Sitka School Board Meeting  
September 27, 2016  
6:00 p.m. – School Board Meeting  

District Office Board Room  

Proposed Agenda  

1. Call to Order  
2. Flag Salute  
3. Roll Call  
4. Approval of the Proposed Agenda  
5. New Business  
   a. Appoint a Board Member  
      “I move to nominate Dionne Brady-Howard, Jennifer Carter and Brent Edwards to serve until the next regular election in October 2017.”  
6. Adjournment
Alaska Statutes 14.08.045. Vacancies.

(a) The regional school board shall declare a regional school board seat vacant when the person elected
(1) fails to qualify within 30 days of certification of the election;
(2) notifies the school board in writing of the person’s refusal to take office;
(3) resigns and the resignation is accepted by the school board;
(4) is convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude or of an offense involving a violation of the oath of office while serving as a school board member; or
(5) no longer physically resides within the boundaries of the regional educational attendance area, or if the regional educational attendance area has been divided into sections, within the section from which the person was elected, and the school board by a two-thirds vote, declares the seat vacant.

(b) A vacancy on a regional school board shall be filled under AS 14.12.070.


If a vacancy occurs on the school board, the remaining members shall within 30 days fill the vacancy. The person selected shall serve until the next regular election when a successor shall be elected to serve the balance of the term.
Bylaws of the Board

BOARD VACANCIES

The school board shall declare a vacancy on the Board for any actions which disqualify a member from service in accordance with state laws and local ordinances.

Three consecutive unexcused absences from regular board meetings shall be sufficient cause for the Board to declare a Board vacancy.

(cf. 9121 - President)
cf. 9320 - Meetings)

Appointment to the Board

A vacancy on the Board shall be filled within 30 days of the vacancy by Board appointment. When making an appointment to the Board, the Board desires to draw from the widest possible number of candidates.

The Board shall:

1. Advertise the vacancy in suitable local media.

2. Solicit applications including a letter of interest of any legally qualified citizen interested in serving on the Board.

3. Provide candidates with appropriate information regarding Board member responsibilities.

4. Announce names of candidates and accept public input either in writing or at a public meeting.

5. Interview the candidates at a public meeting.

6. Select the provisional appointee by majority vote at a public meeting.

The person appointed shall hold office until the next regularly scheduled election for district Board members and shall be afforded all the powers and duties of a Board member upon appointment.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES
14.08.041 Regional school boards
14.08.045 Vacancies
14.08.081 Recall
14.12.070 Vacancies
14.14.080 Declaring a school board vacancy

SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Adoption Date: October 10, 1995
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dionne Brady-Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Carter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Edwards</td>
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119 Andrew Hope St., Apt. B
Sitka, AK 99835
September 22, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dionne Brady-Howard. I am a lifelong Sitkan, and I am respectfully submitting my name to fill the recent vacancy on the Sitka School Board.

I was raised in Sitka, where I attended the Sitka School District through the 9th grade. I graduated from MEHS. I earned my Associate of Arts degree from the University of Alaska Southeast and my Bachelor’s Degree in Secondary Education from Sheldon Jackson College.

I taught in the Southwest Region School District in the position of Itinerant Social Studies Teacher for two years, during which I taught in four high schools, delivering the social studies courses in twelve-week sessions per village. Since that time, I have been employed at Mt. Edgecumbe High School; this is my seventeenth year teaching social studies at MEHS.

I spent fifteen years as a student in the Sitka Native Education Program, where I have recently begun volunteering with the sixth through twelfth grade culture class. I am also the Dance Show Coordinator for the Naa Kahidi Dancers and the dance group leader for the Sheet’ká Kwaan Dancers, and the caretaker for my Kiks.ádi clan’s songs.

My educational interests lie beyond just the cultural; I am an educator who has made my entire career about finding innovative ways to reach students of varying skills, differentiating instruction, as well as making in-roads with long-distance parents of our boarding school students. I also have experience assessing what skills our students need, and then addressing those in the curricula I have been charged with the task of developing over the years.

