be used to address the understandings, knowledge, and essential questions that students need to know. TCI presented this resource to teachers across grades and schools during the 2014-2015 school year. Teachers expressed great excitement about the tool and the curriculum development teams were impressed by how well the program aligned to the curricular framework developed. During the 2015-2016 school year teachers in grades 1 and 4 pioneered the instructional materials purchased from TCI! and worked alongside district staff to align the tool to our curricular documents.

TCI's Bring Science Alive is a unique program for a number of reasons. First, it was developed alongside the national creation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and therefore is more closely aligned than other products. Unlike most science programs that are modular in nature (FOSS, Insights, STC, and Delta for example), Bring Science Alive! is a program that spirals from K-5 allowing content to develop and carefully build on prior units. Most science curricular tools are modular and therefore can be used in any order. Although this is convenient from a publishing standpoint, it means that the units can assume no prior knowledge and therefore cannot build on each other. Bring Science Alive! does the opposite of that, it carefully builds so that students have a cohesive experience – content and practices build across each year horizontally and vertically throughout elementary school. Another unique feature of its programmatic approach is that student texts are aligned to Common Core Lexile expectations. As students progress across a grade the complexity of the texts increase. The digital platform for content delivery allows teachers to access up to the date publishing changes without the district purchasing new teacher's guides.

The 2016-2017 purchase of approximately \$200,000 rolled out materials in grades 1 and 4 district wide.

The three-year roll out plan is as follows:

|       | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| JrK/K |           |           | Science   |
| 1     | Science   |           |           |
| 2     |           | Science   |           |
| 3     |           |           | Science   |
| 4     | Science   |           |           |
| 5     |           | Science   |           |

Throughout the pioneering process teachers have provided feedback on the tool. Through the curriculum review process the science department will continue to evaluate the effect of our new instructional materials in meeting the expectations outlined in our curriculum, which was developed by teachers through a collaborative process. Data from performance assessments will be reviewed with teachers to ensure that the curriculum and instructional materials are aligned.