

Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board – Applicant Questionnaire

The Alaska Department of Education is pleased that you are potentially willing to serve on the Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Advisory Board. In an effort to assist current MEHS Advisory Board members, the Department of Education and the Governor's Office in making the best selection possible for the vacant seats, we are encouraging you to complete the following questionnaire and return it with your letter of interest and detailed resume. Please attach additional sheets as needed.

Name Suzzuk (Mary Huntington)

Position Alumni (or parent)

1. What prompted you to consider applying for the vacant MEHS Advisory Board seat?

I have been serving on the Advisory Board for the last three years. It has been a tremendous blessing to be re-connected to the school, with the ability to stay informed about what is happening and to share my perspectives. I want to continue that work and involvement.

2. In your opinion, what special interest, talents and/or capacities could you bring to the MEHS Advisory Board?

I attended Mt. Edgecumbe for three years, coming in as a sophomore and graduating in 1994. My third child is currently attending MEHS, having just completed his freshman year. The other two graduated in 2016 and 2018. I have also served as a principal in a village school (4 years) and currently work in the district office in cultural programs.

This brings a perspective that considers roles as alumni, parent, school administrator and cultural advocate, with a deep desire to serve our Alaska Native students and offer the most comprehensive opportunities possible.

3. Are you, or have you ever been, directly associated with MEHS? If so, in what capacity?

Student: 1991-1994, graduate

Parent: 2014-present

Advisory Board: 2016-present

4. What is your vision of the role of MEHS and how a public support residential high school fits in the larger educational scheme for the State of Alaska?

Mt. Edgecumbe has provided expanded opportunities not available to students in rural and small communities. MEHS also provides more personalized opportunities for large, urban students who might be slipping through the cracks or

seeking a different environment. It does so in academics, sports, CTE, the arts, socializing, and cultural heritage both because of the number of students attending and the diversity of students attending. Even while providing opportunities in each of those areas for what is viewed as the elite, as a public school, they are available to all Alaskan students with varying strengths and needs. My vision for the role of MEHS in the statewide educational picture is based on the strengths I currently see, which is reflected in the comprehensive admissions selection process. Even while Edgumbe does an excellent job, as in everything, we can always make it even better.

5. To what other boards, commissions, etc., have you been appointed? Are you currently active on any boards, commissions, etc.?

Alaska Arts Education Consortium, Arctic Representative
Kipigniutit Inupiarallanikun Coalition, *grassroots group: revitalizing Inupiaq language statewide*
Iisaqativut Sivunniugutigiit, *grassroots group: specifically on learning Inupiaq*
Indigenous Language Planning Committee, UA Northwest Campus

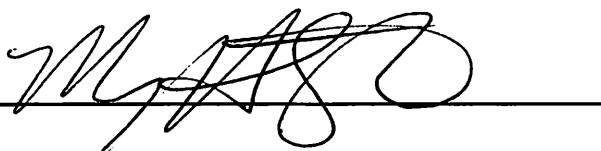
6. In your opinion, what makes you uniquely qualified for the vacant seat for which you are making application?

My background allows more a comprehensive perspective factoring in my role as alumni, parent, educator, administrator, culture bearer and advocate, and current advisory board member. I am getting much more knowledgeable and comfortable in expanding our comfort zones as educators and community members in relation to culturally responsive instruction to meet the academic and social/emotional needs of our youth. I know enough about Mt. Edgumbe and about the needs of Alaskan students to both celebrate what is already in place and continue striving to do even better.

7. If interested, please provide any additional information that you believe might be helpful to reviewers of your application.

Each member of the Mt. Edgumbe Advisory Board in my three year term has held a critical role in making the team effective in advising the administrative team at MEHS. My role as chair this last year, I believe, helped to maintain the tone set by administration for meaningful discussion while moving forward to meet our goals. I was originally going to make room for other alumni to get the opportunity to re-connect with Edgumbe. With three members leaving the board because they no longer qualify for their seat, I feel I could better serve MEHS by applying to continue to serve on the advisory board. It has never been a burden, only a blessing.

Signature



Date

5-15-20

Suzzuk (*Mary Huntington*)



May 15, 2020

Dear Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board Selection Committee:

I am writing to express my interest in serving as an Advisory Board Member for Mt. Edgecumbe High School. I have been serving on the Advisory Board for the last three years. It has been a tremendous blessing to be re-connected to the school, with the ability to stay informed about what is happening and to share my perspectives. I want to continue that work and involvement.

I attended Mt. Edgecumbe for three years, coming in as a sophomore and graduating in 1994. My third child is currently attending MEHS, having just completed his freshman year, with plans to graduate as a Brave as his two older brothers did.

