

**To: Members of the State Board of
Education and Early Development**

March 11, 2026

From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 17

◆ ISSUE

Mount Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) plays a critical role in serving Alaska's students, especially those from rural communities. Recent concerns regarding academic rigor, student support, facility management, and overall school climate have highlighted the need for closer examination.

In response to parent, student, and community feedback, the State Board is considering the establishment of an ad hoc committee to provide a structured process for gathering input, analyzing challenges, and recommending actions to the State Board of Education that ensure MEHS remains a safe, supportive, and academically strong environment.

◆ BACKGROUND

- Parents and students have raised concerns regarding academic rigor, availability of support services, and the overall school climate at MEHS.
- Feedback indicates a need for clearer communication, stronger alignment of curriculum, and more consistent academic expectations.
- Stakeholders have also highlighted community tensions that may be affecting school operations and student well-being.
- The State Board has an obligation to ensure that MEHS remains safe, supportive, and academically strong for the students it serves, particularly those from rural Alaska.
- A structured committee is needed to review academic performance data, understand facility needs, gather student and parent input, and assess how current dynamics are influencing the school environment.
- Addressing these issues proactively will help prevent further disruption, guide targeted improvements, and rebuild trust among staff, families, and stakeholders.

◆ OPTIONS

- Approve the establishment of an ad hoc committee to review MEHS academic performance, facility needs, student supports, community dynamics, and to provide recommendations to the State Board of Education.
- Deny the request to form an ad hoc committee and maintain current oversight and monitoring processes.

- Request Additional Information from the Department before taking action, such as more detailed data on academic performance, school climate indicators, or stakeholder feedback.

◆ **ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

- Approve the establishment of an ad hoc committee to review MEHS academic performance, student supports, community dynamics, and to provide recommendations to the Board.

◆ **SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move that the State Board of Education establish an ad hoc committee to review academic performance, student supports, and school climate at Mt. Edgecumbe High School, and to provide recommendations to the Board.

Committee members will be appointed in accordance with State Board Bylaw 3.3.5, and membership may include Board members, education experts, parent representatives, and individuals with experience in boarding school operations.