



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

TO: Robyn Burke, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent DSV

THROUGH: Dr. Bobby Bolen, Chief Operating Officer BB

FROM: Dennis Niedermeyer, Director of Finance DN
Reginald Santos, Director of Information Technology RS

DATE: March 19, 2024

SUBJECT: **Contracts over \$50,000 -** **Memo No: SB24-115**
General Communications Inc. (Action Item)

2020-2025 Strategic Plan

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

4.1 Facilities: Ensure safe, modern and high-performing learning facilities.

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

4.3 Learning Environment: Schools designed for students incorporating culture beyond curriculum into all aspects of our work including facilities and operations.

4.5 Technology: Leverage technology as a tool to facilitate learning, communication and collaboration.

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3311, Bids: All purchases in the amount of \$20,000 or more shall be based, when possible, on three competitive bids. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to ensure that formal advertised bids are solicited for purchases over \$50,000.

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.

Background:

The Schools and Libraries Universal Service program (E-Rate) requested service included pricing for one (1) year or three (3) years, with mutually agreed upon one-year extensions with a guaranteed service start date of July 1, 2024. The RFP included all pertinent requests and terms for a proposal minimum requiring 25Mbps plus additional incremental steps, up to the maximum 750Mbps. Services provided in Utqiagvik would be expected to be delivered to the NSBSD hub, Maintenance & Operations. Vendors were asked to submit their letter of intent to submit proposals by February 20, 2024 and questions regarding the RFP by February 23, 2024. Vendors were able to submit bids for the

period beginning February 15, 2024 – March 14, 2024. To be considered, vendors must be registered with USAC and have a USAC-issued Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN). In addition, Bids determined to be non-responsive, incomplete, or not substantially meeting the essential requirements may be disqualified at the discretion of NSBSD.

Issue Summary:

The Schools and Libraries Universal Service program (E-rate) deadline for filing ends March 27, 2024. In compliance with USAC/FCC federal filing requirements, the North Slope Borough School District publicly posted an E-Rate Request for Proposals (RFP) from February 15th, 2024 to March 15th, 2024.

Two vendors submitted proposals for the North Slope Borough School District E-Rate Broadband Request for Proposals (RFP). These two vendors are: General Communications Inc. (GCI) and MICROCOM Communications Solutions.

The Evaluation Committee, comprised of Superintendent Vadiveloo, Chief Operating Officer Bolen, Finance Director Niedermeyer, and Information Technology Director Santos, reviewed the proposals on March 18, 2024 with SERRC E-Rate Coordinator Hoffman and Assistant Dobbs. Board Secretary Overby provided the minutes of the evaluation.

The Evaluation Committee discussed the requirements of the RFP and determined MICROCOM’s bid was disqualified as the proposal was not responsive to the RFP’s requirements. MICROCOM’s bid did not bid on sites in Utqiagvik as required under Scope of Services and defined in Appendix A. MICROCOM’s proposal did not include references from school districts as required under #6 of documentation required; and other technical requirements provided under General Information and Scope of Services such as provide fiber for locations that have fiber available, IP based wide-area-network, and co-location. Additionally, MICROCOM’s proposed service was a limited metered priority internet service inconsistent with service levels required for unmetered and unrestricted internet. As such, the only qualified bid received is through General Communications Inc.(GCI) with a fiber and LEO/GEO solution with a private one-to-one connection.

In conclusion, it is the Evaluation Committee’s recommendation to submit the award to General Communications Inc. (GCI) for E-Rate Broadband services.

Funding Source and Contract Amount:

Account code 100.250.355.000.433.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education award General Communications Inc. (GCI) for E-Rate Broadband services and approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal for General Communications, Inc. (GCI), as described in this memo SB24-115 and attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____

Signature: DS Vadiveloo
DS Vadiveloo (Mar 19, 2024 16:48 AKDT)
Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: Bobby Bolen
Bobby Bolen (Mar 19, 2024 18:23 AKDT)
Email: Bobby.Bolen@nsbsd.org

Signature: Dennis Niedermeyer
Dennis Niedermeyer (Mar 19, 2024 20:38 EDT)
Email: dennis@niedserv.com

Signature: Reginald Santos
Reginald Santos (Mar 19, 2024 16:36 AKDT)
Email: reggie.santos@nsbsd.org