



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: May 6, 2024

**SUBJECT: Contracts over \$50,000-
Pangea Speech Therapy (Jessica Hunnemeder)** **Memo No: SB24-166
(Action Item)**

NSBSD Policy Manual:

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 \$50,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

2020-2025 NSBSD Strategic Plan:

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.

Issue Summary:

Based on State and federal law, NSBSD is required to have speech-language pathologists available to screen, evaluate, provide services, and consult with school staff to support students with speech-language needs. Individual and/or small group speech services may be provided in person or remotely based on the Individualized Education Plan. To determine if a speech disability exists, the speech pathologist has input in the following meetings: pre-assessment meetings to explain assessments being used, Infant Learning Program 90-day transition meetings, initial evaluations, re-evaluations, and IEP meetings.

Background:

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

Length of Contract:

August 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

NSBSD will fund this MOA through the general fund and the VI-B Special Education Grant. The Contractor will be paid **\$680 /day (new contractor) for up to 77 days (\$52,360.00)** for professional services. Ms. Hunnemeder’s travel will be reimbursed for up to 2 trips from Honolulu, Hawaii to Point Lay, Wainwrights, and Atkasuk. Travel expenses are not to exceed **\$6,000.00**. Total MOA not to exceed **\$58,360.00**. There are no NSBSD benefits associated with this MOA. Ms. Hunnemeder is currently in talks to establish an MOA with Nome Public Schools. If that MOA is in place, travel expenses from Honolulu, Hawaii to Anchorage will be funded at 50% per school district.

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. Hunnemeder came highly recommended by incoming Director Michael Hautala. She has Alaska bush experience through her experiences working in Craig City School and Nome Public Schools. Based on Ms. Hunnemeder’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 and training to our staff.

Recommendation:

The Student Services Department recommends passing this MOA. Services are state and federally mandated under IDEA 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 **Pangea Speech Therapy, LLC**, in the amount of **\$58,360.00** as described in this memo and related attachment.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____

Signature: *Ds Vadiveloo*
Ds Vadiveloo (May 11, 2024 22:38 AKDT)
Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Lori Roth*
Lori Roth (May 12, 2024 12:49 AKDT)
Email: lori.roth@nsbsd.org