



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

TO: Esther Evikana, President
Members of the Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent *D. Vadiveloo*

FROM: Qaġguna Tenna D. Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Education 
Tennessee Judkins

DATE: March 2, 2026

SUBJECT: **Contract Under \$50K –
Dr. Edna Ahgeak MacLean**

Memo No. SB26-104
(Informational 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 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.

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 has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Dr. Edna Ahgeak MacLean to provide consultation and review of Iñupiaq language curriculum and program materials. This work supports the district's partnership with the Iñupiat Heritage Language Commission (IHLC) and ongoing language revitalization efforts funded through grant support for the Iñupialgusisa! Mentor–Apprentice Language Program.

Dr. MacLean's expertise will support the review and refinement of curriculum materials and learning resources used in the Group Mentor Apprentice Program (GMAP) and the Mentor–Apprentice Program Level One course. These efforts strengthen the district's ability to support Iñupiaq language teachers, mentors, and apprentices participating in language revitalization initiatives.

Background:

Through a partnership between NSBSD and the Iñupiat Heritage Language Commission, the Iñupialgusisa! Mentor–Apprentice Language Program was developed to strengthen Iñupiaq language fluency among educators, parents, and community members through immersive mentor–apprentice language learning partnerships. The program provides opportunities for fluent speakers to mentor



highly motivated learners in structured language immersion experiences designed to increase proficiency and expand the number of Iñupiaq speakers in the region.

As part of the program's development, curriculum materials, toolkits, and digital learning resources are being created to support mentor–apprentice teams and ensure sustainability of the program across North Slope communities.

Dr. MacLean will provide expert review and editing of curriculum materials, mentor–apprentice toolkits, language learning resources, and digital content used within the program's learning platform. She will also participate in consultation meetings to support alignment of program materials and ensure linguistic and cultural accuracy.

Length of Contract:

February 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

Funding Source and Contract Amount:

Contract amount not to exceed \$18,000, based on a rate of \$900 per day for up to 20 days of services.

Available Budget:

Account Code: 381.200.350.000.440

Grant Funding:

This work is supported through grant-funded language revitalization efforts associated with the Iñupialgusisa! Mentor–Apprentice Language Program implemented in partnership with the Iñupiat Heritage Language Commission.

Compliance with BP 3311.

This contract is for specialized professional services requiring unique expertise in Iñupiaq language and curriculum development. Due to the specialized nature of the work and Dr. MacLean's recognized expertise as a leading Iñupiaq scholar and language expert, competitive bidding was not applicable.

