

**To: Members of the State Board of
Education and Early Development**

June 10, 2021

From: Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 5

◆ **ISSUE**

The board is being asked to appoint three members to the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board.

◆ **BACKGROUND**

- Mt. Edgecumbe High School has a cycle that opens two Advisory Board seats each year. This year, the Alumni Representative and Parent Representative seats for term B (3 year terms) are open. Additionally, a Parent Representative term C (1 more year) term that was left unfilled last year is being requested to be filled.
- The Mt. Edgecumbe Superintendent has put forth the recommendation that Mary Suzzuk Huntington who was appointed last year to a one-year remaining seat at her request be re-appointed to Parent Representative seat term C, also a one-year remaining seat. This essentially extends Mary Suzzuk Huntington one-year appointment last year to two years by filling the remaining time on another parent seat. Mary Suzzuk did not wish to put in for a full term but expressed interest in remaining to complete the term C seat. Mary Suzzuk Huntington serves as the Advisory Board Chair and her continued leadership and continuity is very valuable to the board.
- The Mt. Edgecumbe Superintendent has put forth the recommendation to appoint Dorothy Chase to serve as parent representative term B. This is the position that was filled by Mary Suzzuk Huntington this past year. Dorothy has served on the board in both roles as a Parent Representative and an Alumni Representative. She currently has a child at MEHS with more in the future and has asked to be considered for the parent position. Dorothy Chase provides a long historical perspective on MEHS and has been critical in asking for advanced classes and other improvements. Her continued presence on the board will be valuable.
- The Mt. Edgecumbe Superintendent has put forth the recommendation to appoint Lydia Agnus to serve as alumni representative term B. Dorothy Chase has filled this position in the past. Lydia initially submitted her application as a parent representative, but as an Alumni qualifies for this seat Lydia's late mother was on the MEHS board when she was a student. Not only is she an alumni, but she is raising her brother and he now attends MEHS. She represents generations of MEHS family. Lydia grew up in Nightmute and now lives in Kotzebue; Western Alaska is the highest population of students and MEHS and her knowledge of both regions will be helpful. Lydia is also a Native Language speaker and an advocate Native Language education which has been a stated goal of the MEHS board for over four years. Her knowledge and advocacy will be helpful.

- Behind this cover memo are the following documents:
 - Recommendation summaries for Dorothy Chase, Lydia Agnus, and Marry Suzzuk.
 - MEHS Advisory Board applications for Dorothy Chase, Lydia Agnus, and Marry Suzzuk

- Janelle Vanasse, Superintendent, will be present to brief the board.

OPTIONS

This is a work session item. Action will take place under agenda item 8.