

Courtney Amundson



Biographical Information:

My name is Courtney Amundson, and I'm honored to run for the Sitka School Board. My husband and I made Sitka our home in 2020 after years of shuttling between Anchorage (where I worked) and Sitka, where Joel teaches Fisheries/SCUBA at the University. We moved here when our twin daughters were six months old and this fall, they and our foster daughter began Kindergarten at Xóots! We also have the sweetest infant foster son.

Originally from Minneapolis, I've worked across Alaska since 2009 and moved to Anchorage in 2011. I'm now a Senior Data Scientist with the USDA, focused on food safety. My background is in Wildlife Biology/Statistics, and I've volunteered with Special Olympics and various wildlife groups, supporting education, field work and data analytics.

Sitka has given our family so much, and I'm eager to give back. I will work hard to support our students, educators, and families.

Advocacy Statement:

Sitka School District is grappling with perpetual budget uncertainty and underfunding, risking the loss of teaching positions, while rising costs strain resources. We face challenges recruiting and retaining talented educators, meeting evolving student needs in an era shaped by social media and artificial intelligence, and

navigating increasing partisanship in policy debates. Sitka deserves leadership that meets these pressures with compassion, logic, and a fresh perspective.

My background in research and statistics has taught me that effective solutions often begin with rigorous planning and analysis. I believe in transparency and will advocate for open-data dashboards that track budget forecasts, staffing trends, and student-wellbeing metrics. Thinking outside the box, I will explore partnerships with local businesses and nonprofits to pilot digital literacy workshops and mental-health programs. By drawing on local data and case studies from around Alaska and beyond, we can adapt proven models to our unique community.

As your school board member, I will champion policies grounded in evidence and shaped by diverse voices including parents, teachers, and students. I will convene nonpartisan forums to evaluate emerging issues. Guided by data, empathy, and a drive for innovation, I will work tirelessly to transform Sitka's passion for education into measurable gains in student achievement, teacher morale, and community trust. Together, we can build a resilient, forward-thinking district that serves every learner. I respectfully ask for your support and look forward to serving you with humility and dedication.