



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: Tracy Mulvenon, Assistant Superintendent TM

FROM: Tenna Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Education TJ

DATE: February 6, 2024

SUBJECT: **Contract over \$10,000 -
Amiun (Rachel Naḡinaaq Edwardson)**

**Memo No: SB24-104 RV1
(Action Item)**

NSBSD Strategic Plan Goal:

1.4 Iñupiaq Language & Culture: Implement language and culture programs to revitalize the Inupiaq language.

1.6 Place-Based Learning: Implement place-based units across academic subjects including life-skills, connection to the land and experiential learning in the field.

2.2 Community in the School: Include Elders, parents and community members in school academics and activities and utilize community resources and expertise in learning.

3.0 Staff Success: Strengthen the recruitment and retention of highly effective staff and inspire more Iñupiaq teachers and administrators.

3.2 Homegrown Workforce: Support the systems that inspire, develop, and recruit local/homegrown teachers, administrators, and staff.

3.4 Staff Cultural Integration: Provide cultural training and hands-on experiences for teachers and Principals to enhance cultural understanding and integration.

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

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 4112.8/4212.8/4312.8 Employment of Relatives: ... An immediate family member of the Superintendent may be employed by the district with written approval of the Board. (AS.14.14.140)

BP 2300, Conflict of Interest: The School Board recognizes that certain positions may involve an employee's participation in decisions affecting his/her financial interests. Employees shall refrain from participating in official district financial decisions in which they have substantial financial interest.

Background:

The Board approved the Iñupiaq Education department to negotiate contracting Rachel Naḡinaaq Edwardson, an immediate family member of Superintendent David Vadiveloo, in order to support, enhance, and add repository of culture-based curriculum for the Iñupiaq Education Department and support other district initiatives such as the Iḷisaurriḡuqta (Let's Become Teachers – Grow Your Own program) Uqautiḷuḡa Iñupiatun (Speak Iñupiaq To Me – Iñupiaq Language Immersion Program).

Compliance with BP 3311:

Administration is recommending the Board to waive BP3311, Bids, with the understanding that beginning SY22-23, Administration started working with elders and other language and cultural experts who have previously worked for the District and who understand and support the urgent need to address the learning outcomes of all of our students. Mrs. Edwardson has worked with NSBSD and the Iñupiaq Education Department in various capacities for almost 20 years. As an educator and award-winning film director, Najinaaq has spent the past 15 years leading practice reform and strategic project design in North America and Australia in film & arts, education, health and grassroots community sectors. She is committed to education reform, community control, and cultural revitalization in film and education. She understands the depth of knowledge and multifaceted complexity when it comes to our culture, history, language and traditions. She has a wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise in the Iñupiat ways of being and knowing and is invaluable when it comes to the collaboration, support, and consultation of the Iñupiaq Education department and its staff.

Issue Summary:

Contracting Amiun, Rachel Najinaaq Edwardson, will provide: Collaborative high-level department-specific strategic planning, facilitation, development, and assessment; Ongoing development and professional development for the department and other staff; Assisting and advising the department in the implementation of the adopted NSBSD pedagogy and materials; Assisting and facilitating work to outline and identify what Iñupiaq-based wellbeing and social emotional learning might look like; Working with the Instructional Team in the further development and articulation of Iñupiaq-based wellbeing learning framework; and, Supporting the Iñupiaq Education Department and other work as identified over the contract period.

Length of Contract:

March 7, 2024 – June 30, 2024

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

This contract will be paid under the Iñupiaq Education Department’s professional and technical account code 100.200.120.000.410 in the amount not to exceed \$33,750.

Grant Funds:

No grant funds are associated with this contract.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater MOA and related contract for Amiun, in the amount not to exceed \$33,750 as described in this memo and related attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____

Signature:  _____
Tennessee Judkins (Mar 6, 2024 08:44 AKST)

Email: tennessee.judkins@nsbsd.org

Signature:  _____
Tracy Mulvenon (Mar 6, 2024 09:20 AKST)

Email: tracy.mulvenon@nsbsd.org