

BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Board of Directors.

Name Stacy Mills

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Phone:

Email:

Please answer the following questions:

1. Please share with us your key reasons for applying for this position.

As a community member, NK Alumni and parent of NKSD students, our school district's operations and the education it provides to our community's children is important to me. The future of our children as well as our community, is shaped by this education. It has long been a goal of mine that all children have access to a fair and equitable education no matter what their socio-economic background is. It is my belief that ALL children should have the educational opportunities that I desire for my children. All children SHOULD be educated for success, no matter what their goals, as they move into adulthood.
2. Please share with us any relevant experience you have serving on other elected or appointed positions.

I have been serving as a Board Member of a 501c3 organization, Kingston Cares, since 2015 with particular interest in the Food 4 Kids sub-committee. I have also been newly appointed to serve on the Washington Connection Advisory committee for the WA State DSHS online interface to provide services to the citizens of WA State and to refer clients to services available in their area of the state or for their needs.
3. What has been your involvement in the school and/or community of North Kitsap or elsewhere?

I attended North Kitsap School District 1986-1999 and graduated from North Kitsap High School. My daughters currently attend Kingston Middle and Kingston High Schools and will graduate in 2020 & 2023 as the 4th generation of NKSD graduates in our family. I was born and raised in Kingston, as my maternal grandfather before me and my father's family also being a part of the North Kitsap community since 1959.

I have worked very closely with the Native American Liaisons in the Kingston schools within my position as the Family Assistance Case Manager and now as the Family Assistance Program Manager for the last 8 years at Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to ensure that students receiving services from my programs, as well as their families, are getting their kids to school and also getting any additional help they may need from the district or the Tribe. This has mainly been with children in Tribal Foster care and/or receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

I have worked with the school district Food Services Department in my roll providing the USDA/FNS OSPI Summer Lunch program to students of NKSD via the Summer Experience program at Wolfle Elementary since 2012 when I started the program.

As stated above, I am currently on the board of Kingston Cares which was a grass roots effort of concerned Kingston residents that our students were experiencing food insecurity during the school breaks when school

breakfast and lunch were not available to them such as, Winter, Spring & Summer vacations. I began working with the former NKSD Super Intendent Gene Medina and now former Wolfle principal Ben Degnin on this project prior to the start of Kingston Cares as a 501c3 in 2012.

I have previously been an active participant at Wolfle Elementary when my girls attended school there and chaperoned several field trips and an overnight camp.

I am very active in the Little Boston Community of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe as a long-standing member of its extended community as well as an employee and active with the community's families.

4. Describe how your experience, training, and interest can contribute to the improvement of this school district. For all of my connections listed above, I feel that I have a pulse on the direct education of the community's children and the needs of not only our students, but our families. Our students can only be successful if their FULL needs are being met both in and out of school. It is very important to me that the school district as a whole keep this in mind whenever making decisions that undoubtedly affect the entire community and communities within our district. I feel that my experiences within working with families at my mom's in-home daycare that she's owned and operated since I was 5, as well as while I was teaching abroad in South Korea in 2006, my employment with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe since 2010 and my own children attending NKSD since 2007 can all contribute to me working with the district and other directors to improve our School District. I am proud to say that in 2013 I feel that I directly impacted the path of our School District when I spoke before the School Board during the very difficult time in the decision as to which school would be closed. This was a very hard time for our district and especially for the Kingston Community as our 2 elementary schools were both on the docket. I worked with the Wolfle PTA, other parents & community members to make a positive impact in our district and although there is always room for improvement, I feel that what the North Kitsap School District did and does continually to make improvements to our district is very commendable and I'd like to be a bigger part of that movement. Making improvements to the district does not always mean making popular decisions and I often relate back to a quote that I saw on my North Kitsap High School counselor's wall: "What's right is not always popular and what's popular is not always right." This strategy has continuously guided me in making other decisions and improvements in other agencies and communities as well as my own personal life.
5. Please identify any commitments that might prevent you from attending regularly scheduled meetings, participation in workshops, and reviewing study materials prior to meetings. I feel that now I am in a good space in my life to commit to the dedication that being on the NKSD school board requires. I don't foresee any commitments that would interfere with attending regularly scheduled meetings and other duties as assigned. My employment with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe supports and encourages involvement within the North Kitsap Community and has been instrumental in my involvement with projects with the school district and other North Kitsap projects.
6. Please identify any conflicts of interest you may have by serving on the Board of Directors for the school district. I don't anticipate any conflicts of interest.
7. What do you see as the role of a board member in the operations of the school district? I see the role of a board member as a position of oversight for the NKSD and to be representing the best interests of the students of my District (5) in particular. Board members comprise an important board to assist in important decision making for the school district.
8. Briefly describe your familiarity with and knowledge about school financing in the State of Washington. I am only familiar within limited arenas of school funding within the State of Washington. As a voter, I recognize that there have been opportunities for citizens to vote in levies to support our school district in funding projects ranging from direct student support and education to facilities and maintenance of vital infrastructure within

our school district. I am also familiar with such specific funding sources such as Title I, which has been vital to providing services to mine and other students in attendance at Wolfle Elementary and I've worked directly with Title I Support Specialists. I am also familiar with Children's Nutrition Programming as it pertains to our district's school breakfast and lunch program.

9. Share an experience you have had as a leader in which you had to make an unpopular or controversial decision. How did you handle it?

Working in management for social services, I am faced with making unpopular and controversial decisions as a part of my daily work that I do. I generally handle it with very matter of fact and transparent explanations with enough background so that the person(s) for whom the decision is being made is aware of the various reasons or policies that require such decisions. Knowing your audience is key to having a respectful and informative conversation in explaining an adverse or negative outcome or decision as it is important to know how much or too little information may impact the audience you're trying to convey information surrounding your decision to. Sticking to the facts and not drawing on personal feelings and/or emotions is very important in dealing with difficult situations.

One very difficult, unpopular decision was to terminate a family from receiving services from one of my programs. They appealed my staff's decision to the court and I had to meet with the family prior to, as well as stand before a court of law, to defend the decision that myself and my staff had made. The client was very forthright with his dismay not only with my program, but with me personally and I was able to maintain a working relationship with the family and continue to work with them in the 4 years since in very personal situations in order to assure the best outcome for the child involved. It was a very tough time and situation but I felt good about the transparency of the process as well as the professional manner that I maintained.

Completed applications can be submitted by email to the Board of Directors at Khenry@nkschools.org or by mail to 18360 Caldart Ave. NE Poulsbo, WA 98370. All application need to be submitted by January 5, 2018 4:00 p.m.