



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Robyn Burke, President  
Members of the Board

**THROUGH:** David Vadiveloo, Superintendent DSV

**FROM:** Blake Mikesell, Maintenance & Operations Director BM

**DATE:** October 19th, 2024

**SUBJECT:** **Staff Housing**

**Memo No. SB25-071**  
(Informational Item)

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**NSBSD Policy Manual:**

Board Policy 3300 Expenditures/Expending Authority: The Superintendent or designee may purchase supplies, materials, and equipment in accordance with the law. The Superintendent or designee shall not authorize any proposed expenditure that exceeds the major budget classification allowance against the expenditure is the proper charge unless an amount sufficient to cover the purchase is available in the budget for transfer.

BP 3310, Purchasing Procedures: The School Board desires to ensure the maximum value is received for money spent by the district and that records are kept in accordance with the law. The Superintendent or designee may issue and sign purchase orders.

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.

**NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:**

1.0 Family and Community Collaboration: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

6.0 Staff Support and Professional Development: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this district.

7.0 Financial & Operational Stewardship: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations.

**Issue Summary:**

Housing availability continues to be a significant issue and challenge for the communities of the North Slope. Housing district personnel not only has a direct impact on the housing stock available to the residents of our community but impacts the District's ability to recruit and retain staff, in particular, in villages with limited housing options available.

The District sees itself as a partner in the efforts to alleviate this stressor, not only for the communities but for our staff. As such, the district has commenced discussions with Iñisaġvik College





and the North Slope Borough about the possibility of a significant building apprenticeship program, utilizing the college and the HKB Training Center, offering student training and apprenticeship pathways. This is an initiative the District intends to pursue, however, in the short term such a program would take some time to establish and is unlikely to return the yield of housing stock that is urgently required.

To address this need, the Maintenance and Operations Department has researched numerous additional options locally in Alaska and in the lower 48 with the aim of identifying possible new housing options for the district such as kit homes, tiny homes, modular homes, and container homes.

In attempts to obtain pricing and estimates for kit homes, modular homes, tiny homes and container homes, it has become clear that many of the companies contacted cannot either guarantee that these homes would be up to an arctic standard in R-value insulation or self-containment. Further, it was not clear they would be able to deliver these homes in a timely manner, with most estimating two to three years out for a delivery.

One of the viable options that has presented itself to the district is container homes which may be able to provide housing that matches the needs of the district, including potentially meeting a delivery date of summer 2025. With a view to further strengthening our partnership with the NSB, the Administration have shared with the Mayor and his staff our interest in acquiring housing for our village sites. The proposal has been enthusiastically welcomed by the NSB and should a successful bidder be identified, the NSB is interested in joining the District in a partnership to realize this idea.

The budget implications of such a purchase have been discussed with the Mayor. Due to unexpected revenues from Federal Impact Aid at the end of the last financial year, the District is uniquely positioned to make these purchases which would not be considered possible under typical budgeted revenue conditions. Of consideration for the District is that fact that revenues from Impact Aid which are not expended by a District will result in a commensurate reduction in State funding.

It is the intent of the district to place an RFP for container home housing to run for between 15-30 days locally and Alaska wide.

**Proposed Motion:**

No motion is required. This is for informational purposes and to seek Board input on our intent to pursue a housing option for villages in the North Slope Borough School District.

**Signature:** *Ds Vadiveloo*  
Ds Vadiveloo (Oct 23, 2024 17:45 AKDT)

**Email:** david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

**Signature:** *Blake Mikesell*  
Blake Mikesell (Oct 23, 2024 16:10 AKDT)

**Email:** blake.mikesell@nsbsd.org

