



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nancy Rock, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vidiveloo, Chief School Administrator ^{DS} DV

THROUGH: MJ Geiser, Assistant Superintendent ^{DS} MG

FROM: Lori Roth, Director of Student Services ^{DS} LR

DATE: August 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Contracts over \$10,000 - Memo No. SB23-028
Alaska Blind Visually Impaired Services (Brenda Jager, EdS.) (Action Item)

NSBSD Strategic Plan Goals:

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.

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

4.1 Financial Stewardship/Management: Ensure financial management based on what is best for our students.

NSBSD Policy Manual:

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

Issue Summary:

Alaska Blind Visually Impaired Services (Brenda Jager) provides Vision Impairment Services, Orientation & Mobility Services, and Professional Development to NSBSD staff as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), Board Policy 6164.4, and Section 504, to ensure a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Ms. Jager provides on-site and remote services to SPED staff by providing strategies, program development support, assistive technology support, and materials development for students with visual impairments. Ms. Jager schedules, and provides, remote and on-site services as per IEP and Section 504 Plans. In addition, Ms. Jager, an Alaska resident and certificated provider, administers and completes functional vision assessments, provides inter-agency coordination for services, and assists with vision-related transition activities. As needed, Ms. Jager attends pre-assessment planning meetings, 90-day transition meetings, initial evaluations, re-evaluation, and IEP/504 meetings for students identified with vision needs. Please see attached MOA for additional responsibilities.

Background:

Ms. Jager provided vision and orientation and mobility services for the students of the North Slope Borough School District since 2015. Her in-state experience provides students the opportunity to increase technology use and access programs from other sources, such as the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Alaska Center for the Blind, and Fireweed Braille Services. Ms. Jager's extensive on-site experience with the North Slope region was invaluable during the development of NSBSD's remote service delivery model for blind/visual impairment services. Ms. Jager currently provides vision and orientation & mobility services to Ipalook Elementary School and Hopson Middle School.

Length of Contract:

This MOA will be valid August 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023.

Funding Source and Contract Amount:

This MOA is funded through the Title VI-B Special Education grant and the NSBSD General Fund. This MOA will fund up to 17 contractor days at \$710.00 per day for up to \$12,070.00. Travel for Ms. Jager has been estimated up to \$2,5000.00 for up to 2 trips to Utqiagvik from Homer, Alaska. Total MOA not to exceed \$14,570.00. No NSBSD employee benefits are associated with this MOA.

Grant Funding:

This MOA is funded through the Title VI-B Special Education grant (285.200.220.000.410) and general funds (100.200.220.000.410).

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 FY22-23, 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.

Compliance with BP 3311:

Ms. Jager is an Alaska certified vision and orientation & mobility specialist working for a daily rate of \$710.00 per day. Ms. Jager has been an independent contractor with the North Slope Borough School District since 2015. Ms. Jager has successfully fulfilled all MOA requirements resulting in NSBSD staff and families being pleased with the services she provides. Based on Ms. Jager's experience, this rate is within the acceptable range of rates paid across the state of Alaska (neighboring school district rate is \$675.00-\$725.00/day depending on experience). In support of the approval of a sole-source MOA, this contractor will require no training and no adjustment period to provide vision and orientation & mobility services to our students. The continuation of Ms. Jager as a contractor will provide continuity of services, familiarity for students and parents, continuity of practice, pro-active planning, continued development of remote vision and orientation & mobility services, and on-going compliance with NSBSD special education processes. Not providing a sole-source contract and responding to a bidding process would result in students and families having to re-establish communication, re-develop trusting relationships, compensation for the loss of historical knowledge, re-establishing inter-agency communications, and cause a disruption in continuity of student support within the Student Services Department.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$10,000 and greater proposal for Alaska Blind Visually Impaired Services (Brenda Jager), in an amount not to exceed \$14,570, as described in this memo SB23-028 and attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____