



**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:** Fadil Limani, Chief Financial Officer  
**FROM:** Tennessee D. Judkins, Director of Iñupiaq Education  
**DATE:** June 12, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** **Contracts over \$10,000- Nannut QaqisauraNat and Polar Bear’s Computers LLC**

DocuSigned by:  
*David Vadiveloo*  
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DocuSigned by:  
*Tennessee D. Judkins*  
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**Memo No: SB22-222**  
**(Action Item)**

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**2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY**

**1.0 ACADEMIC SUCCESS/WHOLE CHILD:** 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/MANAGEMENT:** Ensure financial management based on what is best for our students.

**Issue Summary:**

In accordance with applicable Board policy, contracts and MOA’s \$10,000 or greater require Board approval.

**Background:**

VIVA which is the Visual Iñupiaq Vocabulary Assessment computer program that we use as a supplemental tool in our Iñupiat Language classrooms and programs was started in 2007 and rolled out for student and teacher use in January 2009. It is in dire need of upgrading a variety of different aspects of the application. Although we had a previous contract in place last year to do minor upgrades, the terms of that contract were not fulfilled by the previous and original programmer of the application. As a result, the Iñupiaq Education Department had to go back to the drawing board and seek out new help in computer and application programming. In addition to finding a new computer programming company, we took a comprehensive approach to analyze what other upgrades the VIVA software needs and found that it was not only outdated, but also posing a lot of other issues and concerns that need to be fixed. In order for us to continue progressing forward and having an assessment tool for our language acquisition as well as a way in which students can continue to practice their language, these upgrades are necessary for VIVA to continue functioning. With the plans for upgrades also come new additions to the software, which include, but are not limited to, rewriting the computer language

so that it is not dependent on old computer language and can stay up to date with technological advances, new methods in which we can use for tracking and assessing student’s language acquisition and practice in the program, enhancements to usability for teachers and students including faster run times, self-creating accounts, upgrades to the “branding” of VIVA and giving it a “facelift,” and once the upgrades are complete, VIVA will be accessible not only on desktops, but also mobile devices.

The new computer programming company we intend to work with is Nannut Qaqisaurajat and Polar Bear’s Computers LLC, and is comprised of two owners: Greg Mortensen, M. Alycia Mortensen; they will also receive help and support from Jose Valladares. Combined, they have over 50 years of experience in computer programming and technical skills and training. They have a vast resume and experience in the field of computer programming and we feel that they not only can assist in making VIVA more user friendly to all, but revolutionize the application for future use and enhance our Iñupiat language program, assessments, and language acquisition as whole.

**Length of Contract:**

The length of the contract would be from June 15, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

**Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:**

The identified funding source is derived from the Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical budget from the following Account Codes:

Account Code: 100.200.120.000.410- \$18,150

Account Code: 100.200.120.787.410- \$106,850

The total not to exceed amount of the contract is \$125,000.00

**Available Budget:**

The available budget for Account Code 100.200.120.000.410 is \$26,162. The available budget for Account Code 100.200.120.787.410 after the processing of SB21-221 is \$409,000.00.

**Grant Funding:**

There are no grant funds associated with this contract.

**Compliance with BP 3311:**

In order for the North Slope Borough School District and the Iñupiaq Education Department to continue supporting, enhancing, and progressing forward our Iñupiat language, culture, history, and traditions, we must continue to support programming in all aspect. As we know, our Iñupiaq language was always an oral language until recent years. In order for us to assess student growth in the language and culture, we have to create our own assessment tools that are applicable to our students and our programming and VIVA does that for us. It was created as a language acquisition and assessment tool for our classrooms and our students. Since it’s conception, it has played a vital role in data collection and in order for us to continue having a valid computer application, we have to stay up to date with the fast-moving technology in today’s world – so, these upgrades and additions are imperative. Greg, Alycia,

and Jose with Nannut Qaqisaurat and Polar Bear's Computers LLC, can help us do just that and ensure that we can continue using a valid computer application software to assess students' language learning and acquisition and in turn provide data to showcase student growth and progression.

**Proposed Motion:**

"I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$10,000 and greater contract for Nannut Qaqisaurat and Polar Bear's Computers LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00, as described in this memo and related attachments."

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

Vote \_\_\_\_\_