

## Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board Recommendation:

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

### Current Board:

	Amber Cunningham	Parent Representative - A	Unalakleet
Open	Dorothy Chase, Secretary	Parent Representative - B	Bethel
	Jerilyn Kelly	Parent Representative - C	Quinhagak
	Tanya Kitka	Alumni Representative - A	Kodiak
Open	Lydia Agnus, Chair	Alumni Representative - B	Kotzebue
	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 four candidates who could qualify for either the Alumni Representative or the Parent Representative position. There were no Alumni Candidates who were not also qualified to serve as a Parent Representative. There were five additional candidates who qualified for the Parent Representative position only. There are many strong candidates for both the alumni and the parent positions with many reasons to select any one of them. Balanced representation is the primary goal in selecting candidates.

**Mt. Edgecumbe Administration recommends Howard Amos for the Alumni Representative.** The incumbent for the position is Lydia Agnus, who has chosen to not seek continued appointment. She served as the Advisory Board Chair.

Howard resides in Anchorage and was originally from the village of Mekoryuk and has both rural and urban experience and involvement. As a graduate of 1969, Howard is uniquely able to bring a Mt. Edgecumbe alumni perspective from the Federal Indian Boarding School era at a time the state and the school are particularly mindful of ensuring the education we offer supports rather than oppresses Alaska Native cultures. Howard has demonstrated leadership through a variety of professional and board experiences and is currently retired, which leaves his time open and free of conflicts for committing to the MEHS Advisory Board.

**Mt. Edgecumbe Administration recommends Dorothy Chase for the Parent Representative position.** The incumbent for the position is Dorothy Chase. She is the longest serving member of the MEHS Advisory Board.

Dorothy resides in Bethel and has served on the MEHS Advisory Board since 2015. As the only incumbent in three years willing and eligible to serve another term, Dorothy offers stability and historical perspective on a board with all members serving their first term. Dorothy has served well, advocating for students, listening to parent concerns, providing honest and realistic feedback and wants to continue working together to continue to improve and make changes for the best of MEHS.

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

## **Alumni Representative Candidate Application Summaries:**

### **Howard Amos - Recommended**

Howard Amos graduated from MEHS in 1969. Howard is a former resident of Mekoryuk (on Nunivak Island) and currently resides in Anchorage.

Howard is currently retired, but has been a member of the Nuniwarmiut School Board in different leadership capacities as well as an ASD Cultural Advocate.

As an alumnus of MEHS, Howard has an acute interest in serving on the Advisory Board. He also has a granddaughter finishing up her first year at MEHS and would like to be able to voice his opinion on educational subject matters, as well as the mental and physical well being of each and every MEHS student. He is well versed in a leadership meeting capacity and is capable of running meetings very well.

Howard has served as Mayor for Mekoryuk, Tribal Government Director, Village Corporation Board Member, has served as a board member for the Community Development Quota Program, and eventually as a Board Chairperson at Coastal Villages Region Fund. He has also served as a VPSO. Howard believes he would make an exceptional board member due to his past experiences in other organizations.

Additionally, Howard is also a US Navy Vietnam Veteran. He has also been involved in preserving the Nunivak Island Cup'ig language by participating in publishing a Cup'ig Dictionary for the community of Mekoryuk.

### **Molly Kimzey**

Molly Kimzey is a 1996 MEHS alumni and resides in Port Alexander.

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 year she has been calling in and listening to the Advisory meetings to get an understanding of the current issues. As an alumna, 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.

#### Terrence Shanigan

Terrence Shanigan is a 1989 MEHS alum and resides in Wasilla and has a daughter who currently attends MEHS.

Terrence has maintained an active relationship with MEHS since graduating and both taught and coached at MEHS from 1996-1999. Terrence has strong family ties to MEHS and is currently serving on the Bristol Bay Foundation Board as well as the Houseless Lived Advisory Board for the Municipality of Anchorage.

Terrence believes that what makes him uniquely qualified for the Alumni Representative position is his 20+ years of extensive board experience. That combined with his past experience as president of the Board for Anchorage School Business Partnerships (Anchorage School District) has given him a solid understanding of how high functioning boards operate and lead.

### **Parent Representative Candidate Application Summaries:**

#### **Dorothy Chase - Recommended**

Dorothy Chase has served on the MEHS ASB since 2015 and resides in Bethel.

Dorothy works as a financial aid coordinator for the University of Alaska. She is currently serving on the board as a parent representative and is reapplying for either the parent or alumni position because she wholeheartedly enjoys serving on the board and being involved on the ASB allows her to understand, support, advocate, and share her ideas.

