



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 Vidivello, Chief School Administrator *DsV*

THROUGH: MJ Geiser, Assistant Superintendent *MJG*

FROM: Lori Roth, Director Student Services *LR*

DATE: March 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Contracts over \$10,000 **Memo No: SB23-152**
Stevenson Enterprises (Paul Stevenson, school psychologist) (Action Item)

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.

4.0 FINANCIAL & OPERATIONAL STEWARDSHIP: Effectively employ our operational and financial resources to support our strategic goals and long-term stability of the district.

4.1 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP/MANAGEMENT: Ensure financial management based on what is best for our students.

Issue Summary:

In accordance with applicable Board Policy 3312, contracts and MOA's \$10,000 or greater require Board approval.

Stevenson Enterprises (Paul Stevenson) has provided school psychology services and professional development as required under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Board Policy 6164.4, to ensure all students receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

- Mr. Stevenson's services include, but are not limited to, initial evaluations, re-evaluations, Evaluation Summary Eligibility Reports, Manifestation Determinations, Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans for Special Education students. Mr. Stevenson facilitates pre-evaluation meetings to ensure parents have an understanding of the evaluation and assessment process and have the necessary information to provide informed consent to assess.
- Mr. Stevenson conducts assessments to determination if a student qualifies to receive enrichment activities as per NSBSD's Gifted/Talented Program.
- Mr. Stevenson conducts assessments to determination if a student qualifies to receive enrichment activities as per NSBSD's Acceleration criteria as outlined in Board Policy 5123.
- Mr. Stevenson facilitates eligibility meetings as required under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to determine if a Section 504 Plan is appropriate.
- Mr. Stevenson assists the Student Services Department by researching, developing, educating, and implementing a hybrid evaluation model supported by on-site and distance technologies.

Background:

Mr. Stevenson provided school psychology services for the students of the North Slope Borough School District since March of 2020. He established relationships with our students and families in Slope-wide

through face-to-face and remote evaluations. He was an essential member of our Team in identifying, and setting up, on-line achievement, social/emotional, and cognitive assessments. Mr. Stevenson currently provides district-wide school psychology services in collaboration with Betsy Gerace, school psychologist.

Length of Contract: This MOA will be valid August 15, 2023 through June 1, 2024.

Funding Source and Contract Amount:

This MOA is funded through the Title VI-B Special Education grant and the NSBSD General Fund. This MOA will fund up to 155 contractor days at a daily rate of \$705.00 per day and may not to exceed \$109,275.00. Travel for Mr. Stevenson has been estimated up to \$7,000.00 including up to 2 tickets from Rush, New York to Utqiagvik. All village travel will be funded under this MOA for a total not to exceed \$116,275.00. No NSBSD employee benefits are associated with this MOA.

Grand 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:

As noted above, Mr. Stevenson is an Alaska licensed school psychologist working for a daily rate of \$705.00 per day. He has been an independent contractor with the North Slope Borough School District since March of 2020. Since that time, Mr. Stevenson has successfully fulfilled his MOA requirements resulting in NSBSD and families being pleased with the services he provides. Based on Mr. Stevenson’s experience, this rate is within the acceptable range of rates paid across the state of Alaska (neighboring school district rate is \$675.00-\$725.00/day depending on experience). Returning for the FY24 school year, he has begun planning FY24 evaluations, and will require minimal training and no adjustment period to provide school psychology services to our students. The continuation of Mr. Stevenson as a contractor will provide continuity of services, familiarity for students and parents, continuity of practice, pro-active planning, continued implementation of remote services, and on-going compliance with NSBSD special education processes. Not providing a sole-source contract and responding to a bidding process could result in students and families having to re-establish communication, re-develop trusting relationship, compensating for the loss of historical knowledge, increased NSBSD training, and cause a disruption in continuity of student support.

Available Budget:

The respective contract and related services are temporarily being encumbered under the School District Main Operating Fund Budget Code 100.200.220.000.410. Historically, such contractual obligations were encumbered through Grant Funding specifically within 285.200.220.000.410. Currently, there are no Grant Awards and no available budget for the corresponding contract to be encumbered to such Special Revenue Fund. It is expected that the district will continue to receive a Grant Award for such Program Services for FY2024, in which at that time the identified encumbrance can be transferred over to the respective Special Revenue Fund and alleviate the encumbrance from the School District Main Operating Fund.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$10,000 and greater proposal for *Stevenson Enterprises* (Paul Stevenson, school psychologist), as described in this memo and attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Advisory Vote _____ Vote _____

Signature: *Ds Vadiveloo*
Ds Vadiveloo (Apr 2, 2023 18:11 AKDT)

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Mary Jane Geiser*
Mary Jane Geiser (Apr 2, 2023 18:05 AKDT)

Email: maryjane.geiser@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Lori Roth*
Lori Roth (Apr 1, 2023 17:38 AKDT)

Email: lori.roth@nsbsd.org