



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

TO: Esther Evikana, President
Members of the Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent *D Vadiveloo*

THROUGH: Dr. Caitlin Santos, Assistant Superintendent

THROUGH: Megan Williams, Director of Finance *MW*

FROM: Qaḡḡuna Tenna Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Education *QTP*

DATE: May 1, 2026

SUBJECT: **Contract Over \$50K –**
Dr. Pausauraq Jana Harcharek

Memo No. SB26-145
(Action Item)

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3311, Bids: The district shall purchase equipment, supplies and 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 a Board member may be employed by the district if he/she is the most qualified applicant, has been approved by the Board, and such employment has received the written approval of the Commissioner of Education. (AS 14.14.140)

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

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

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

Issue Summary:

The Iñupiaq Education Department requests continued professional consultation services with Dr. Pausauraq Jana Harcharek for the 2026–2027 school year to provide strategic support to the Iñupiaq



Education Department, Superintendent’s Office, Board of Education, and other district departments, as needed. Her consultation will focus on Iñupiaq language initiatives, immersion program development, culturally responsive instructional practices, cultural safety, organizational leadership, and broader district initiatives requiring specialized cultural and linguistic expertise.

This work directly supports the North Slope Borough School District’s mission to graduate students who are empowered, culturally rooted, bilingual, healthy, critical, creative, and life-long learners. Dr. Harcharek’s expertise strengthens district efforts to advance Iñupiaq language revitalization, support culturally grounded educational systems, and ensure strategic initiatives remain aligned with community values, Indigenous knowledge systems, and the long-term goals of the district.

In order for an immediate family member of a Board member to be employed, it requires that the person is the most qualified person for the contract, the approval of the school board and written approval from the Commissioner of Education.

Background:

Dr. Pausauraq Jana Harcharek served the North Slope Borough School District for nearly twenty years, including as Director of Iñupiaq Education, before retiring in 2018. During her tenure, she played a foundational role in shaping the district’s culturally responsive educational framework, including leadership in the development of the Iñupiaq Learning Framework, expansion of Iñupiaq language programming, development of culture-based curriculum, and broader district initiatives supporting Indigenous education and student success.

Her extensive institutional knowledge, leadership experience, and deep expertise in Iñupiaq language, culture, and Indigenous ways of knowing make her uniquely positioned to provide high-level consultation and mentorship. Continuing this partnership ensures access to specialized guidance that supports the district’s ongoing strategic priorities, strengthens internal capacity, and advances culturally grounded educational initiatives across departments. Progress and impact will be reflected through departmental implementation updates and ongoing reporting as strategic initiatives move forward.

Length of Contract:

The length of the contract would be July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

This contract would come out of the Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical budget Account Code: 100.200.120.000.410, in the amount of and not to exceed \$55,200.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the contract over \$50,000.00 for Nedra Jana Harcharek in the amount of \$55,200.00 as provided in this memo and attachments and direct the Administration to seek written approval from the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Board Policy 4112.8/4212.8/4312.8 Employment of Relatives.”

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____



Signature: *DS Vadiveloo*

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Maged*

Email: megan.williams@nsbsd.org

Signature: 
Tennessee Judkins (May 19, 2026 16:01:08 AKDT)

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Signature:

Email: