





NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

TO: Esther Evikana, President
Members of the Board

THROUGH: Dr. Caitlin Santos, Assistant Superintendent 

THROUGH: Megan Williams, Director of Finance

FROM: Qagguna Tenna Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Education 

DATE: June 26, 2026

SUBJECT: **Contract Over \$50K –
Rachel Najinaaq Edwardson**

Memo No. SB26-162
(Action Item)

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3311, Bids: The district shall purchase services on a competitive bidding basis when required by law and whenever it appears to be in the best interest of the District to do so. All bids under federal awards must be made in accordance with the standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.320.

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

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)

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Goal 5: Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, & physically safe learning environments

Issue Summary:

The Iñupiaq Education Department recommends the Board approve a contract for Rachel Najinaaq Edwardson to provide professional consulting services for fiscal year 2026-2027 that includes: strategic leadership, project management, curriculum development, facilitation, and specialized technical expertise to advance key Iñupiaq Education Department initiatives aligned with the North Slope Borough School District Strategic Plan.

The proposed scope of work includes completion of the History of the Iñupiaq: Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission curriculum unit and supporting instructional resources; development of a districtwide digital resource repository for the History of the Iñupiaq curriculum series; facilitation of the Iñupiaq Education Department's strategic planning and multi-year work plan; organization and indexing of existing digital instructional materials; consultation to support continued implementation of the Iñupiaq Learning Framework (ILF), Iluagniq, and NSBSD Pedagogy; and advising on



additional district initiatives as identified by the Director of Iñupiaq Education and Assistant Superintendent.

The work outlined in this agreement supports the District's commitment to culturally responsive instruction by strengthening curriculum development, increasing access to high-quality instructional resources, building internal capacity, and advancing implementation of the District's strategic priorities in Iñupiaq language, culture, and Indigenous education.

Background:

Rachel Edwardson has partnered with the North Slope Borough School District’s Iñupiaq Education Department for over twenty-five years, providing leadership in curriculum development, strategic planning, and culturally responsive education initiatives. Her extensive experience with Indigenous education systems, both locally and internationally, combined with her deep institutional knowledge and expertise in managing complex projects, uniquely qualifies her to lead the work outlined in this agreement. Through this MOA, she will provide strategic leadership and project management to advance priority curriculum initiatives, strengthen departmental systems, expand digital instructional resources, and support implementation of the Iñupiaq Learning Framework, with progress monitored through regular deliverables that will serve as lasting district resources.

Length of Contract:

July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

This contract is funded through the Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical budget Account Code: 100.200.120.000.410, in the amount of and not to exceed \$145,000.

Available Budget:

100.200.120.000.410

Compliance with BP 3311:

This contract is not funded through a federal award that would require a competitive bidding; However, this contract is exempt from formal bidding procedures as a curriculum/instructional development expert based on her unique expertise, demonstrated qualifications, and the need for continuity of services to ensure consistency and successful completion of projects.


Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000.00 and greater proposal and related contract for Rachel Naḡinaaq Edwardson, an immediate family member of the Superintendent, in the amount of and not to exceed \$145,000 as described in this memo and related attachment.”


Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____



Signature: 
Caitlin Santos (Jun 28, 2026 19:20:28 PDT)
Email: Caitlin.Santos@nsbsd.org

Signature:
Email:

Signature: 
Tennessee Judkins (Jun 28, 2026 18:23:19 AKDT)
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