




NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Robyn Burke, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Chief School Administrator 

THROUGH: MJ Geiser, Assistant Superintendent

FROM: Tennessee D. Judkins, Director of Iñupiaq Education

DATE: May 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Contracts over \$10,000 – Catherine Noland

Memo No: SB23-196
(Action Item)

NSBSD Strategic Plan Goal:

1.0 Student Success: All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Iñupiaq knowledge systems into the core content areas and focusing on the development of the Whole Child.

4.0 Financial & Operational Stewardship: Effectively employ our operational and financial resources to support our strategic goals and long-term stability of the district.

4.2 Financial Stewardship: Ensure financial management based on what is best for our students.

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3312, Contracts: All contracts and MOA's \$10,000 or greater require Board approval.

Issue Summary:

Catherine Noland (Cathy Tagnak Rexford) is a local North Slope author who has family and kinship ties to Kaktovik, AK that was previously contracted to write, edit, and publish Crane Story I and II. For FY24, this contract includes creating an Early Reader Series which would provide 90 locally-contextual books to students at grades K through 3. This series, by grade, would include: 6 fiction and 12 non-fiction manuscripts for kindergarten; 15 fiction and 30 non-fiction manuscripts for 1st and 2nd Grade; and 9 fiction and 18 non-fiction manuscripts for 3rd Grade. Once completed, there would be accompanying teacher guides and implementation materials created for teacher access. The goal and objective is to create local, place-based, culturally relevant reading materials for students. In addition to the creation of the 90 books, Tagnak will be supporting 20% of her time to the Iñupiaq Education Department and the Superintendent's Office directly with technical writing for specific District communications and public relations needs.

Background:

In 2013, Crane Story 1 was written, edited, and published in collaboration with Cathy Tagnak Rexford and editor Jon Davis. Last year, Tagnak completed the second part, Crane Story 2. We are currently working on moving to print for student access in schools. Crane Story 1 & 2 chapter books used in language arts and written for a young adult reader also has a unit developed for it for teacher to access for implementation in their classroom.

Length of Contract:

May 15, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical budget (Account Code: 100.200.120.000.410) in the amount of and not to exceed \$102,870.00.

Compliance with BP 3311:

The District has worked with Tagnak (Cathy) Rexford over the years as a local North Slope Iñupiaq author and she has completed a previous book that was initially part of a language arts series which is titled Crane Story 1 and just this past year finished Crane Story 2. Now we want to move forward in providing locally authored books to our early readers in a local, placed-based, and culturally relevant context. In order for us to foster the success of our students, we need to uphold high quality, relatable materials for them to continually have access to. Although we can purchase materials and resources written and authored by people and companies elsewhere, we will not receive the same quality materials written by a local author that encompasses stories that are most relatable and understandable by our students of the NSBSD.

Grant Funding:

N/A

Available Budget:

100.200.120.000.410

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$10,000 and greater proposals and related contract for Catherine Noland in the amount not to exceed \$102,870, as described in this memo and related attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____