

# Amber Cunningham

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March 31, 2023

Mount Edgecumbe High School

Karla Atkinson

Sitka, Alaska 99835

**Greetings Karla,**

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the MEHS Advisory Board Alumni or Parent seat. It is a great honor to be faced with such an opportunity as I look for ways to get more involved in advocating for our children. I am Inupiaq from Uᅗalaᅗıq and am a mother of three: [REDACTED] (16), [REDACTED] (15), and [REDACTED] (7). I believe that I have the necessary skills as well as passion to be successful as an Advisory Board member as I am a lifelong learner, researcher, activist, and role model for indigenous children in my community. Please review my application and resume and let me know if you have any further questions. Quyana and I have a wonderful weekend!

**Sincerely,**



**Amber Cunningham-Kapuukaq (Inupiaq name meaning beach greens)**

# **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** Amber Cunningham **Position** Alumni or Parent Representative

**Current community of residence** Unalaqliq (Unalakleet)

**Current employer & position** Bering Strait School District-Registrar and Migrant Education Program Records Manager

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

Bering Strait School District-Registrar 2014-present

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

I graduated from Mount Edgecumbe High School in 2004 and I absolutely loved the school, the teachers, all the staff, meeting friends from all over the state, and appreciated the high standards held for all students. I have previously applied for the MEHS Advisory Board in the past but was unsuccessful in obtaining the position I applied for, but that didn't discourage me from reapplying because I am a believer in fate. If it's meant to be, it will happen.

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

I feel like I can bring a rural perspective to the Advisory Board. I grew up in Unalakleet since 1999 as a teenager and was raised by my maternal grandma and aunt.

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

Yes, I attended Mount Edgecumbe from 2001-2004 and graduated in the top 10% of the class. My son is also a ■■■grader currently at Mount Edgecumbe. Also, three of my cousins have attended: two of them graduated previously from MEHS and one is a ■■■■■ there. I encourage as many students that I am directly involved with to apply to MEHS, including my son's friends, which one of them is also attending and another has recently applied for the upcoming school year.

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 is that we take MEHS' curriculum and structure and implement it in rural school districts because we would like to see all children thrive and achieve excellence. MEHS is the best school in the state and I would love to be able to provide students who are bound to their community and way of life with the same opportunities to be the best version of themselves.

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

I was elected to serve on the Native Village of Unalakleet tribal council in 2018 and am currently serving my second term. My focus while on this council is to address the housing shortage problem in my community as well as look for ways to help our people heal from intergenerational trauma and revive our Inupiaq language as well as traditional values.

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

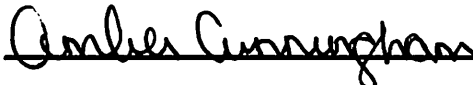
I guess because I am an alumni as well as a parent of a current MEHS student, I feel a strong investment and duty to serve the children of Alaska. My passion is in education as I have been attending UAA and UAF since I graduated from high school in 2004. I have my Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a Minor

in Psychology, Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning, and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. I am currently working on my Masters in Counselor Education through UAF.

I love kids, which is a trait that I inherited from my grandma. We never had a quiet household. A quiet house, to me, is not a very happy house. I love that my office faces the playground so I can hear the laughter every day, and that just brings such happiness to my heart.

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

It would be an absolute honor to serve on the MEHS Advisory board as it has always been a dream of mine. I would love to spread the love of higher education with children from all over Alaska. Quyan for the opportunity once again!

Signature  Date March 31, 2023

# AMBER CUNNINGHAM

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To obtain a seat on the MEHS Advisory Board

## EXPERIENCE

**2014 – PRESENT**

**REGISTRAR/MIGRANT EDUCATION RECORDS MANAGER**, BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Maintain student enrollment records, transcript and other records' request, diploma generation, data entry (grades and immunization records), state reports, truancy tracking, filing and other tasks. Overseeing the migrant education program for BSSD: approving and making sure Certificate of Eligibility forms are completed, recruitment of migrant eligible students, state reporting, and other duties as needed.

**2013 – 2014**

**OFFICE MANAGER**, NORTON SOUND SEAFOOD PRODUCTS

Collect and maintain employee paperwork, fish tickets, and other applications for human resources, data entry (fish tickets and employee time sheets), assist commercial fishermen with obtaining fishing permits and vessel licenses, and supply purchasing for the fish plant.

## EDUCATION

**2021- PROJECTED GRADUATION IN MAY 2025**

**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN COUNSELING**

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

**MAY 2021**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS: POLITICAL SCIENCE**

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

**MAY 2015**

**MASTER OF EDUCATION: TEACHING AND LEARNING**

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

GPA: 4.0

**MAY 2011**



## **BACHELOR OF ARTS: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

### **SKILLS**

- Highly motivated
- Goal-oriented
- Community-focused
- Determined
- Driven to make a difference for our people

### **ACTIVITIES**

Native Village of Unalakleet Tribal Council member since 2019, Spelling Bee coach (2019-present), InuYupiaq Dance group member, huntress, provider, mother, advocate, and Inupiaq parka maker.