



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Qaiyaan Harcharek, President  
Members of the School Board

**THROUGH:** Pauline Harvey, Superintendent

**FROM:** Fadil Limani, Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** January 26, 2021

DocuSigned by:  
*Pauline Harvey*  
A79222E99661479  
*Fadil Limani*

**SUBJECT: Contracts over \$10,000 – Broadband Legal Strategies LLC Memo No: SB21-118**  
(Action Item)

**2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY**

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

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

**Issue Summary:**

In accordance with applicable Board policy, contracts and MOA's \$10,000 or greater require Board approval. BP 3312. In addition, Board Policy 9124, provides the School Board may use the services of private attorneys to meet the needs of the district. The Board-appointed legal counsel shall render legal advice to the Superintendent or designee and the Board and perform other administrative duties as assigned by the Board and Superintendent or designee.

**Background:**

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation created in 1997 to collect universal service contributions from telecommunications carriers and administer universal support mechanisms (programs) designed to help communities across the country secure access to affordable telecommunications services. USAC carries out its functions as the administrator of the federal universal service programs and Universal Service Fund (USF) under the oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

USAC administers universal service programs for high cost companies in rural areas, low-income consumers, rural health care providers, and schools and libraries.

The universal service Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as "E-rate," provides discounts of up to 90 percent to help eligible schools and libraries in the United States obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access. The program is intended to ensure that schools and libraries have access to affordable telecommunications and information services.

Eligible participants include public and most non-profit K-12 schools as well as all public and many private libraries. Program participants may request funding in five categories of service: Telecommunications, Telecommunications Services, Internet Access, Internal Connections, and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections. Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served and range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services.

Historically, the District has utilized the services of SERRC Alaska Educational Resources Center surrounding the overall E-Rate management and submission of required state and federal forms including with the assistance of the E-Rate Application.

USAC denied the District’s E-Rate application which was submitted in March of 2020 for funding year 2020 (FY21 for NSBSD). The anticipated E-Rate Revenue for FY21 is expected at approximately \$4.4 million.

**Scope of Services:**

Broadband Legal Strategies, LLC will provide a limited-scope engagement to represent and advise North Slope Borough School District with respect to an E-rate funding denial and possible recovery action by the Universal Service Administrative Company.

See engagement letter for additional details on scope of services and scope of representation.

**Length of Contract:**

The contract will commence upon adoption of this memo and execution of the engagement letter and the length of the agreement is yet to be determined.

**Funding Source and Contract Amount:**

This contract will be funded under the Legal Services Account 100.200.511.000.414 and the estimated not to exceed is \$15,000. See engagement letter for detail of the attorney fees.

**Compliance with BP 3311.**

This requirement is not applicable as the dollar amount of the contract is less than \$20,000.

**Grant Funding:**

N/A

**Available Budget:**

Account 100.200.511.000.414 has an unexpended budget balance of \$19,986.19.

**Proposed Motion:**

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$10,000 and greater proposal for Broadband Legal Strategies LLC, as described in this memo and related engagement letter.”

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

Vote \_\_\_\_\_