



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

TO: Esther Evikana, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent *D. Vadiveloo*

THROUGH: Dr. Caitlin Santos, Assistant Superintendent *C. Santos*

THROUGH: Megan Williams, Director of Finance *M. Williams*

FROM: Qaḡḡuna Tenna Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Education *Q. Tenna Pili*

DATE: May 1, 2026

SUBJECT: Contract over \$50,000
Partnow Consulting – Pat Partnow

Memo No: SB26-144
(Action Item)

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3311, Bids: The district shall purchase equipment, supplies and services on a competitive bidding basis when required by law and whenever it appears to be in the best interest of the district to do so. All bids under federal awards must be made in accordance with the standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.320.

BP 3312, Contracts: The Superintendent of designee may enter into contracts and memoranda of agreement (MOA's) on behalf of the District. All contracts and MOA's with a dollar value of \$50,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Goal 5: Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, & physically safe learning environments

Issue Summary:

The Iñupiaq Education Department requests approval to contract with Patricia Partnow of Partnow Consulting for professional curriculum development services for the 2026–2027 school year in an amount not to exceed \$51,140.00. This work will continue the development and completion of locally grounded instructional resources that directly support required district coursework and the North Slope Borough School District's commitment to culturally responsive, place-based education.

Pat Partnow has been a longstanding partner of NSBSD and the Iñupiaq Education Department since 2003, contributing significantly to the development of culturally-based curriculum, instructional frameworks, and educational resources rooted in the Iñupiaq Learning Framework. Her work has supported major district initiatives including curriculum design, local course development, Project Mapkuq, educator professional learning, and the creation of instructional resources that reflect the culture and history of North Slope communities.



For FY27, this contract will focus on completing the asynchronous online *North Slope History and Culture* course, advancing substantial development of the asynchronous *North Slope Government* course, continuing the creation of spiraling governance instructional units beginning in kindergarten, and providing consultation related to standards-based assessments in the secondary space. These efforts strengthen the district’s capacity to provide rigorous, culturally relevant curriculum while expanding accessibility for multiple instructional delivery models.

This work directly aligns with the District’s mission and strategic plan goals and objectives. By ensuring students engage with curriculum grounded in their own communities, governance systems, and histories, this investment supports civic literacy, critical thinking, cultural identity development, and meaningful academic engagement.

Background:

The North Slope Borough School District has made a sustained commitment to developing curriculum that reflects the unique history, governance structures, and cultural knowledge of the North Slope region. *North Slope History and Culture* and *North Slope Government* are required district courses that play a critical role in preparing students with the civic understanding, historical knowledge, and analytical skills necessary for meaningful engagement in their communities and future pathways.

Partnow Consulting has partnered with NSBSD for more than two decades in curriculum development, instructional planning, and culturally responsive educational design, including work supporting the Iñupiaq Learning Framework, Project Mapkuq, and other district curriculum initiatives. The proposed FY27 contract continues work already in progress and provides the specialized capacity needed to maintain momentum on key instructional priorities, including digital course development and vertically aligned governance instruction.

Completion of this work will result in strengthened district-owned curriculum resources, expanded instructional flexibility, and a stronger long-term framework for governance education across grade levels. Progress and implementation updates will be provided to the Board through regular departmental reporting and curriculum updates as milestones are achieved.

Length of Contract:

The length of the contract would be July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

This contract would come out of the Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical budget Account Code: 100.200.120.000.410, in the amount of and not to exceed \$51,140.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the contract over \$50,000.00 for Partnow Consulting in the amount of \$51,140.00 as provided in this memo and attachments.”

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____



Signature: *DS Vadiveloo*

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Signature: *Megged*

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Signature: *Caitlin Santos*

[Caitlin Santos \(May 13, 2026 20:38:46 AKDT\)](#)

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[Tennessee Pili \(May 13, 2026 17:32:58 AKDT\)](#)

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