School culture, as well as the culture of education in our society are of particular interest to me, especially given the often too-narrowly focused legislations of the last decade or more, which blatantly disregarded students as holistic individuals, and which sought to place the sole accountability for student skills on the teacher, when there is so much more to consider than just that.

I am the proud mother to two students in the Sitka School District: a seventh grader at Blatchley and a junior at Sitka High School, and I would bring that point of view to the board.

As with any new appointee you may choose, I would bring a fresh perspective to the board. In addition, I see the major strength I could bring as being the multi-faceted educational vantage points I possess: as a parent, an educator from a neighboring school, as well as a person who is active in the cultural education in our community. I served on the SNEP Parent Committee for thirteen years, and was the Chair of that committee for the last several years I served on it. I am familiar with Robert’s Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure, and am a quick study in organizational procedures. I work well with others, and have developed a sense of tact across my years of active participation in my community.

It is with these points in mind, that I respectfully submit my name to serve on the Sitka School Board in the current vacancy.
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above address, or at (907) 738-1838. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dionne Brady-Howard
September 21, 2016

Sitka School District Office
300 Kostrometinoff St.
Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Superintendent Wegner and School Board Members,

Please accept this letter of interest as I ask for your consideration as a candidate for the temporary School Board vacancy.

My desire to serve on the School Board extends from a deep sense of involvement in, and commitment to my community. I believe I would bring a balanced and informed perspective to the School Board through my collective experiences as a former public school teacher, current parent of school-age children, and local taxpayer. My diverse and extensive background in public education helps me in understanding multiple points of view on the complicated issues that face the school board.

My family has lived in Sitka for three years. It is, without question, the most community-minded town we have ever had the privilege of living in. I take my civic responsibility seriously. I work hard to stay informed about local and state issues that affect our daily lives. I am a registered voter and actively participate in every caucus, primary and general election.

Although I have not served in any public office before, I have been a committed board member for several organizations over the years. I have also been the appointed director and co-director of two different organizations and served on several school advisory councils. I am fairly familiar with governance as it relates to the operational, budgetary and planning matters that every organization faces.
My involvement with the Sitka School District has primarily been a product of having my children enrolled in the schools. Since moving to Sitka in 2013, I have actively volunteered at all of the schools my children have attended. I have taught art lessons in Ms. Karsunky’s classroom, set up Ms. Brant-Ferguson’s classroom for band practice on a weekly basis, started the school vegetable garden at Keet Gooshi Heen, assisted Ms. Dick on science field trips at Blatchley, chaperoned SHS students at MusicFest in Juneau, delivered weekly food distributions to schools through “Blessings in a Backpack” and housed dozens of visiting children in our home. Additionally, through my professional work with Sitka Fine Arts Camp, I now have a good working relationship with most every principal and know a large number of our wonderful teachers.

Every school board faces challenging issues on a regular basis. Whether they be budgetary, personnel-related or curricular, there is often a significant gap in understanding between the average citizen’s perception of public education and what our schools, teachers, administrators and school board actually do. I would describe my primary area of interest in District operations as that of being an informational liaison between the School District and the community at large. I would strive to better involve the public, bridge the common areas of misunderstanding, and advocate for our common shared mission.

I hope you will find my qualifications, motivation and goals a good match for the position of School Board Member. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Lynn Carter
EDUCATION
THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, Tallahassee, FL - Masters of Science in Art Education, 1992 (GPA 4.0)

THE SCHOOL of THE MUSEUM of FINE ARTS OF BOSTON, Boston, MA and
TUFTS UNIVERSITY, Medford, MA - Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1986 (GPA 3.79)

THE HIGH SCHOOL of ART and DESIGN, New York, NY, 1981 (Honor Roll)

EXPERIENCE
PROJECT MANAGER - Margaret A. Cargill Grant, SITKA FINE ARTS CAMP/ALASKA ARTS SOUTHEAST, INC.;
Sitka, AK - March 2016 - Present (Full-time)

INSTRUCTOR of RECORD and COURSE CREATOR - ED S593 (Arts Institute) UAS and SFAC
Sitka, AK - June 2016 - Present (Part-time)

ART INSTRUCTOR - (Elementary, Middle, High School Camps and School-year Program) -
SITKA FINE ARTS CAMP; Sitka, AK - April 2014 - Present (Part-time)

DIRECTOR - ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY of PIKE COUNTY,
GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH; Milford, PA - September 2010 - September 2013 (Part-time)

ART TEACHER and DEPARTMENT HEAD - SAIL HIGH SCHOOL (School for Arts and Innovative Learning);
Tallahassee, FL - August 2000 - June 2006 (Full-time)

CURATOR and PROJECT MANAGER - Hecho a Mano: Mexican Folk Art from the San Antonio Museum of Art,
THE MARY BROGAN MUSEUM of ART AND SCIENCE; Tallahassee, FL - September 1999 - May 2000

ART TEACHER and DEPARTMENT HEAD - BELLE VUE MIDDLE SCHOOL;
Tallahassee, FL - August 1994 - January 1999 (Full-time)

ART TEACHER and DEPARTMENT HEAD - THE ARTS ACADEMY at SAVANNAH HIGH SCHOOL;
Savannah, GA - August 1992 - June 1994 (Full-time)

ART INSTRUCTOR - LAFAYETTE ARTS and CRAFTS CENTER - PARKS and RECREATION,
CITY of TALLAHASSEE; Tallahassee, FL - September 1990 - June 1992 (Part-time)

ART INSTRUCTOR - M.E.L.D. COMMUNITY CENTER;
Stoneham, MA - September 1988 - September 1989 (Part-time)

ART INSTRUCTOR - THE BOYS and GIRLS CLUB OF AMERICA;
Stoneham, MA - September 1986 - September 1987 (Part-time)

113 Jamestown Drive, Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-0520 (850) 491-2666 jlc63@alaska.net
CONSULTATION WORK AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTER - Math and Art Connections: Polar Graphing and a Brief History of the Spiral in Art. THE FLORIDA INSTITUTE of ART EDUCATION; Tallahassee, FL - Summer 1999

FACILITATOR - Using Aesthetics and Art Criticism in Preparation for the FCAT and Terra Nova. PANHANDLE AREA CONSORTIUM for ART EDUCATION, Panama City, FL - Fall 1998

GRANT WRITER and TRAVEL GRANT PARTICIPANT - Long-Term Loan Project from the San Antonio Museum of Art. THE MUSEUM LOAN NETWORK and MUSEUM OF ART; Tallahassee, FL - Spring 1998

PRESENTER - From Theory to Practice; One Middle School's Journey Towards and Integrated Arts Curriculum. FLORIDA ARTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE; Orlando, FL - Fall 1997

CURRICULUM WRITER - Arts-Integration Component of Thematic Instruction. BELLE VUE MIDDLE SCHOOL, Tallahassee, FL - Summer 1996

FACILITATOR - Discipline Based Art Education Classroom Teacher Training Institute. THE FLORIDA INSTITUTE of ART EDUCATION; Tallahassee, FL - Summer 1995

COORDINATOR and INSTRUCTOR - Savannah Institute for Education in the Arts, Summer High School International Exchange Program. ARMSTRONG STATE COLLEGE; Savannah, GA - Summer 1994

CURRICULUM WRITER - The Ulysses Davis Collection: K-12 Classroom Curriculum. KING TISDELL COTTAGE FOUNDATION; Savannah, GA - Spring 1994


CURRICULUM WRITER - County-Wide Visual Arts Curriculum Development Team. SAVANNAH/CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD of EDUCATION; Savannah, GA - Spring 1993


TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS AND SPECIALIZATIONS

ART K-12, FLORIDA - 1994-2011
ART K-12, GEORGIA - 1992-1997
COLLEGE BOARD/AP STUDIO ART
COLLEGE BOARD/AP ART HISTORY

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

113 Jamestown Drive, Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-0520 (850) 491-2666 jlc63@alaska.net
September 22, 2016

VIA Hand Delivery

Superintendent Mary Wegner
300 Kostrometinoff St.
Sitka, AK 99835

RE: Sitka School Board Temporary Vacancy
Letter of Interest

Dear Superintendent Wegner:

This is my letter of interest for the temporary vacancy on the Sitka School Board. Below are my responses to the questions in the newspaper posting for this vacancy. I am also attaching my résumé.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THE BOARD?

I have two main reasons for wanting to serve on the board. First, I want to serve on the Sitka School Board because my family and I want to give back to this community. My wife (without her full support I could not seek this position) and I are both dedicated to this community. We both firmly believe that education is important for a healthy community. We both attended public schools and come from families of public educators. Up until the start of the last school year, I stayed home with our children while my wife worked. Now that our boys (ages 4 and 6) are in school, she and I have been discussing how to give more to this community. This position is an opportunity to serve Sitka in capacity that makes a real and lasting difference.

The second reason I want to serve on the board is my interest in seeing all the school children in Sitka receive a top notch education. Public education is very important in shaping how today’s children see and understand the world. Public education also helps prepare today’s children to function in the world as adults.

WHAT ARE YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST IN THE DISTRICT OPERATIONS?

I am interested in students receiving the best education that the district can provide. I am sure that if I serve on the board I will identify specific areas of district operation that I am keenly interested in and that my skills are best aligned with.

GIVE EXAMPLES OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITHIN THE SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Last year my oldest child entered kindergarten at Baranof Elementary School. I volunteered in his classroom at least once a week. I also helped out on field trips as often as
possible. This year I am again volunteering in my oldest child’s first grade classroom at least once a week and plan on helping with field trips. I have maintained good communication with my child’s teachers.

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH GOVERNANCE?

I served on the Sitka Tree and Landscape Committee for about two years. I stopped serving on this committee because my children’s nap schedule made it impossible to attend meetings.

Additionally, when practiced law in Anchorage, I worked at a firm with a diverse group of clients, including numerous rural municipal governments. Over my years in private practice I worked on many different issues with city managers, assembly members, and city staff. This experience required me to quickly and efficiently get up to speed on diverse local government issues. I can apply this same experience to school board issues.

RESIDENCY AND VOTER REGISTRATION

I have been a Sitka resident for more than 30 days (since September, 2008) and I am registered to vote in Alaska.

I appreciate the Sitka School Board’s considering me for the open seat on the School Board. I am available by phone if there are any questions about my qualifications or interest. I will attend the special meeting on September 27th to meet with the School Board in person.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brent Edwards

Attachment: Résumé
BRENT EDWARDS  
706 Sirstad St  
Sitka, AK 99835  
923-9930 (H); 907-830-5938 (C)  
sitkalawyer@gmail.com

EDUCATION:

JD - Willamette University College of Law, Salem, OR, May 1998  
Class Rank 14 out of 121  
Dean’s Honors List (fall 1996, spring 1997)  
High Papers in Real Estate Transactions, Criminal Environmental Enforcement, and Criminal Procedure  
East China Institute of Law and Politics, Shanghai, China (summer 1997)  
Willamette Public Interest Law Project

BA - Small Business Management, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO, May 1994  
Emphasis in Finance

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

November 2000 – May 2008: Boyd, Chandler and Falconer, LLP, Anchorage, AK

Associate attorney  
Provide legal counseling to municipalities, businesses, and to an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act native village corporation.  
Experience in the sale and acquisition of real property, commercial transactions, land and subsistence management issues, preparing ordinances and resolutions.

October 1999 - August 2000: State of Alaska Court System, Anchorage, AK

Law Clerk for Judge Reese of the Superior Court  
Conducted legal research and analysis; drafted memoranda and orders.

August 1998 - September 1999: State of Alaska Court System, Anchorage, AK

Law Clerk for Judge Michalski of the Superior Court  
Conducted legal research and analysis; drafting memoranda and orders. Managed complex motion practice in a multi-million dollar price fixing case.

Summer 1996: British Petroleum Exploration, Anchorage, AK

Paralegal  
Assisted BP’s outside counsel in pipeline litigation of involving the North Slope.

ADMISSIONS:

State Bar of Alaska and all Alaskan state courts (1998)  