

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: January 24, 2024

24-085

FROM: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Waiver of Procurement
Procedures for Emergency
Davis-Ramoth School Fire
Alarm Replacement

ABSTRACT

Board policy allows for waiver of competitive bids for contracts over \$50,000.00 in the event of an emergency.

ISSUE

At issue is approval of the emergency replacement of the fire alarm panel and any associated work as required by the State Fire Marshal at Selawik School and delegation of authority to the Superintendent to issue a construction contract for this work.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION

The District applied to the Department of Education and Early Development for FY25 funding for renovation and system replacements for the Selawik School. This project is ranked #3 on DEED's Major Maintenance priority list. However, the fire alarm panel, scheduled to be replaced as part of the renovation project, failed in late December 2023 and is no longer manufactured, thus cannot be repaired, but rather requires immediate replacement. An emergency condition exists and it is in the best interest of the District to replace the fire alarm panel as soon as possible. Board Policy 3310.1 provides for the waiver of procurement procedures in the case of emergencies.

To ensure protection of students and property and to comply with State Fire Code requirements the District has hired two full-time, temporary staff to perform Fire Watch duties until the panel can be replaced.

RSA Engineering, Inc. is available to assist the District with design, building permits and as required to perform this emergency replacement of essential fire alarm system components. RSA is familiar with the school and the District fire alarm standards. RSA completed the facility condition survey for the Selawik Renovation Project and was the engineer for the Kivalina Replacement School.

The District is working closely with Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to procure the project in a manner that expenses will be eligible for future reimbursement. Reimbursement is dependent on a successful and funded grant application to DEED as is typical of all grant applications for DEED funding. It may be a number of years before reimbursement is received, however. If the full renovation project, currently #3 on DEED's list, is funded, the fire alarm panel replacement would be eligible for reimbursement as part of this project as long as DEED's procurement and other requirements are followed. The anticipated cost of panel replacement is anticipated between \$250,000 to \$700,000 depending on condition of detection devices.

It is critical that the District be able to quickly procure, award and perform this fire alarm panel replacement to remedy this safety issue at the school. To do so, the Superintendent requires a delegation of contracting authority to award the contract and approve changes to the contract.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the waiver for the emergency procurement for replacement of the fire alarm panel at Selawik school and approve delegation of authority to the Superintendent to award the contract for construction, as presented.
2. Do not approve the waiver for the emergency procurement for replacement of the fire alarm panel at Selawik school and do not approve delegation of authority to the Superintendent to award the contract for construction, as presented.
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

It is the administration's recommendation that the Board approve emergency procurement to replace the fire alarm panel; and to approve a delegation of authority to the Superintendent to award the construction contract, as presented.