




**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 

**FROM:** Reginald Santos, Director of Information Technology 

**DATE:** April 27, 2023

**SUBJECT: Contracts over \$10k-GCI Education**

**Memo No: SB23-174**  
**(Action Item)**

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**NSBSD Policy Manual:**

**BP 3300** Expenditures/Expending Authority: The Superintendent or designee may purchase supplies, materials, and equipment in accordance with the law. The Superintendent or designee shall not authorize any proposed expenditure that exceeds the major budget classification allowance against which the expenditure is the proper charge unless an amount sufficient to cover the purchase is available in the budget for transfer.

**BP 3310**, Purchasing Procedures: The School Board desires to ensure that maximum value is received for money spent by the district and that records are kept in accordance with the law. The Superintendent or designee may issue and sign purchase orders.

**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 \$10,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

**BP 3440**, Inventories: The Superintendent or designee shall provide for the proper control and conservation of district property.

**Issue Summary:**

According to applicable Board policy, contracts, and MOA, \$10,000 or greater requires Board approval. BP 3312

**Background:**

The Utqiagvik Core Switch and the remaining old network access switches districtwide are estimated to be 15 years old and 3 years past their useful life. When these switches fail, Districtwide network services, affecting the accounting software, student attendance software, email, telephones, and other District systems, will fail.

The District has applied for Category 2 E-Rate funding to replace the switches with an estimated cost of \$274,345.50, including installation. The application has been submitted and certified.

Installing the switches will require internet downtime. Information Technology would like to begin the network redesign required to install the switches this summer so school and district operations are least affected by downtime. The Network Redesign needs to start soon so that it will be complete by the time the in-services begin. The District posted an RFP for the service, and the successful proposal

was from GCI Education. The annual rate of GCI Managed Services is \$80,400 (\$6,700/ month). To offset some of the cost of this service, the following efficiencies have been identified:

**Decreases:**

- Intrado: Discontinue Website Hosting (new vendor already in place), PDF Scanning, and Page Scanning - \$6,185;
- Classtag: Discontinue Mass Communication and use School Messenger - \$6000;
- BorderLAN: Discontinue Fortinet Support Renewal and move back to GCI Firewall - \$38,024;
- SHI: Discontinue Lightspeed Systems Classroom Management (savings \$9,200 and use the free Apple Classroom app.)

Total FY24 Decreases Identified - \$59,409.00

The following are the positive outcomes of upgrading the Utqiagvik Core Switch and the remaining old network switches.

- Reduced cost and complexity by automating policy, enabling fast service creation, and providing complete visibility into the wired and wireless access networks.
- Create better employee experiences through higher performance and improved support.

Threats to our network are more sophisticated and targeted than ever. The older our infrastructure, the more vulnerable we become. IT must spend most of its time and resources managing and troubleshooting the network. Moving to a more modern infrastructure will simplify network deployments, operations, and management.

The following are the benefits of Network Managed Services:

- Around-the-clock monitoring of IT elements like hardware, applications, security, technology trends, and the internet and notifies you of an issue or abnormality,
- Skilled personnel dedicated to every IT function that the District cannot attract or afford to bring on staff.
- Business continuity. This is an area where a Managed Service Provider can help tremendously. A good MSP can create an efficient disaster recovery plan that will help us sleep at night, knowing that if disaster strikes, we can endure it. This is particularly important as cybersecurity risks, such as ransomware attacks, become more prevalent.

**Funding Sources and Contract Amount:**

<b>Function</b>	<b>Account Code</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Professional and Technical	100.200.355.000.410	\$449.00
FY24 Prepaid account	100.000.000.000.660	\$79,951.00
Contract Amount		\$80,400.00

**Length of Contracts:**

The term of this Agreement will commence on July 1, 2023, and shall have the duration of one (1)Year, terminating on June 30, 2024. At the District's option, the agreement may be renewed annually for the school years 2024-2026.

**Grant Funds:**

There are no grant funds associated with the funding of the attached contract.

**Compliance with BP 3311:**

The attached RFP was published on the NSBSD website between April 12 to April 25, 2023. GCI Education Services was the only bidder on the RFP. GCI Education Services proposal was opened on April 25, 2023, at 3:00 PM. The proposal was evaluated by Tammy Stromberg, Finance Director, and Reginald Santos, Director of Information Technology. Please see the attached bid matrix.

**Proposed Motion:**

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above contract over \$10,000 proposal for GCI Education not to exceed \$80,400 as described in this memo SB23-174 and related documents.”

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

Advisory Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: David Vadiveloo  
David Vadiveloo (May 4, 2023 22:24 AKDT)

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: Reginald Santos  
Reginald Santos (May 3, 2023 13:26 AKDT)

Email: reginald.santos@nsbsd.org