



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: Dennis Niedermeyer, Interim Director of Finance

FROM: MJ Geiser, Assistant Superintendent

DATE: June 27, 2022

SUBJECT: Contracts over \$10,000

No: SB22- 232

(Action Item)

EDBLOX, INC. (Elevate K-12)

2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

1.0 STUDENT SUCCESS: All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Inupiaq knowledge systems into the core content areas and focusing on the development of the Whole Child.

3.0 STAFF SUCCESS: Strengthen the recruitment and retention of highly effective staff and inspire more Iñupiaq teachers and administrators.

4.3 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT & SUPPORTS: Create student-centered schools 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.

Issue Summary:

In accordance with applicable Board Policy 3312, contracts \$10,000 or greater require Board approval. This contract is presented at a minimum of \$37,500 and not to exceed \$277,500 for the purpose of filling vacant certificated positions with distance delivery instructors. Elevate K-12 will provide high-quality live (synchronous) online instructors as well as the speakers, microphone, and camera for each classroom. Elevate K-12 teachers will provide training to in-classroom coaches (paraprofessionals yet to be recruited), do a comparison of our curriculum with their inhouse curriculum to scaffold instruction and work with our SPED teachers to provide the modifications and accommodations as specified in students' IEPs.

Background:

The availability of teacher candidates has greatly diminished due to the high numbers of teachers across the U.S. being eligible for retirement and the low numbers of persons electing to enter the teaching profession. In addition, local District issues have resulted in a higher than average number of teachers not returning to the District after May 2022. For FY23, NSBSD has a total of 84 certificated vacancies; 6 of which are administrators, 59 are classroom teachers, and the remaining 19 are SPED,

applicants will receive their visas in time to commence the Fall teaching start date. This may mean the District has up to 43 vacant teaching positions at the commencement of the Fall school year. Our analysis of secondary teacher vacancies will require distance delivery at up to five NSBSD schools.

The NSBSD high school graduation requirements in language arts, math, and science are supported through the Elevate K-12 program of distance instruction. Elective courses and physical education courses, will need to be supported at the individual site.

The Elevate K-12 program of distance instruction has been delivered to over 120,000 students in over 200 partner schools in 15 States. The company states that the average academic score increase for students utilizing the service is 20%. The maximum quote we have requested is based on 37 periods being delivered at five schools; filling 13 teacher positions at the following sites: Nunamiut, Kali, Meade River, Alak, and Hopson Middle School.

Length of Contract: This contract will be valid August 8, 2022 thru December 16, 2022.

Funding Source and Contract Amount:

This MOA is funded through the NSBSD General Fund Instruction (100.200.100.000.310). This funding will be provided through budget line transfers from funds available due to vacant teacher positions at each of the schools participating in the distance delivery through Elevate K-12.

The total of this MOA is set at a minimum of \$37,500 and not to exceed \$277,500.00.

Grant Funding:

This contract is not grant funded.

Compliance with BP 3311:

The District's ongoing local, national and international recruiting plan was on track to deliver up to 36 certificated teachers for the commencement of schooling in Fall. Less than a week ago the District was advised that due to the unexpected national demand for J1 visas, the visas required by our District might not be available to the 20 teachers we have recruited. In circumstances where the District is faced with not having certificated teacher supplied classes delivered at the commencement of school, the District has identified a nationally regarded, specialized distance delivery company who can meet the particular needs of our District while also providing training to our local hire staff. The time-critical nature of this need for certificated teacher supplied classes means a sole source contract is required. As such, the School District waives the requirements set out in 3311 as the underlying contract is in the best interests of the District.

Available Budget:

This contract will be funded through the General Fund Instruction (100.200.100.000.310) after budget line transfers from Instructional funds from the specific site budgets.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$10,000 and greater proposal for **EDBLOX, INC. (Elevate K-12)**, as described in this memo and attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____