



**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 DsV

**FROM:** Lori Roth, Director of Student Services LR

**DATE:** April 18, 2024

**SUBJECT: Contracts over \$50,000- Tweet Talk Speech Pathology Services (Erica Tweet)** **Memo No: SB24-143**  
**(Action Item)**

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**2020-2025 Strategic Plan Goals:**

1.0 Student Success: All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Iñupiaq knowledge systems in 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 the long-term stability of the district.

**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.

**Issue Summary:**

Based on State and federal law, NSBSD is required to have speech-language pathologists on staff to screen, evaluate, and meet the unique needs of students with speech-language needs. Based on the severity and needs of the identified students(s), individual and/or small group speech services may be provided in person or remotely based on the Individualized Education Plan. To determine if a newly identified or ongoing speech disability exists, the speech pathologist must attend the following meetings: pre-assessment meetings to explain assessments to be implemented, Infant Learning Program 90-day transition meetings to determine school-based needs, initial evaluations, re-evaluation, and IEP meetings.

**Background:**

Ms. Tweet is an Alaska-licensed speech pathologist who implements speech evaluations and services. She has been an independent contractor for the Dillingham City School District since 2017 and is familiar with school-based speech services. Ms. Tweet will service Kali School, Alak School, Meade River School, and Qargi Academy. Ms. Tweet has experience providing remote speech services and training to special education staff. Her experiences include attending pre-evaluation meetings to explain assessments to parents, attending Infant Learning Program 90-day transition meetings to determine school-based assessments, conducting initial evaluations, conducting re-evaluations, writing IEP goals, and attending IEP meetings.

**Length of Contract:**

July 25, 2024 through June 30, 2025

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

NSBSD will fund this MOA through general fund and the VI-B Special Education Grant. The Contractor will be paid **\$675 (new contractor) for up to 75 days (\$50,625)** of professional services. Ms. Tweet’s travel will be reimbursed for up to 2 trips from Dillingham, Alaska to Point Lay, Wainright, and Atqasuk. Travel expenses are not to exceed **\$5,000.00**. Total MOA not to exceed \$55,625.00. There are no NSBSD benefits associated with this MOA.

**Available Budget:**

This MOA is temporarily encumbered under the School District Main Operating Fund Budget code 100.200.220.000.410. Related Services MOAs are encumbered through Grant Funding specifically within 285.200.220.000.410. Currently, the 2025 Title VI-B grant application is not available from the Department of Education and Early Development. Based on historical applications, it is expected that the district will continue to receive the Tile VI-B grant to support funding such services for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Grant Funding:**

This MOA is funded through the Title VI-B Special Education grant (285. 200.220.000.410) and the NSBSD general fund (100.200.220.000.410).

**Compliance with BP 3311.**

Ms. Tweet came highly recommended and has Alaska Bush experience through her services to the Dillingham City School District. Based on Ms. Tweet’s experience, this rate is within the acceptable range of rates paid across the state of Alaska. In support of the approval of a sole-source MOA, this contractor will require limited training and a minimal adjustment period to provide speech/language services to our students.

**Recommendation:**

The Student Services Department recommends passing this MOA. Services provided within this MOA are state and federally mandated and are required to meet the educational needs of students with a speech/language disability.

**Proposed Motion:**

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal and related contract for Tweet Talk Speech Pathology Services, in the amount of \$55,625.00 as described in this memo and related attachment.”

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

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

Signature: DSVadiveloo  
DSVadiveloo (Apr 20, 2024 11:42 AKDT)

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: Lori Roth  
Lori Roth (Apr 21, 2024 17:38 AKDT)

Email: lori.roth@nsbsd.org