



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

TO: Nancy Rock, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Chief School Administrator

THROUGH: Dennis Neidermeyer, Interim Director of Finance

FROM: Reginald Santos, Acting Director of Information Technology

DATE: June 27, 2022

SUBJECT: **Contracts over \$10,000-Zix Email Security**

Memo No: SB22-231
(Action Item)

2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

- 1.0 STUDENT SUCCESS:** All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success by integrating Inupiaq knowledge systems into the core content areas and focusing on the Whole Child's development.
- 2.1 COMMUNICATION:** Advance ongoing 2-way communication, participation, and interaction within the school and between the school and community, building a bridge of trust.
- 4.0 FINANCIAL & OPERATIONAL STEWARDSHIP:** Effectively employ our operational and financial resources to support our strategic goals and the long-term stability of the district.
- 4.2 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** Ensure financial management based on what is best for our students.
- 4.5 TECHNOLOGY:** Leverage technology as a tool to facilitate learning, communication, and collaboration.

Issue Summary:

In accordance with applicable Board Policy, contracts and MOA's \$10,000 or greater require Board approval (BP 3312).

Background:

Zix is an enterprise email encryption, threat protection, and archiving solution. Zix helps organizations with productivity, **security**, and compliance. Zix protects communications by using proven policy filters. If emails contain sensitive information, they can be encrypted or quarantined automatically. Zix Email Threat Protection provides multilayered filtering that permits legitimate email while blocking malicious threats such as phishing, impersonation, malware, ransomware, and spam-type messages.

Attachment Quarantine performs forensic analysis on attachments in Zix's secure, cloud-based

sandbox environment. It can also deliver a disarmed version of files by removing macros or converting files to PDF.

Link Protection rewrites all links to safe versions and performs time-of-click analysis on the destination address. Based on testing, users are either automatically redirected to a secure site, provided a warning for suspicious sites, or blocked from potentially malicious sites.

Message Retraction (for Microsoft 365) enhances our incident response with the ability to retract malicious emails already delivered to users' inboxes. This minimizes risk by taking malicious emails out of our user's inboxes and quickening remediation. The system keeps a detailed audit trail.

NSBSD has been targeted multiple times by attackers who impersonate an NSBSD employee or administrators. Some employees lost a whole paycheck because of spoofing and phishing emails. We recommend further strengthening our email security using Zix.

Length of Contract:

The length of the contract commences on the date of execution of the agreement and ends on September 30, 2023.

Funding Source and Contract Amount:

The identified funding source is derived from the IT Department Other Purchased Services Account Code 100.200.355.000.440 in the amount of \$20,424.03.

Available Budget:

The available Budget for Information Technology Other Purchased Services Account Code 100.200.355.000.440 is \$160,368.32.

Grant Funding:

There are no grant funds associated with this contract.

Compliance with BP 3311:

In compliance with BP 3311, all purchases in the amount of \$20,000 or more shall be based, when possible, on three competitive bids. Two other bids were received from Sophos and Proofpoint, which provides the same services. After careful consideration, the District determined that Zix Email Security and Encryption offers the district better value and a lower cost.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$10,000 and greater contract with Zix Email Security in the amount of \$20,424.03 as described in this memo and related attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____