




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 

THROUGH: MJ Geiser, Assistant Superintendent 

FROM: Lori Roth, Director Student Services 

DATE: March 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Contracts over \$10,000 - **Memo No: SB23-148**
Gerace Consulting (Betsy Gerace, 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.

Gerace Consulting (Betsy Gerace) provides 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).

- Ms. Gerace services include, but are not limited to, Initial Evaluations, Re-evaluations (every 3 years or by parent request), Assessments, Evaluation Summary Reports, Manifestation Determinations, Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans for student's eligible, or thought to be eligible, for Special Education services. Ms. Gerace facilitates the pre-evaluation meetings to ensure parents have an understanding of the evaluation process, and have the information needed to provide informed consent as per federal law.
- Ms. Gerace conducts assessments to determination if a student qualifies to receive enrichment activities as per NSBSD's Gifted/Talented Program.
- Ms. Gerace, along with the educational team, conduct eligibility meetings as required under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to determine if a Section 504 Plan is appropriate.
- Upon parent request, Ms. Gerace provides support to building principals to review current data and make recommendations pertaining to student Promotion/Acceleration/ and Retention as described in Board Policy 5123.

Ms. Gerace assists the Student Services Department by researching, developing, educating, and implementing a hybrid evaluation model supported by on-site and distance technologies. Ms. Gerace provides training and support to SPED staff to implement, score, and disseminate standardized and achievement assessments. Please see attached MOA for additional information.

Addendum: Ms. Gerace's original Board approved MOA was for up to 40 contractor days. Due to an increase in the number of cases and an increase in the complexity of cases, Ms. Gerace is requesting an additional 5 days be added to her original Board approved MOA. No other changes are requested in this FY 23 MOA addendum.

Background:

Ms. Gerace has provided school psychology services for the students of the North Slope Borough School District since August of 2014. Through her evaluations, she has developed relationships with our students and families across the North Slope Borough. Ms. Gerace continues to do extensive research with Mr. Stevenson, school psychologist, set up remote achievement, social/emotional, and cognitive assessment options. Ms. Gerace experiences continue to be invaluable for the development of NSBSD's remote service delivery model for pre-evaluation, gaining informed consent remotely, conducting assessments, and facilitating the Evaluation Summary and Eligibility meeting. Ms. Gerace provides district-wide school psychology services in collaboration with Mr. Stevenson.

Length of Contract: As previously approved, this MOA will be valid August 1, 2022 thru June 1, 2023.

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 40 contractor days and may not to exceed \$28,400.00. Travel for Ms. Gerace has been estimated up to \$2,000.00 for up 3 tickets from Anchorage, Alaska to Utqiagvik for a total MOA not to exceed \$30,400.00. No NSBSD employee benefits are associated with this MOA.

MOA Addendum: This MOA is funded through the Title VI-B Special Education grant and the NSBSD General Fund. This MOA was previously approved for 40 contractor days at \$710.00 per day not to exceed \$28,400.00. This MOA Addendum is requesting an additional 5 days at \$710.00 per day not to exceed 45 days for a total of \$31,950.00. Travel for Ms. Gerace continues to be estimated at up to \$2,000.00 for up 3 tickets from Anchorage, Alaska to Utqiagvik. The total MOA will not exceed \$33,950.00. No NSBSD employee benefits are associated with this MOA.

Compliance with BP 3311.

As noted above, Ms. Gerace is an Alaska licensed school psychologist working for a daily rate of \$710.00 per day. She has been an independent contractor with the North Slope Borough School District since 2014. Since that time, Ms. Gerace has successfully fulfilled her MOA requirements resulting in NSBSD and families being pleased with the services provided. Based on Ms. Gerace'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). To support the approval of a sole-source MOA, this contractor will require minimal training and no adjustment period to provide school psychology services to our students. The continuation of Ms. Gerace as a contractor will provide continuity of services, familiarity for students and parents, continuity of practice, pro-active planning, continued development of remote school psych 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, and cause a disruption in continuity of student support in the Student Services Department.

Grand Funding:

MOA Addendum: 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).

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 FY2023, 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 Gerace Consulting (Betsy Gerace) in the amount not to exceed \$33,950, as described in this memo and attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____

Signature: *Ds Vadiveloo*
Ds Vadiveloo (Apr 2, 2023 18:04 AKDT)

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Mary Jane Geiser*
Mary Jane Geiser (Apr 1, 2023 17:21 AKDT)

Email: maryjane.geiser@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Lori Roth*
Lori Roth (Apr 1, 2023 17:00 AKDT)

Email: lori.roth@nsbsd.org