While on the MEHS ASB she has been able to make great connections, advocate for the students and school, fundraise for student travel costs, provide honest and realistic feedback and suggestions, and provide a cultural perspective. In addition, Dorothy has advocated to legislators for the MEHS budget, listened to parent concerns and shared with the ASB that it is important to continue to work together to help improve and make changes for the best of MEHS.

Dorothy is a true advocate and supporter of Mt. Edgecumbe high school and always will be, and therefore would like to continue her time on the MEHS ASB.

#### Ayla Kalke

Ayla resides in Galena and currently has a daughter who attends MEHS.

Ayla is currently employed with Galena City School District (School Librarian) and was prompted to apply for the vacant parent position on the Advisory Board because she would like to be more

involved with MEHS, as this is where her daughter plans to continue her high school education Ayla has served on several boards previously.

Ayla is a born and raised Alaskan and has lived in several rural communities in Alaska. She has resided in Galena for the past 15 years. She has an enormous respect for all different cultures and the attributes they can share with others. Ayla believes MEHS provides a more rigorous education along with increased opportunities for students.

Ayla has served for 6 years on the Sidney C. Huntington Advisory Committee as both secretary and chairperson. She is a current board member for Galena's local radio station, KIYU. She is also a member of the National Education Association (NEA) and is serving on the negotiations team this year.

Ayla believes that her previous history serving on boards gives her a good understanding on how to efficiently be a contributing part of the MEHS Advisory Board. She is empathetic to many situations and is always willing to listen with an open mind. She would like to become more involved with her daughters schooling and become educated further on what opportunities MEHS has to offer.

#### Kathryn Matthews

Kathryn Matthews has a granddaughter, Cecelia, who attends MEHS as a town student. Kathryn is Cecelia's legal guardian and resides in Sitka.

Kathryn currently works for the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and is always interested in the education our children receive, as they are our future. She believes that we need to have stability in our education system, support, cultural activities and awareness and make it so every child knows they matter and have value.

Kathryn believes in giving all children from around the state the opportunity for a full and exciting educational experience, as she believes they all deserve the chance to better themselves.

Kathryn is currently a member of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska Educational Committee. Kathryn believes what makes her uniquely qualified for the position of parent seat on the Advisory Board is that she has grown up in Sitka and has worked at MEHS in the finance department previously. She also has a grandchild currently attending, and she cares about all of the students at MEHS.

#### Muriel Amos

Muriel Amos has a granddaughter, Brooklyn Amos of whom she is the legal guardian, who attends MEHS.

Muriel resides in Anchorage, but is from Mekoryuk. She is a retired teacher.

Muriel has participated in the majority of the Nuniwarmiut School Board meetings, attending both as an employee of the school and a parent, and believes she can highlight ideas for the MEHS Advisory Board. She believes that it is important for her to get to know more about the

school that her granddaughter attends in terms of school academics, activities, and school finances.

Muriel has served as a board member for the Native Village of Mekoryuk Tribe, and has also served as President of the Tribe. After her term as tribal leader, she became the trial judge for the Native Village of Mekroyuk.

Muriel believes that her experience as an employee of the BIA schools of Mekoryuk and LKSD Nuniwarmiut Schools give her unique qualifications and perspective of how schools run. She believes that this will help give ideas that would benefit MEHS.

#### Raquel Moses

Raquel Moses resides in Fairbanks and has a daughter Summer who attends MEHS.

Raquel is currently employed at Doyon as an HRIS Tech II. She is applying for the vacant parent Advisory position because she wants to contribute to the improvement of the school and is excited for the opportunity to collaborate with other members to ensure the students have a great high school education.

Raquel recently earned her bachelor of science in business and has many years of experience in Human Resources. She believes that her ability to adapt and come up with solutions could benefit the Advisory Board. She does not believe that MEHS is an average high school, and believes that it is important to provide access to quality education for all Alaska high school students.

Raquel is not currently serving on any other boards and would dedicate her time and attention solely to the MEHS Advisory Board. She believes what makes her uniquely qualified for the parent representative seat is her own experience of attending a residential high school, and her ability to think outside the box, as well as her knowledge from working in the HR field.

#### Renee Rochefort

Renee Rochefort resides in Golovin and has a daughter, Aurora, who is currently in her freshman year at MEHS.

Renee is currently employed with the Bering Strait School District as a special education teacher. She is also vice president of the Alaska Chapter for CEC (Council for Exceptional Children). She has years of experience in education as a career.

Renee believes that MEHS has opened a door to many opportunities for all of their students and allows not only for academics, but also recreational opportunities that students may otherwise not receive.

Renee believes that what makes her uniquely qualified for this vacant parent position is that she has a daughter enrolled at MEHS and also has an educated background that can be useful when it comes to decision making. As a special education teacher, she believes that she is a good advocate for the needs of children and also enjoys being an involved parent.