

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #120 (2006-2007)

November 13, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SELECTION FOR DISTRICTWIDE
EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by providing safe, caring, and barrier-free schools, effective consultation with community to ensure wise use of financial resources and responsible construction and maintenance of facilities, and effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of BrainSpaces as the Educational Specification Writer for revisions to separate Districtwide Educational Specifications for Elementary, Middle and High schools, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with BrainSpaces for educational specification writing services.

PERTINENT FACTS:

On April 28, 2005, ASD Facilities issued an informal Request for Proposals to three nationally-known educational planners to carry out an Assessment Study of the West High School/Romig Middle School facility and campus. The Chicago-based firm of BrainSpaces, whose principal is Amy Yurko, was selected to carry out the study on May 12, 2005 and a Professional Services Agreement for \$50,000 was issued. During the development of the Assessment Study, it became clear the content would substantially contribute to the schools' supplement to the Districtwide middle and high school educational specifications. Each school would require separate supplemental educational specifications. As a result, on November 2, 2005, Professional Services Agreement for \$28,000 for West High School and \$23,500 for Romig Middle School were issued for BrainSpaces to write the schools' supplemental educational specifications.

In August 2005, development of Clark Middle School's renewal became a District priority. Recognizing that it was important for educational specifications formats and general content to be consistent between Romig, West and Clark schools, BrainSpaces was retained to write Clark Middle School's educational specifications under a Professional Services Agreement for \$50,000. An added benefit in efficiency was her ability to combine travel on all three school projects.

The District is poised to begin revising and reformatting the Districtwide elementary, middle and high school educational specifications. In the interest of consistency, it is important that one author provide the content and format. BrainSpaces has also accumulated over 18 months of knowledge about District educational program needs and philosophies, through meetings, research, and development of documents.

BrainSpaces' principal, Amy Yurko, is an architect, educator, writer, speaker/presenter, and community volunteer. Her consulting firm, BrainSpaces, offers collaborative visioning, programming and planning expertise to school districts throughout the country. She is a frequent presenter at Council of Educational Facilities Planners International (CEFPI) conferences. Her role as educator includes teaching a course in "Public School Planning & Design" at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. As a leader in Perkins & Will, she managed the International School design studio, which completed K-12 projects in Manila, Shanghai, Beijing, Nagoya, and Yangon. While with Perkins & Will, she was involved in the planning of the new South Anchorage High School in collaboration with the Anchorage firm of ECI/Hyer.

Each educational specification has a different scope: elementary level is a substantial rewrite, including adjacency diagrams; middle school level is an edited version of Clark's; and high school level's project is a reformat, revision and description of new programs brought on since 1998.

CC/GV/PC/RA/RB/jg

Prepared by: Rob Balivet, Design Manager
Ray Amsden, Director of Facilities
Pam Chenier, Director of Purchasing/Warehouse

Approved by: George Vakalis, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services