



**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

**FROM:** Lori Roth, Director of Student Services LR

**DATE:** March 19, 2024

**SUBJECT: Contracts over \$10,000.00 -** **Memo No: SB24-124**  
**Alison Barnett, Next Step Therapy** (Informational Item)

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**NSBSD Policy Manual:**

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 \$50,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

**2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

1.0 Student Success: All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Iñupiaq 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:**

*Next Step Therapy*, (Alison Barnett) has provided physical therapy services and professional development as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Board Policy 6164.4. Ms. Barnett is a licensed physical therapist providing federally required physical therapy evaluations and services. As required by law, Ms. Barnett attends pre-assessment meetings, 90-day transition meetings, initial evaluations, re-evaluation, and IEP meetings for students who have, or are suspected to have, physical therapy needs.

**Background:**

*Next Step Therapy*, (Alison Barnett) provided physical therapy services and professional development to NSBSD staff and students since 2021. Ms. Barnett continues to work for the Northwest Arctic Borough School District as a contractor allowing for split funding for travel expenses. She also worked for Southeast Regional Resource Center providing physical therapy services such as initial physical therapy evaluations, re-evaluations, and file reviews to determine initial or on-going gross motor needs. Ms. Barnett provides on-site and remote services to support parents, students, and staff with individualized program development (IEP), materials development, and assistive technology needs. Ms. Barnett provides services to all NSBSD sites and Qargi Academy.

**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 55 contractor days (increase of 5 days from 2023-2024) at a daily rate of 700.00/day and may not to exceed \$38,500.00 (increase of 15.00 per day from 2023-2024. Please note that Ms. Barnett refused an increase in daily rate last year requesting additional travel funds.) Travel for Ms. Barnett has been estimated up to \$7,500.00 (\$1,000.00 increase from FY23) for up to 2 trips from Arcadia, Michigan to identified sites. Total MOA not to exceed \$ 46,000.00. 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 FY2024, 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. Barnett has successfully fulfilled her MOA requirements since 2021 resulting in NSBSD and families being pleased with the services provided. 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. Barnett as a contractor will have continuity of services, familiarity with students and parents, continuity of practice, pro-active planning, continued implementation of remote physical therapy services and evaluations, and on-going compliance with NSBSD special education processes.

Signature: DS Vadiveloo  
DS Vadiveloo (Mar 25, 2024 12:56 AKDT)

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: Lori Roth  
Lori Roth (Mar 25, 2024 08:14 AKDT)

Email: lori.roth@nsbsd.org