



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

TO: Qaiyaan Harcharek, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: Pauline Harvey, Superintendent

THROUGH: Fadil Limani, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Lori Roth, Director Student Services

DATE: May 9, 2021

SUBJECT: Contracts over \$10,000
Alaska Blind Visually Impaired Services

No: SB21-238
(Action Item)

2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

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.

Issue Summary:

In accordance with applicable Board Policy 3312, contracts and MOA's \$10,000 or greater require Board approval.

Background:

Alaska Blind Visually Impaired Services (Brenda Jager) has provided vision impairment/orientation & mobility services and professional development to NSBSD staff for federally mandated related services/accommodations 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 is responsible to provide monthly on-site and/or remote contact with Student Services Staff to support parents, students, and educational staff with individualized program development, program accommodations, materials development, assistive technology, and direct services. Ms. Jager schedules, and provides, remote and on-site services as outlined in Individual Education Programs (IEP) and Section 504 Plans. Ms. Jager, an Alaska resident and certificated provider, administers and completes functional vision assessments, provides inter-agency coordination for services, assists with vision-related transition activities, assists with program planning, attends vision related federally mandated meetings such as pre-assessment planning meetings, 90-day transition meetings, initial evaluations, re-evaluation, file review meetings, and IEP meetings for students identified with vision needs. Please see attached MOA for additional responsibilities.



Ms. Jager has provided vision and orientation and mobility services for the students of the North Slope Borough School District since 2015 as an independent contractor. Her on-Slope experiences for same services date back to 2000. Ms. Jager has established relationships with our students and families and was an essential part of our COVID-19 remote service delivery team. Her in-state experience provided 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, Fireweed Braille Services, and Camp Abilities. Ms. Jager's extensive on-site experience within 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 Barrow High School (additional sites may be added throughout the term of this MAO based on newly-identified students). Ms. Jager facilitates monthly site-based professional development meetings for special education and general education staff (as needed) who implement and progress monitor IEP and Section 504 Plans related to orientation & mobility and blind/visually impaired supports. Under this MOA, Ms. Jager will have the opportunity to implement an extended school year programs in Utqiagvik for orientation & mobility (5 days in August) to a qualified student, if needed.

Length of Contract: This MOA will be valid July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022.

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 32 contractor days and may not to exceed \$22,400.00 (may include up to 5 days for extended school year services). In addition to the contracted days, the MOA includes travel for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00. Travel will include for up to 5 trips to Utqiagvik from Homer, AK. Additional village travel may be required based on need.

The total not to exceed amount of the contract is \$27,400.00.

Grand Funding:

This MOA is funded through the Title VI-B Special Education grant (fund 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 FY21-22, 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:

As noted above, Ms. Jager is an Alaska certified vision and orientation & mobility specialist working for a daily rate of \$700.00 per day. Ms. Jager has been an independent contractor with the North Slope Borough School District since 2015. Since that time, Ms. Jager has successfully fulfilled all MOA requirements resulting with 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 \$650.00-\$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 support 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 contract for Alaska Blind Visually Impaired Services in an amount not to exceed \$27,400.00 as described in this memo and related attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____