



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

TO: Nancy Rock, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: Rich Carlson, Interim Superintendent

FROM: Fadil Limani, Chief Financial Officer

DATE: February 25, 2022

DocuSigned by:
Richard Carlson
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SUBJECT: Grant Acceptance: Substance Misuse & Prevention

Memo No: SB22-144
(Action Item)

2020-2025 Strategic Plan Goal:

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.

1.7 STUDENT WELL-BEING: Support the physical, nutritional, mental, and social-emotional health of all students.

2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Foster collective responsibility, commitment and trust between the school and community.

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

Issue Summary:

As prescribed in Board Policy 3290, the School Board greatly appreciates the support of community members and may accept suitable donations on behalf of the district. In order for the gift to be acceptable, the gift, grant or donation must satisfy the criteria 1 thru 7. Upon acceptance by the district, all gifts, grants, and bequests shall become district property. At the Superintendent or designee's discretion, a gift may be used at a particular school.

Background:

The Alaska Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention was established in July of 2017 through the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. The program uses a public health approach to prevent and reduce substance use disorders, prevent harms caused by substance use and support community-based activities across Alaska. Their services protect life, health and safety of Alaskans. Their focus is largely on strengthening the essential public health infrastructure, services, systems and partnerships across Alaska.

In collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education and Early Development has provided grant funding opportunities surrounding the Substance Abuse and Misuse Prevention to School District's across the State. The North Slope Borough School District has applied and received the grant funds since the 2019-2020 school year and each year has targeted a school for the utilization of such resources.

For the 2021-2022 School Year, the School District identified the Hopson Middle School due to the increase in vaping and use of E-cigarettes within the school.

Background Information on E-cigarettes

E-cigarettes are also known as e-cigs, vapes, and vape pens are hand-held devices that use battery power to heat a liquid that contains nicotine. This produces an aerosol that the user inhales, or “vape.” The e-cigarette industry is constantly evolving. E-cigarettes have rapidly changed shapes, from vape pens to mods to discreet pod devices. Now easy-to use disposable products deliver nicotine to young users in new and appealing ways.

Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is harmful to the teen brain and can lead to addiction. E-cigarette marketing uses the same strategies found in conventional cigarette ads. This includes using themes that resonate with young people, such as freedom, sexuality, health, and rebellion. Flavors and lower cost are used to appeal to youth and young adults.

In 2019, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) conducted a survey about e-cigarette use. The questionnaire found the recent increase in e-cigarette use in Alaska corresponds with an increase in the popularity of products and parallels an increase in teen vaping in the United States overall.

Between 2015 and 2019, the following groups of Alaska high school students saw significant increases in current e-cigarette use:

- Alaska Native students
- White students
- Males and females
- Current smokers
- Non-smokers

Use of Grant Funds

The identified funds will be used to purchase Halo Smart Sensors for detecting vaping, professional development materials for staff, and curriculum for students to promote healthy choices for the Hopson Middle School.

Historically, this grant was awarded and utilized in the following NSBSD schools:

Kiita Learning Community	2019-2020	Drug & alcohol awareness/prevention materials
Tikigaq School	2020-2021	Drug & alcohol student curriculum and community awareness materials.
Hopson Middle School	2021-2022	Vaping detectors, professional development materials, student curriculum

Grant Length:

07/01/2021 - 06/30/2022

Funding Source and Grant Award Amount:

This grant is funded by the Department of Education & Early Development. The grant award amount is \$8,620.00.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve and accept the Substance Abuse & Prevention grant funded through the Department of Education & Early Development in the amount of \$8,620.00 for substance abuse identification, education, and intervention activities for the Hopson Middle School”.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____