

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 Molly O.T. Kimzey **Position** Alumni (or Parent)

Current community of residence Port Alexander

Current employer & position City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Port Alexander & Business Manager, Laughing Raven Lodge, LLC

Previous employer & position (relevant to serving on the MEHS Advisory Board)
Teacher Aide: Southeast Island School District/Port Alexander.

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

My oldest son has been at MEHS for 1.5 years, and my youngest has just applied, I am now more interested in what is going on at MEHS and in being a part of that. The last year or so I have been calling in and listening to the Advisory meetings to get an understanding of the current issues. As an alumni I have always taken pride in MEHS and the excellence it stands for and I want my sons to have that experience.

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

I was elected to the Southeast Island School Board in 2004 and have spent a lot of time learning about Alaska school policy, lobbying for funding in Juneau and participating in school board trainings.

I own a successful fishing lodge in rural Alaska and have 20+ years experience running a business. I have been in and around the education field my entire life.

My parents were teachers in rural Alaska and then I joined the school board the year my mom retired. During my tenure on the school board I have taken short breaks when my children were born and during Covid so I could work at the school when there were no available aides. For the past 16 years I have been an active member of our local school ASC (Advisory School Council) and currently I am President. I understand the time commitment and dedication needed to be an effective Advisory Board Member.

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

I was a student 1992-1996, class of 1996. I worked in the MEHS library 1994-1996. Parent of MEHS student since 2022.

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?

Public education is creating the future of Alaska and must be fully funded. For rural districts there are limits on what they can provide and make available for students. The ability to attend MEHS opens opportunities that would never happen otherwise. Whether that is a chance to play competitive sports on teams, participate in Drama, Debate and Forensics or take a wide variety of classes. A small district also does not have the resources/teachers/space to offer the options that MEHS can. From welding, swimming, calculus, chemistry, ground school to AP options MEHS is better equipped to help student meet high expectations and prepare for their future successes. It is an essential option to support Alaskan students and future generations. With more online, homeschool and new boarding school options MEHS needs to remain competitive and relevant for future students.

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

Currently:

Port Alexander Arts Commission 2003 until November 2025, Port Alexander Planning Commission: Chair 2009 until November 2024, Southeast Island School Board current term until October 2025, Port Alexander EMS: ETT responder and incident commander.

Prior:

City Council of Port Alexander: Council member 3 years, 2002-2005

