

Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board Recommendation:

Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board has two open seats this year, one parent seat and one Sitka community member seat.

Current Board:

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|------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | Amber Cunningham | Parent Representative - A | Unalakleet |
| | Dorothy Chase | Parent Representative - B | Bethel |
| Open | Jerilyn Kelly | Parent Representative - C | Quinhagak |
| | Tanya Kitka | Alumni Representative - A | Kodiak |
| | Howard Amos | Alumni Representative - B | Anchorage/Mekoryuk |
| Open | Travis Vaughan | Sitka Community Representative - C | Sitka |
| | Melissa Johnson | Public School Administrator Representative | Ketchikan Gateway Ketchikan |
| | Sally Stockhausen | State Board Representative | Ketchikan |

MEHS received interest from five candidates for the Parent Representative position, one of whom rescinded their application as they no longer qualify for the position. There were two Sitka Community Representative Candidates, one of whom rescinded their application as they no longer qualify for the position. Balanced representation is the primary goal in selecting candidates. All regions of the state are currently represented, with members coming from varying community sizes. Many candidates demonstrated knowledge of and experience aligned to the needs of the school. There are many strong candidates for the parent position with many reasons to select any one of them.

Mt. Edgecumbe Administration recommends Molly Kimzey for the Parent Representative. The incumbent for the position is Jerilyn Kelly, who has chosen to not seek continued appointment.

Molly resides in Port Alexander. Molly has demonstrated leadership through a variety of professional and board experiences. Molly expressed interest in serving on the Advisory Board for the second year in a row and was the only previous candidate expressing interest this year. Molly attended MEHS Advisory Board meetings and monthly Parent Zoom meetings consistently during the last two years, demonstrating a commitment to and familiarity with the MEHS Advisory Board and the school.

Mt. Edgecumbe Administration recommends Blossom Teal-Olsen for the Sitka Community Representative position. The incumbent for the position is Travis Vaughan. Travis originally submitted an application for consideration but rescinded his application, noting that he does not intend to reside in Sitka over the next year.

Blossom brings knowledge and experience from a variety of community organizations in Sitka, including the Sitka School District, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Youth Advocates of Sitka, Greater Sitka Arts Council as well as familiarity with Mt. Edgecumbe High School through a variety of roles, including that of a student, parent, contract employee, and state employee.

Detailed information about both the recommended candidates are included along with a quick summary of the applications of all candidates.

Parent Representative Candidate Application Summaries:

Molly Kimzey - Recommended

Molly Kimzey is a 1996 MEHS alumna.

Molly resides in Port Alexander and has two sons who attend MEHS.

Molly owns a successful fishing lodge in rural Alaska and has 20+ years experience of running a business. She has been in and around the education field her entire life, and her eldest son has been attending MEHS for 1.5 years. Over the last two years she has been calling in and listening to the advisory board meetings to get an understanding of the current issues. As an alumni, she has always taken pride in MEHS and the excellence it stands for, and she wants her sons to have that experience as well.

Molly was elected to the Southeast Island School Board in 2004 and has spent a lot of time learning about Alaska school policy, lobbying for funding in Juneau, and participating in school board trainings. Molly also worked in the MEHS library as a student from 1994-1996. She has been a parent of an MEHS student since 2022. She currently serves on the Port Alexander Arts Commission, has served as Chair on the Port Alexander Planning Commission, is an ETT responder and incident commander for Port Alexander EMS, and has previously been a council member for the City Council of Port Alexander.

Molly believes that with her history on the SISD school board that she has made many contacts with others in the state education fields in many districts and can build on those relationships. With one son in the class of 2025 and the second hoping to be in the class of 2028, she is motivated to help MEHS be the best school it can be. She has been involved in school district budgeting, interviewing, policy reviews, AASB trainings, and lobbying the legislature.

Angelica Afcan

Angelica Afcan is a parent of a student who attends MEHS.

Angelica resides in Wasilla and is employed through the Knik Tribal Council.

Angelica attended MEHS (c/o 2008) as did her mother, and many other family members. She would like to be part of the advisory board as a way to be involved in her daughter's education. Angelica has a strong background in both healthcare and education professionally, and grew up connected to her culture. She considers herself well spoken, good at taking notes, and enjoys problem solving.

What makes Angelica uniquely qualified for the vacant parent seat is that she will bring a well rounded perspective and strong passion for what MEHS is.

Eric Evon

Eric Evon is a Community Development Department Tribal Transportation Manager and is applying for the vacant parent seat on the MEHS advisory board.

Eric resides in Bethel.

Eric's youngest daughter currently attends Mt. Edgecumbe High School is finishing her freshman year, and his two older children are graduates of MEHS.

Eric considers himself a well established figure in the nonprofit community and uses networking to amplify advocacy efforts, particularly in securing increased funding. He considers himself an exceptional public speaker and uses that to help motivate and inspire audiences across the board. Eric states that his approach to problem solving is approached by a relentless commitment to finding solutions.

He believes that what makes him uniquely qualified for this role is his fresh perspective and innovative ideas.

Father Ishmael Andrew

Father Ishmael Andrew currently has one son and one daughter who attend MEHS.

Father Ishmael resides in Napaskiak.

Father Ishmael has already had one child graduate MEHS, while another will graduate next week. He is interested in advocating for parents throughout the state by being part of the advisory board. Father Ishmael and his wife have eight children, and prior to becoming an Orthodox priest, was studying to become an elementary school teacher. He is fully involved in his children's education as much as possible. He states that he voices what needs to be improved without hesitation, and gives praise where praise is due.

Before moving to Napaskiak, Father Ishmael lived in Sitka where he was the priest of the Russian Orthodox church and often checked out MEHS students, many of whom were struggling with homesickness. He also made many connections with students through the church.

Father Ishmael believes his past experience with MEHS as well as his past involvement with the advisory school board for ZJW Memorial School in Napaskiak would make him a good candidate for the parent representative on the advisory board.

Sitka Community Representative Candidate Application Summaries:

Blossom Teal-Olsn - Recommended

Blossom is applying for the Sitka seat on the MEHS advisory board.

Blossom is the Community Navigator for the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. She was prompted to apply for the Sitka seat because she has one daughter

currently attending MEHS, and has previously worked on the residential side of MEHS both as a dorm aide and cultural room coordinator.

Blossom believes that her long history of both attending and working at MEHS, as well as her children attending, would bring a unique and valuable perspective to the board. She has an extensive background in casework, human services, and school board experience. She served on the Sitka School District School board for three years, from 2020-2023, and is an active member of the Sitka community.

Blossom believes that MEHS serves a vital role in bringing educational excellence to Alaska's rural communities. Her vision is to uplift and protect Mt. Edgecumbe High School's long standing history of excellence by listening to its educators, students, and parents.

What makes Blossom uniquely qualified to fill the Sitka seat on the advisory board is her family history. She has a unique family dynamic that has allowed her to translate the many cultural differences between the western world and Rural Alaska, and she brings that to every seat she is elected to. It has always been vital to her to make all students and families feel welcome, safe, and heard at their school.