

# 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 Lydia Agnus \_\_\_\_\_ Position Parent Rep

*MEHS.  
Request to use  
application to fill  
Alumni Rep. -  
qualifies  
as alumni  
JW*

Current community of residence Kotzebue, AK

Current employer & position Director of Clinical Informatics, Maniilaq Association

Previous employer & position (relevant to serving on the MEHS Advisory Board)

---

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

I have been interested in applying for a seat for a few years however I wanted to wait for a parent seat to open up. My late mother was on the school board when I was in school and I saw how important that was. I have always been interested in being on the MEHS advisory board in some capacity however it was more meaningful to me to apply when my brother, who I am now raising as my own, is attending. Now that he is there I wish I applied sooner. I realized that I could have been sitting at the table longer. I want to make a difference for our rural students. I realize that being on the advisory board is to improve our student's access to academics, extra-curricular activities, dorm life, and cultural way of life. My only regret is that I waited.

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

I am currently the Director of Clinical Informatics/Health IT for Maniilaq Association in Kotzebue. I have experience in managing budgets, reviewing

policies, staffing and ensuring projects meet the standards of our hospital and are completed on time. My department is responsible for maintaining and training the Electronic Health Record to clinicians.

I am Yupik speaking, I am happy to see Yupik is a class that is offered in the curriculum. I would like to push other Alaska Native languages to be offered as well as more speakers start to emerge, like Inupiaq.

I have worked in the Tribal Health system and worked my way up to the Director of Clinical Informatics, without finishing my formal education. I want to be representative saying that I completed college but sometimes we have to make sacrifices for our family, and for me that was the case. However, that is not my point. I made it this far up in the tribal health system because I work hard and I am good at what I do. I want to be just as good at this as well, because I care about the wellbeing and success of the student body.

In my line of work you have to be transparent, accurate and be able solve problems. I want to use my skills on the MEHS advisory board seat. I believe I can be an asset.

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

Yes, I am a parent/guardian of a current student at Mt. Edgecumbe who is currently a freshman. I am also a previous student of Mt. Edgecumbe. I graduated from MEHS and I hope my brother does the same.

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?

My vision for MEHS is that it bridges the gap and divide for rural and urban Alaska. Both in the education and broader aspect. I think the role that Mt. Edgecumbe provides is that it gives rural students an equal opportunity to an education that urban students have at the tip of their fingers while rural students have to take 2 flights. Many rural students do not get the quality of education that they deserve because they share grade levels. They are compiled in to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, which compromises their learning. MEHS gives the opportunity for students to cultivate their curiosity and academia which allows them to progress further and thrive into the successful rural professionals and leaders we know today. My vision of MEHS continuing to provide access, opportunity and quality education.

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

No, I have not.

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

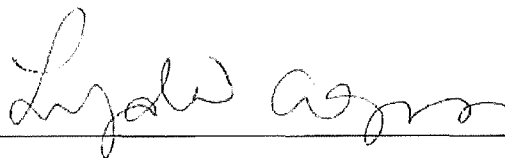
I think I am uniquely qualified for this position because I am a half Yupik 29 year old woman, living in Inupiaq country who is raising her 14 year old brother. I grew up in Nightmute Alaska, a small village of less than 300 I have also lived in urban areas like Anchorage.

I am engaged in my current community. I like to be an advocate. A couple years ago they were going to close down the Kotzebue Recreation center, I showed up to the City Hall meeting and took a stand and voiced my concern because that was currently the only place where kids and adults can have a healthy outlet. It is still standing however it is awaiting renovation. All it takes is a collaborative effort from engaged community members if you know the right people.

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

I have done quite a bit of volunteering in my youth, teens and now has followed me into my adulthood. I am now a member of the lions club. Which is a volunteer and humanitarian organization.

Signature



Date

