

Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board Recommendation:

Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board had an unexpected vacancy of one parent seat.

Current Board:

Open	Robyn Burke	Parent Representative	Utqiagvik
	Jerilyn Kelly	Parent Representative	Quinhagak
	Dorothy Chase	Parent Representative	Bethel
	Tanya Kitka	Alumni Representative	Kodiak
	Lydia Agnus	Alumni Representative	Kotzebue
	Travis Vaughan	Sitka Community Representative	Sitka
	Melissa Johnson	Public School Administrator Representative	Ketchikan Gateway Ketchikan
	Sally Stockhausen	State Board Representative	Ketchikan

On June 8, 2023, the State Board Education and Early Development appointed Robyn Burke for the Parent Representative position. She resigned from the position on October 1, 2023.

In the spring of 2023, MEHS received interest from four candidates for the Parent Representative position. All candidates were strong with many reasons to select any one of them. Because Mt. Edgecumbe students come from about 110 communities across the state, geographic diversity was considered in making the final selections.

Mt. Edgecumbe Administration recommends Amber Cunningham for the Parent Representative position.

Amber Cunningham resides in Unalakleet and would bring representation from the Arctic region of Alaska, as was intended with the original selection. The Advisory Board has recently worked with the Alaska Association of School Boards to incorporate training to enhance their effectiveness as an advisory board and intends to incorporate committee work during this school year. Amber referenced her efforts related to housing shortage issues, intergenerational trauma, Inupiaq language revitalization and cultural values as she serves on her tribal council. This experience will be valuable as the Advisory Board enters into this new dimension of their work.

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

Spring 2023 Parent Representative Candidate Application Summaries:

Amber Cunningham - Recommended

Amber Cunningham resides in Unalaqliq (Unalakleet) and currently has a son Brian Riley who attends MEHS.

Amber graduated from MEHS in 2004 and currently works for the Bering Strait School District as a Registrar and the Migrant Education Program Records Manager. She appreciates the high

standards that students are held to while attending MEHS and loved her experience that she had while she was a student.

Amber was elected to the Native Village of Unalakleet Tribal Council in 2018 and is currently serving her second term with the council. She values community and tradition and has focused on the housing shortage in Unalakleet and helping people heal from intergenerational trauma as well as reviving the Inupiaq language in the village.

Amber thinks that what makes her uniquely qualified for the Parent Representative position is her passion for education. She has been attending UAA and UAF since graduation from high school. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education with a Minor in psychology, a Master of Arts degree in teaching and learning, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. She also feels that she can bring a rural perspective to the Advisory Board.

Regina Johnson

Regina Johnson resides in Bethel and currently has a daughter attending MEHS.

Regina graduated from MEHS in 1993 and has previously served on the Advisory Board. She has served on the Employee Advisory Committee throughout her career with the court system. She served as vice president and secretary to the local VFW Auxiliary in Bethel. She was recently appointed to the Workplace Conduct Committee by the director of the court system.

Regina's family is very culturally driven, they take pride in participating in Yupik traditions that include making Native regalia which is very important to her in carrying on traditions. To Regina, family comes first and she believes that MEHS has encouraged this concept throughout the years. She would like to help guide the school board and contribute her core values to ensure MEHS carries on the family atmosphere.

Regina thinks that what makes her uniquely qualified for the Parent Representative position is her long work experience and serving on the committees and prior service on the MEHS board. She feels that she is sincere, honest, respectful and feels that everyone should be treated fairly. She views herself as a leader and would like to contribute her experiences to the board.

Robyn Burke - approved by the SBOE in June 2023, resigned October 1, 2023

Robyn resides in Utqiagvik and has a son Dontae Kessner who attends MEHS.

Robyn has been serving on the North Slope Borough School District Board of Education for the past three years. She served as the Board Clerk and is now currently serving as the Board President. She was recently selected to serve on the Association of Alaska School Board's Board of Directors. She occupies a seat on her local School Board and serves on the Policy Review Committee, Legislative Committee, Certificated Evaluation Committee and the Negotiations Committee. She previously worked for the North Slope Borough School District as the Human Resources Director.

Robyn thinks that what makes her uniquely qualified for the Parent Representative position or the Alumni Representative position is that she is a proud parent of a student who attends MEHS and a product of MEHS. She has spent the last thirteen years working in and around education systems from answering phones to hiring teachers. She feels that she has worked hard to advocate for students in the State of Alaska and has always been a firm supporter of MEHS. She believes that MEHS gave her the skills she needed to think critically and serve her community and is hopeful for the opportunity to serve the community that helped raise her.

Courtenay Carty - daughter chose not to return to Mt. Edgecumbe

Courtenay Carty resides in Dillingham and has a daughter Hailey Carty who attends MEHS.

Courtenay has been serving as the Tribal Administrator for the Curyung Tribal Council for five years. She worked as the Director of Planning & Grants Management for the Dillingham City Council. Courtenay also served as a Director to the board of SAFE for Bristol Bay.

Courtenay thinks that what makes her uniquely qualified for the Parent Representative position is that she may stand out due to her regularly voiced opinion on matters that she feels are important as well as having excellent organizational skills.