





NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

TO: John Hopson Jr. President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent 
Dsv

THROUGH: Tracy Mulvenon, Assistant Superintendent

FROM: Qagguna Tenna Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Education 
Tennessee Judkins

DATE: April 8, 2025

SUBJECT: **Contracts under \$50,000 -
Partnow Consulting (Pat Partnow)**

Memo No: SB25-178
(Informational Item)

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3311, Bids: The district shall purchase equipment, supplies and services on a competitive bidding basis when required by law and whenever it appears to be in the best interest of the district to do so. All bids under federal awards must be made in accordance with the standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.320.

BP 3312, Contracts: The Superintendent or designee may enter into contracts and memoranda of agreement on behalf of the district. All contracts and memorandums of agreement with a dollar value of \$50,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Goal 5: Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, & physically safe learning environments

Issue Summary:

Partnow Consulting has been a longstanding partner of the district in developing culturally grounded, place-based curriculum rooted in the Iñupiaq Learning Framework. For FY26, this partnership will focus on three key priorities: reviewing and helping write Teacher Guides for the new Iñupiaq Early Reader Series, completing the spiraling North Slope Governance units for grades K–5, and developing asynchronous versions of the *North Slope History and Culture* and *North Slope Government* courses under the Reclaiming, Revitalizing, and Reimagining (RRR) initiatives.

These efforts build on two decades of collaboration that have produced over 300 cultural-based units, local course offerings, and professional development aligned with culturally responsive instruction. With expertise in Understanding by Design and deep cultural knowledge, Pat Partnow's continued support ensures the development of high-quality, locally relevant materials that reflect the history, governance, and traditions of the North Slope region—strengthening the district's commitment to culturally responsive education.

**Background:**

Partnow Consulting is owned and operated by Patricia (Pat) Partnow. Pat has worked with the District and the Iñupiaq Education Department since 2003 and was a contractor this past school year supporting the work and initiatives in the Iñupiaq Education Department. She has helped with the planning and development of the Iñupiaq Learning Framework, has supported the work within Project Mapkuq, has written, published, and created materials, books, and resources for our cultural-based unit kits, and has offered expertise in various content areas in curriculum development. Pat has an all-encompassed understanding and appreciation for the Iñupiaq culture due to her experience with her work in our communities and with our district. She understands the depth of knowledge and multifaceted complexity when it comes to our culture, history, language and traditions.

Length of Contract:

The length of the contract would be July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

This contract would come out of the Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical budget Account Code: 100.200.120.000.410, in the amount of and not to exceed \$43,400.

Compliance with BP 3311:

For compliance, this contract is exempt from the requirements in BP 3311 as listed under B. Curriculum, instruction, and staff development experts selected for her unique expertise. C. Educational Professional Services and A. Instructional materials.

Recommendation:

This memo is informational only and no action is required.

