



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, Superintendent DSV
DSV

FROM: Lori Roth, Director of Student Services LR
LR

DATE: March 19, 2024

SUBJECT: **Contracts over \$50,000-** **Memo No: SB24-125**
Northwest Polar Kids (Sara Ecker, speech/language therapist) (Action Item)

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.

2020-2025 SD STRATEGIC PLAN

1.0 Student Success: All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Inupiaq knowledge systems in the core content areas and focusing on the development of the Whole Child.

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

Issue Summary:

Northwest Polar Kids (Sara Ecker) has provided speech/language services and professional development to NSBSD staff for speech/language services required by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Board Policy 6164.4.Ms. Ms. Ecker is a licensed speech pathologist providing federally required speech evaluations and services. As required by law, Ms. Ecker attends pre-assessment meetings, 90-day transition meetings, initial evaluations, re-evaluation, and IEP meetings for students who have, or are suspected to have, speech/language disabilities.

Background:

Northwest Polar Kids (Sara Ecker) has provided speech/language services and professional development to NSBSD staff and students since 2016. Previously, Ms. Ecker worked for Northwest Arctic School District as a contractor providing speech services in the areas of: initial speech evaluations, re-evaluations, and file reviews to determine initial or on-going speech/language needs. Ms. Ecker has provided on-site and/or remote services to support parents, students, and staff with individualized program development (IEP), materials development, and assistive technology needs. Ms. Ecker has provided remote speech services as required by student IEP's to Nuiqsut Trapper, Harold Kaveolook School, Nunamiut School, and Tikiġaq School.

Length of Contract:

August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

NSBSD will fund this MOA through general fund and the VI-B special Education Grant. This MOA will fund up to 175 contractor days (increase of 10 days from 2023-2024) at a daily rate of 715.00/day (increase of 5.00/day from 2023-2024) and may not to exceed \$ 125,125.00 (increase of 5.00 per day from 2023-2024)). Travel for Ms. Ecker has been estimated up to \$8,000.00 (\$1,000.00 increase from FY23) for up to 2 trips from Portland, Oregon to Nuiqsut Trapper School, Nunamiut School, Harold Kaveolook School, and Tikiġaq School. Total MOA not to exceed \$ 133,125.00. No NSBSD employee benefits are associated with this MOA.

Available Budget:

The respective contract and related services are temporarily being encumbered under the School District Main Operating Fund Budget Code 100.200.220.000.410. Historically, such contractual obligations were encumbered through Grant Funding specifically within 285.200.220.000.410. Currently, there are no Grant Awards and no available budget for the corresponding contract to be encumbered to such Special Revenue Fund. It is expected that the district will continue to receive a Grant Award for such Program Services for FY2023, in which at that time the identified encumbrance can be transferred over to the respective Special Revenue Fund and alleviate the encumbrance from the School District Main Operating Fund.

Grant Funding:

This MOA is funded through the Title VI-B Special Education grant (285. 200.220.000.410) and the NSBSD general fund (100.200.220.000.410).

Compliance with BP 3311.

Ms. Ecker has successfully fulfilled her MOA requirements since 2016 resulting in NSBSD and families being pleased with the services provided. Based on Ms. Ecker’s Arctic experience, this rate is within the acceptable range of rates paid across the state of Alaska. In support of the approval of a sole-source MOA, this contractor will require no training and no adjustment period to provide speech/language services to our students. The continuation of Ms. Ecker as a contractor will provide continuity of services, familiarity for students and parents, continuity of practice, pro-active planning, continued implementation of remote speech/language services, and on-going compliance with NSBSD special education processes.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal and related contract for **Sara Ecker, Northwest Polar Kids** in the amount of \$ 133,125.00 as described in this memo and related attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____

Signature: DS Vadiveloo
DS Vadiveloo (Mar 25, 2024 12:57 AKDT)
Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: Lori Roth
Lori Roth (Mar 25, 2024 08:13 AKDT)
Email: lori.roth@nsbsd.org