

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 Tanya Q. Kitka Position: Parent or Alumni Rep.

Current community of residence Kodiak, AK

Current employer & position Alaska, Marine Surveyors, Inc. –
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Previous employer & position (relevant to serving on the MEHS Advisory Board) Arc ‘n Spark Welding- Store Manager

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

Our class of 2002 had out 20 year reunion in Sitka last May, during graduation, when many of our classmates had children, nieces, nephews or cousins who were graduating. I felt such pride to be back in our gym, surrounded by fellow Mt. Edgecumbe alumni, recent graduates, current students and teachers, and I knew I needed to find a way to contribute back to our school.

My daughter is also entering her freshman year and is applying to attend Mt Edgecumbe for the upcoming schoolyear, so I have additional interest as a parent to help continue the traditions and ensure the continued well-being of the school, as well as the students, both socially and academically, in the dorms and in their classes.

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

As a former student, I have the perspective of what it was like to attend Mt. Edgecumbe, and also as a parent of my older stepdaughter, who attended our local Kodiak High School, I have the perspective of the difference in what is offered between a typical public high school and MEHS.

As a student, I performed well, but did not go to college right away, as I’m sure most expected me to do. I have first-hand experience of attending trade school at AVTEC, for welding, and returning to my home community, bringing my knowledge and skills. I believe this is a path that many MEHS students and their hometowns can benefit from.

I did also return to the college path and completed my associates degrees through the University of Alaska- Kodiak College and utilize those skills in the field which I now work-accounting and business.

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

I attended MEHS for four years, between 1998-2003, during which time, I took a year off to go on Rotary Youth Exchange in Russia. I also sought the opportunity to attend Sheldon Jackson College during the second half of my senior year, in a somewhat unique perspective of the 5th year student as that was where they attended to finish up high school if they didn't attain enough credits to graduate on time, although my graduation was delayed to spending a year abroad. During my time at MEHS, I was involved in many clubs and groups, including hosting exchange students from Japan and Russia, and our student run newspaper, The Channel Light. I can say that I love Mt. Edgecumbe High School, and it played a huge role in shaping who I am today.

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?

I believe that MEHS supports a position that is still very much needed in Alaska. The student body has always been comprised of students who need a residential school, as their home community doesn't support enough student to keep a high school open, or who live remotely enough to not be able to attend a 'town' school, and also of those students who choose to go there to seek the opportunities that MEHS offers. From this blend of students, from all areas of Alaska, is born a unique culture, where Alaskans come together to learn from and about each other, to live and to grow together. I believe that this connection with each other, and in our family of people proud to call themselves Mt. Edgecumbe alumni, is ever more important for the future of Alaska, as division in our country and amongst our people seems to be an ever-growing problem.

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

I am not currently serving on any other boards or commissions, which leaves my time open and free of conflicts for committing to the MEHS Advisory Board. I have previously served on the Alderwood Homeowners Board of Directors as Secretary, for our former homeowner's association in Kodiak.

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

I am uniquely qualified as I am a fierce supporter of Mt. Edgecumbe High School, and can fill either position of Alumni Representative or Parent Representative. I have a background in accounting and business, as well as welding, so I have a fairly well-rounded view of the world and what it takes to make things work, from both a financial and practical standpoint. I have a great appreciation for education and especially our school and would like to contribute my experience and knowledge towards ensuring the viability of MEHS and its continued success into the future.

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

I believe that I am a good choice for appointment to the Advisory Board, as I have quite a few friends, family and contacts both around the state, as well as in Sitka, who have interest in the direction of Mt. Edgecumbe. I can be a good sounding board for topics of interest that may come up, to be able to hear and glean opinions from many people who may be affected by decisions made by the Board, and to be a representative of that information, to help defend and protect our school, while assisting to balance the needs of others.

Signature Janaya O. Kitka **Date** 03/30/2023