



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/Superintendent

FROM: MJ Geiser, Director of Qatqiññaigvik & CTE

DATE: September 11, 2023

SUBJECT: **Contracts over \$10,000-
Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District**


Memo No: SB24-039
(Action Item)

2020-2025 NSBSD Strategic Plan

3.2 Homegrown Workforce: Support the systems that inspire, develop, and recruit local/homegrown teachers, administrators, and staff.

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 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 which 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 that 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 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 \$10,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

Issue Summary:

Hydroponics was previously introduced into our district through the Qatqiññaigvik program; however, cultural relevance and purpose was lacking and support did not continue. This MOA will introduce our students to Alaska agriculture and the contacts available in our state, while presenting the career opportunities, including the multifaceted Agriculture degree that can lead to being a CTE instructor.

Background:

Teaching agriculture to students and encouraging the conversations in their local communities with elders is a step to providing sustainable local agriculture. Working with state entities who are actively involved in growing local plants in hydroponic systems is a door to accessing the edible and medicinal tundra plants throughout the year. These two one-week in-person and 6 follow-up zoom sessions will provide students with Alaska knowledge of local plants that grow successfully through hydroponics. Working with the Education side of the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District will also provide contacts for the students' further growth in the field of hydroponics.

Throughout the school year, updates on the students' progress will be provided to the Board in the Qatqiññaigvik and CTE reports.

Length of Contract:

This contract will last through the 2023-2024 school year; providing two weeks of in-person instruction followed by a series of six zoom sessions to follow-up with the students and their interested on-site staff.

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

Two funding sources will be used for this contract:

379.200.160.000.450 for \$23,380 in supplies and

379.200.160.000.410 for \$24,862.99 in professional & technical.

Available Budget:

Current uncommitted balance:

379.200.160.000.450 is \$114,044.99

379.200.160.000.440 is \$252,377.00

Budget Line Transfer:

A budget line transfer is not needed.

Grant Funding:

All funds are made possible through the MOA with the North Slope Borough for the Qatqiññaġvik program.

Compliance with BP 3311.

Three organizations were contacted for competitive bids. Given the specifics of hydroponics, the local tundra plants for sustenance and medicinal purposes, and knowledge of and availability to the North Slope, the organizations were not able to meet all areas that Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District could. Therefore, after solicitation of a number of sources, competition was determined inadequate.

Recommendation:

Administration is recommending the Board approve Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District Education Department to provide our Qatqiññaġvik middle school and high school students with instruction on hydroponics to promote sustainable agricultural practices and resource management along with career options in the field of hydroponics.

Proposed Motion:

"I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$10,000 and greater proposal and related contract for Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District, in the amount of \$48,232.99 as described in this memo and related attachments."

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____