



**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, Superintendent

**THROUGH:** Tracy Mulvenon, Assistant Superintendent

**FROM:** Tenna Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Education

**DATE:** May 15, 2024

**SUBJECT: Contracts over \$50,000 Addendum -  
Nannut Qaqisaurajat, LLC**

**Memo No: SB24-167**  
(Action Item)

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**NSBSD Strategic Plan Goal:**

1.0 Student Success: 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: Ensure financial management based on what is best for our students.

**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 \$10,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

**Issue Summary:**

VIVA is the Visual Iñupiaq Vocabulary Assessment computer program that we use as a supplemental tool in our Iñupiaq Language classrooms and programs. Over the last year, we have been working with Nannut Qaqisaurajat, LLC, to work on the full upgrades of the VIVA computer program and have progressed through several of the foundational phases to relaunch the VIVA app as IVALU. In order for us to continue progressing forward and have a comprehensive assessment tool for our language progression as well as a way in which students can continue to practice their language progression, upgrades continue to be necessary.

The overhaul of the site has required the replacement of obsolete software and effectively a complete re-write of the site. We have also been working closely with the developer to create greater access for our villages by removing reliance on the internet through the development of the IVALU app. This work has effectively consumed the entirety of the previously approved budget. However, although the IVALU app is ready to launch and can be downloaded on all district devices for students there is still work that needs to be completed which include: the IVALU release, the IVALU challenge which will allow students to have an added layer of practice on vocabulary and phrases they have already

mastered, and rewriting the Login, Homepage, Lessons 1-8 pages, and the Aarigaa Page so that it can be in website form which is the platform that is accessible to the public for parents, families, community, and partners to continue to have access, as well as pulling language progression reports to allow us to view student’s language mastery and progression. This request for a contract addendum accommodates all the additional work that has been completed to prepare the site and the IVALU app and also covers work that was projected to be completed inside the FY24 fiscal year.

**Background:**

Viva was started in 2007 and rolled out for student and teacher use in January 2009. The computer programming team we have been working with at Nannut Qaqisaurajat, LLC collectively have over 50 years of experience in computer programming and technical skills and training. This continued work would allow us to ensure that current components in the old VIVA app will be usable in IVALU.

**Length of Contract:**

The length of the contract would be an addendum to the current contract through June 30, 2024.

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

This contract would come out of the Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical budget Account Code: 100.200.120.000.410, in the amount of and not to exceed \$117,712.00.

**Available Budget:**

100.200.120.000.410

**Compliance with BP 3311:**

The administration requests that the requirements of BP3311 be waived in this instance.

The upgrading and modification of computer programming is a very specialized skill. The Iñupiaq Education Department initially spent 6 months searching for a computer programming company. During the search for a suitable company to perform the first phases of upgrades, updates and overhauling of VIVA, the department looked at several different companies, including the original developer, used a search program to solicit companies who offer computer programming, and other companies overseas. Nannut Qaqisaurajat, LLC. demonstrated at that time they had the expertise and necessary understanding of our requirements.

**Proposed Motion:**

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal and related contract with Nannut Qaqisaurajat, LLC, as described in this memo and related attachments.”

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

Advisory Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Vote \_\_\_\_\_