



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Esther Evikana. President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent *DSVadiveloo*

THROUGH: Dr. Caitlin Santos, Assistant Superintendent

THROUGH: Megan Williams, Director of Finance *MW*

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

DATE: September 15, 2026

SUBJECT: **Contract over \$50,000
Cathy (Rexford) Noland**

**Memo No: SB27-031
(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.

BP 3312, Contracts: The Superintendent or designee may enter into contracts and memoranda of agreement (MOA's) on behalf of the district. All contracts and MOA's for professional services with a dollar value of \$50,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

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 is requesting approval to continue contracting with Catherine Noland (Cathy Tagnak Rexford) during the 2026–2027 school year to support the completion and publication of the NSBSD K–3 Iñupiaq Early Reader Series.

Under the proposed contract, Ms. Noland will provide final editing, consulting, and project management services for the Iñupiaq Early Reader Series. Her work will include refining and completing up to 12 Kindergarten, 12 First Grade, and 18 Second Grade informational texts, as well as coordinating and providing final-stage copyediting for the Kindergarten through Grade 3 fiction storybook manuscripts.

Ms. Noland will also develop and facilitate Cultural Continuity Checks and Approvals as manuscripts progress through illustration, design, production, and publication. This process will support authenticity and accuracy in the representation of Iñupiaq culture, language, people, and place throughout the series.

Additional project management and consulting services will be provided as needed, including



coordination with the Iñupiaq Education Department and project contractors, including editors, designers, illustrators, translators, publishers, and curriculum specialists.

Background:

The NSBSD K–3 Iñupiaq Early Reader Series was developed to provide high-quality, place-based literacy materials that reflect the culture, language, experiences, and communities of NSBSD students. The series includes fiction and informational texts for Kindergarten through Grade 3 and is intended to support early literacy development while providing students with materials grounded in Iñupiaq culture, language, people, and place.

Phase 1 and the K–3 fiction manuscript development have been completed. The next phase will move the informational texts and fiction manuscripts through final editing, Cultural Continuity review, illustration, design, production, and publication.

North Slope Borough Mayor Josiah Patkotak has approved a Mayoral Funding Allocation for this fiscal year to support the final stages of production and publication. This funding will help move the Early Reader Series from manuscript development to completed resources for use in NSBSD classrooms.

Continued coordination and project management are necessary to maintain consistency across the series and ensure the materials progress through the remaining stages of production and publication.

Length of Contract:

The length of the contract would be September 21, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

This contract would come out of the Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical budget, funded by the NSB Mayor’s Initiative through a Memorandum of Agreement. Account Code: pending fully executed MOA, in the amount of and not to exceed \$108,361.00.

Available Budget:

Account Code: pending fully executed MOA

Compliance with BP 3311:

The proposed work represents a continuation of Ms. Noland's involvement in developing the K–3 Early Reader Series. Ms. Noland retains copyright to the series, while NSBSD holds a perpetual license to publish and use the books in its classrooms. Her continued involvement also provides continuity in writing, editing, cultural review, production, and project management as the series advances toward publication. The administration requests that the requirements of BP3311 be waived in this instance.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal and related contract with Cathy (Rexford) Noland, as described in this memo and related attachments. Contract issuance is contingent upon receipt of a fully executed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the allocated funding from the North Slope Borough Mayor’s Office.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Advisory Vote _____ Vote _____



Signature: *DS Vadiveloo*

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Signature: *Megan*

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Signature: 
Tennessee Judkins (Sep 18, 2026 09:07:07 AKDT)

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