



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Esther Evikana, President
Members of the Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent *DSVadiveloo*

THROUGH: Dr. Caitlin Santos, Assistant Superintendent

THROUGH: Megan Williams, Director of Finance *MW*

FROM: Qaḡḡuna Tenna D. Pili *QTP*

DATE: September 11, 2026 *Tennessee Judkins*

SUBJECT: **Contract Under \$50K –
Dorothy Edwardsen**

**Memo No. SB26-035
(Informational 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 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.

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students

Staff Support & Professional Development

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

Issue Summary:

The North Slope Borough School District seeks to contract with Dorothy Edwardsen to provide specialized Iñupiaq language mentorship, translation, interpretation, and language review services in support of the Iñupialḡusisa! full-time adult language learners.

Ms. Edwardsen will serve as a language mentor and resource to participants, provide translation and interpretation support as needed, and review Iñupiaq language materials for linguistic accuracy, meaning, and appropriate usage. Her services will provide learners with consistent access to a first-language Iñupiaq speaker while helping ensure that materials developed and used through Iñupialḡusisa! reflect accurate Iñupiaq language and usage.

Background:

Through a partnership between NSBSD and the Iñupiat Heritage Language Commission, the Iñupialḡusisa! Mentor–Apprentice Language Program was developed to strengthen Iñupiaq language



fluency among educators, parents, and community members through immersive language learning. As the program has expanded to include full-time adult learners, additional access to first-language speakers and experienced language experts is needed to support continued language development.

Ms. Edwardsen brings a lifetime of Iñupiaq language knowledge and extensive experience as a first-language speaker, linguist, translator, and interpreter. Her professional experience includes work with the North Slope Borough Iñupiat History, Language and Culture Commission, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Ilisaġvik College, and other organizations. She also continues to contribute to Iñupiaq language preservation and translation through her work alongside Elders engaged in Bible translation.

Her knowledge and experience will provide Iñupialgusisa! participants an opportunity to learn directly from a first-language speaker and support the transfer of Iñupiaq language knowledge to developing speakers and future educators.

Length of Contract:

September 21, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Funding Source and 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 \$30,030.00 (total of 462 hours at \$65/hour).

Available Budget:

Account Code: pending fully executed MOA

Compliance with BP 3311.

This contract is for specialized professional and educational consulting services requiring first-language Iñupiaq fluency, linguistic knowledge, translation and interpretation experience, and experience working with Iñupiaq language and cultural organizations. Ms. Edwardsen brings a lifetime of knowledge as a first-language speaker and extensive experience in the perpetuation, translation, and transmission of Iñupiaq.

The nature of this work requires the cultural and linguistic knowledge necessary to mentor developing speakers, interpret meaning within context, and review materials for accuracy and appropriate Iñupiaq usage.

BP 3311, Exemption #3, exempts professional or consultant services, including educational services, from formal purchasing procedures. This contract qualifies for the exemption based on the specialized professional and educational services being provided.

Signature: *DS Vadiveloo*

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Megan*

Email: megan.williams@nsbsd.org

Signature:

Tennessee Judkins (Sep 18, 2026 10:13:43 AKDT)

Email: tennessee.judkins@nsbsd.org