Mt. Edgecumbe has provided expanded opportunities not available to students in rural and small communities. It does so in academics, sports, CTE, the arts, socializing, and cultural heritage both because of the number of students attending and the diversity of students attending. MEHS also provides more personalized opportunities for large, urban students who might be slipping through the cracks or seeking a different environment. Even while providing opportunities in each of those areas for what is viewed as the elite, as a public school, they are available to all Alaskan students with varying strengths and needs. Even while Edgecumbe does an excellent job, as in everything, we can always make it even better.

My professional goals include improving the educational systems for all Alaskans, and I want to the improvements to first serve my own people, not to the exclusion of others but starting at home with what I know. "My own" includes Mt. Edgecumbe. We should not be competing against each other to offer the best, but we should each be helping each other reach our very own best. In Native Youth Olympics, athletes frequently give tips to their competitors to improve performance. We compete against the ball, not each other. Serving on this board while working in my own school district has that same effect. Both systems are enhanced to better meet the needs of our Alaskan students.

Thank you for taking the time to consider me as a Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board member. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving on the board during the three-year term just completed. I was originally going to make room for other alumni to get the opportunity to re-connect with Edgecumbe. With three members leaving the board because they no longer qualify for their seat, I feel I could better serve MEHS by applying to continue to serve on the advisory board. It has never been a burden, only a blessing. I look forward to hearing from you, whatever the outcome.

Taikuu tani,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzzuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Suzzuk

Suzzuk (*Mary Huntington*)

Vision: Enhancement of education in Rural Alaska through instructional leadership with cultural integration

Alaska Teaching Certification/Endorsements:

Superintendent Endorsement – pending completion, Summer 2020
Type B Administrative Certificate, Grades preK-12, valid until 08/2022
Elementary Education, Grades K-8, valid until 08/2022
Mathematics, Grades 7-12, valid until 08/2022

Education:

2019-2020 University of Alaska Southeast, Superintendent Endorsement (pending completion June 2020)
2011-2012 University of Alaska Southeast, Master of Education, Educational Leadership
2007-2010 University of Alaska Fairbanks, Secondary Licensure Program, Mathematics
1994-2002 University of Alaska Fairbanks, Bachelor of Education, Elementary Education
1999 Career Academy, Travel Specialist
1992-1994 Mount Edgecumbe High School
1982-1992 Shishmaref School

Certificated Employment:

2018-present Bering Strait School District, Coordinator of Cultural Programs
2014-2018 Bering Strait School District, Koyuk Malimiut School, Principal
2012-2014 Bering Strait School District, Shishmaref School, Assistant Principal
2009-2012 Bering Strait School District, Shaktoolik School, Middle School & High School Teacher
2008-2009 Bering Strait School District, Shishmaref School, Secondary Math Teacher
2004-2007 Bering Strait School District, Shishmaref School, Kindergarten Teacher
2003-2004 Bering Strait School District, Shishmaref School, 2nd Grade Teacher

Professional Committees:

2020-present Indigenous Language Planning Committee, University of Alaska Northwest Campus
2019-present Alaska Arts Education Consortium, Arctic Representative
2017-present Mount Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board, Alumni Representative
2017 Nome Decolonization to Conscientization Think Tank, Inuit Circumpolar Conference
2015-2016 Growing Our Own Teachers subcommittee member, Norton Sound Education Work Group
2013-2015 Project CREATE Advisory Board, Teacher Evaluation for Alaska Cultural Standards

Language Revitalization:

2019-present Iḷisaqativut Sivunniugutigiit (Inupiaq language learning efforts)
2018-present Kipiḡniutit Iḷupiarallanikun (KI) Coalition (Inupiaq nationhood efforts)
2019 Inupiaq Language Summit, Kotzebue, Alaska
2018 Alaska Native Language Institute, Fairbank, Alaska

Cultural Arts Experience:

2016 Nome Basic Arts Institute, Cultural Teacher Leader, Alaska Arts Education Consortium
2011 Juneau Basic Arts Institute, Cultural Teacher Leader, Alaska Arts Education Consortium
1999 Inupiaq Demonstrating Artist, Alaska Native Heritage Center
1998-1999 Alaska Native Dance Instructor, University of Alaska Fairbanks
1996 Alaska Native Dance Instructor, Rural Alaska Honors Institute
1995-1998 Inu-Yupiaq Dancers, Co-Founder and Leader, University of Alaska Fairbanks
1994-2013 Shishmaref Eskimo Dancers, Group Leader, *during the years I lived in Shishmaref*