



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

TO: Robyn Burke, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent DSV

THROUGH: Dr. Bobby Bolen, Chief Operating Officer BB

FROM: Reginald Santos, Director of Information Technology RS

DATE: March 25, 2024

SUBJECT: Contracts over \$50,000 - **Memo No: SB24-128**
Solutionz Inc. (Action Item)

2020-2025 Strategic Plan

4.0 Financial & Operational Stewardship: Effectively employ our operational and financial resources to support the long-term stability of the district.

4.1 Facilities: Ensure safe, modern and high-performing learning facilities.

4.2 Financial Stewardship: Ensure financial management based on what is best for our students.

4.3 Learning Environment: Schools designed for students incorporating culture beyond curriculum into all aspects of our work including facilities and operations.

4.5 Technology: Leverage technology as a tool to facilitate learning, communication and collaboration.

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3311, Bids: All purchases in the amount of \$20,000 or more shall be based, when possible, on three competitive bids. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to ensure that formal advertised bids are solicited for purchases over \$50,000.

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.

Background:

The North Slope Borough School District has been honored with an award of \$987,952 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant. This funding, excluding the district's contribution of 15%, is designated to enhance educational opportunities and improve medical services through technology.

The District publicly posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) from March 11th, 2024, to March 22nd, 2024, seeking comprehensive solutions for the procurement and installation of distance learning equipment as stipulated by the RUS-DLT grant requirements. The RFP was developed to identify vendors capable of providing a turn-key solution that included all necessary equipment, software, and services to effectively fulfill the grant's purpose.

Issue Summary:

We received proposals from two vendors: Solutionz Inc. and Sound Decisions. The proposals were evaluated based on criteria that included the solution's comprehensiveness, cost-effectiveness, vendor experience, and ability to meet project timelines and RUS grant guidelines. The Evaluation Committee, comprised of Director of Information Technology Reginald Santos, Director of Maintenance and Operations Bake Mikesell, and Purchasing Coordinator Don Dunbar, reviewed the proposals on March 25, 2024, at 4:30 PM. IT Secretary Joshua Antonio provided the minutes of the evaluation.

Evaluation Summary:

- **Solutionz Inc.:** Their comprehensive proposal adequately addresses the project's scope, offering a robust plan for supplying the required distance learning equipment and services. The proposal fully complies with the RFP's stipulations, ensuring a turn-key solution that aligns with our district's needs.
- **Sound Decisions:** The committee identified critical omissions in their proposal, notably the lack of a detailed plan for cybersecurity hardware and software and the exclusion of shipping costs to Point Hope and Wainwright. These omissions could impose additional costs and complications on the district.

Conclusion:

Given Solutionz Inc.'s comprehensive and compliant proposal and considering the gaps identified in Sound Decisions' submission, the Evaluation Committee unanimously recommends awarding the contract to Solutionz Inc. This decision aligns with our strategic goals of enhancing technological infrastructure and supporting our educational mission.

Funding Source and Contract Amount:

Account Code 369.200.355.000.450

Account Code 369.200.355.000.510

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal for Solutionz Inc., as described in this memo SB24-128 and attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____

Signature: DS Vadiveloo
DS Vadiveloo (Apr 4, 2024 12:19 AKDT)

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: Bobby Bolen
Bobby Bolen (Apr 4, 2024 10:19 AKDT)

Email: Bobby.Bolen@nsbsd.org

Signature: Reginald Santos
Reginald Santos (Apr 4, 2024 10:39 AKDT)

Email: reggie.santos@nsbsd.org