



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, Chief School Administrator ^{DSV}_{DSV}

THROUGH: MJ Geiser, Assistant Superintendent ^{MJG}_{MJG}

FROM: Lori Roth, Director Student Services ^{LR}_{LR}

DATE: March 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Contracts over \$10,000 **Memo No: SB23-154**
Northwest Polar Kids (Sara Ecker, speech/language therapist) (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.

Northwest Polar Kids (Sara Ecker) has provided speech/language services and professional development to NSBSD staff for speech/language services required by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Board Policy 6164.4 to ensure a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with speech/language needs. Ms. Ecker is an Alaska licensed SLP who administers initial speech evaluations, re-evaluations, and file reviews to determine initial or on-going speech/language needs. Ms. Ecker is responsible to provide on-site and/or remote contact services to support parents, students, and staff with individualized program development, materials development, assistive technology, and direct services. Ms. Ecker schedules, and provides, remote direct services on a one-to-one or small group basis as outlined in student Individual Education Programs (IEP). Ms. Ecker attends federally mandated meetings such as pre-assessment meetings, 90-day transition meetings, initial evaluations, re-evaluation, and IEP meetings. Please see attached MOA for additional responsibilities.

Background:

Ms. Ecker has provided speech/language services to the students of the North Slope region since 2016. Ms. Ecker's extensive experience in the Northern Region was invaluable in the development of NSBSD's remote service delivery model for speech language services. Ms. Ecker currently provides speech/language services to Tikiġaq School, Harold Kaveolook School, Nunamiut School, and Nuiqsut Trapper School.

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 165 contractor days (no change from FY23) at a daily rate of 710.00/day (no change from SY23) and may not to exceed \$117,150.00 (no change from SY23). Travel for Ms. Ecker has been estimated up to \$6,000.00 (increase of \$2,000.00 from FY23) for up to 2 trips from Portland, Oregon to Nuiqsut Trapper School, Nunamiut School, Harold Kaveolook School, and Tikiġaq School. Total MOA not to exceed \$123,150.00. 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:

Ms. Ecker is an Alaska licensed speech/language therapist working for a daily rate of \$710.00 per day. Ms. Ecker has successfully fulfilled her MOA requirements since 2016 resulting in NSBSD and families being pleased with the services provided. Based on Ms. Ecker’s Arctic 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). In support of the approval of a sole-source MOA, this contractor will require no training and no adjustment period to provide speech/language services to our students. The continuation of Ms. Ecker as a contractor will provide continuity of services, familiarity for students and parents, continuity of practice, pro-active planning, continued implementation of remote speech/language 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 relationships, compensation for the loss of historical knowledge, and cause a disruption in continuity of student support in the Student Services Department.

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 *Northwest Polar Kids* (Sara Ecker, speech/language pathologist) in an amount not to exceed \$123,150 as described in this memo and attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____

Signature: *Ds Vadiveloo*
Ds Vadiveloo (Apr 2, 2023 18:15 AKDT)

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Mary Jane Geiser*
Mary Jane Geiser (Apr 2, 2023 18:04 AKDT)

Email: maryjane.geiser@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Lori Roth*
Lori Roth (Apr 1, 2023 17:37 AKDT)

Email: lori.roth@nsbsd.org