

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: July 29, 2026

NUMBER: 27-001

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approve
Deering K-12
Replacement
School - Geotech
Fabric

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Goal 4: Support Systems
Strategy 3: Improve School Facilities

ABSTRACT:

Board approval is required for purchases that exceed \$50,000.

ISSUE:

At issue is board approval of a contract with Brice, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the purchase and delivery of geotechnical fabric for the Deering K-12 Replacement School project.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

In August 2025, through memo 26-025 Board accepted FY26 DEED funding of \$1,666,667.00 and committed a match of \$333,333 for gravel design and stockpiling. This contract also includes finalizing legal control of the site, topographic survey, permitting and cultural resources studies. Geotechnical fabric is part of this work and funding.

FY27 state budget included \$6M for Deering K-12 Replacement School. This will require \$2,571,429 in district match to be requested for acceptance in August. This funding will skip the stockpiling step and go straight to laying out the pad on the new site. It will also include taking design to 65% complete and installing the steel piles.

Ak DOT is building a replacement road from Deering to the airport. Brice, Inc. is their contractor, thus is currently mobilizing to Deering and will be on site for the next two years. In order to be in sequence with that road work, thus keep costs low, the pad will be laid out in March/April 2027. The geotechnical fabric is laid down on the tundra before the gravel is placed. It needs to ship this barge season to be available next March. Waiting for Board approval to the end of August will cause us to miss the last barges.

A schedule laying out the gravel pad and other FY26 and FY27 funded work is attached.

FUNDING SOURCE:

FY26 State of Alaska DEED Grant and District Capital Improvement Funds

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve a contract with Brice, Inc. for purchase and delivery of geotechnical fabric for the Deering K-12 School Replacement Project in an amount Not to Exceed \$100,000 as presented;

2. Do not approve a contract with Brice, Inc. for purchase and delivery of geotechnical fabric for the Deering K-12 School Replacement Project in an amount Not to Exceed \$100,000 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve a contract with Brice, Inc. for purchase and delivery of geotechnical fabric for the Deering K-12 School Replacement Project in an amount Not to Exceed \$100,000 as presented.

ATTACHMENT:

Deering K-12 Replacement School schedule dated 7-23-26

Northwest Arctic Borough School District
Deering Replacement School
Project Schedule -Gravel pad and pile installation
July 23, 2026
Dena D. Strait, NWABSD Capital Projects Manager

July 1, 2026 – State authorization on FY 27 DEED grant

July 27-31, 2026 – True North cultural resources consultants on site to do surveys

Summer 2026- Order and ship Geotech fabric

Fall/winter 2026 – Move Replacement School design to 65% and negotiate pad construction contract with Brice.

Fall 2026 – Get board approval for contract for gravel pad only, bid out if needed, Sept or October Board meetings.

February '27 – US Army Corp of Engineers, Borough and all other permitting, etc. has to be secured before this.

January-March 2027 – Finalize pile (STG is pile sub) package and order materials, add piles to contract

March/April '27 – Gravel pad buildout. 4' minimum depth

Early Spring to Summer 2027 – Ship pad insulation (4") and piles to Deering

March -April 2028 – Drive piles to freeze back, i.e. become stable to build upon

Summer '28 - Finish gravel topper (4") on driving areas, no topper under building

June 2028 – Piles ready to build school upon, and we can start school construction **IF** FY28 funding is awarded. FY28 DEED applications go in this summer.

July- Fall 2028 – Demobilize pile driving equipment, completion of gravel pad and pile work.