

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Brooke Markoff [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026 2:14 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Rep. Andi Story; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Support for Reopening the MEHS Superintendent Search and Approving Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear Alaska State Board of Education Members,

My name is Brooke, and I am a recent graduate of Mt. Edgecumbe High School. I'm writing because MEHS means a lot to me and to many students and families across Alaska. I respectfully ask the State Board and DEED to reopen the MEHS superintendent search and ensure that the Advisory School Board is fully involved in the hiring process moving forward. Because Mt. Edgecumbe is such a unique state-run boarding school that serves students from all over Alaska, it is important that the leadership selection process is thorough and includes the voices of those who understand the school community.

I also ask the Board to formally approve the Mt. Edgecumbe Ad-Hoc Committee at the upcoming meeting. This committee can play an important role in listening to families, including those whose students left this year, and in providing clear recommendations before the 2026–2027 school year. As a recent graduate, I care deeply about the future of MEHS and the students who will attend after me. They deserve strong leadership, transparency, and a process that reflects the voices of the community the school serves.

Thank you for your time and for considering the perspectives of students and alumni.

Respectfully,  
Brooke Mt. Edgecumbe High School Graduate

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Kailyn Kashevarof [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026 12:04 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Re: Mount Edgecumbe High School

Aang (Hello),

I am a Mt. Edgecumbe High School alumni asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee. I copied the base of this email from Andrew Friske. Although it has been some time since I have graduated from MEHS, I am astounded by the lack of any investigations concerning the new superintendent and more importantly, the overall health and well-being of MEHS students lowering drastically.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Kailyn Kashevarof

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Sam Craig <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 11:17 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; ee.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; sen.mike.cronk@ak.leg.gov; senator.bert.sedman@akleg.gov; rep.andi.story@ak.leg.gov; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; senate.education@ak.leg.gov  
**Subject:** On the matter of Mount Edgecumbe, superintendent search and Ad-Hoc committee

here is my summarized version after many drafts:

Dear members of the State Board of Education, commissioner, and Legislators

I am an alumni from 2017 living in anchorage Alaska. My support network is heavily made by people I fostered connection with. My small world was expanded by my experience there. Not just by the peers I lived with but the teachers and staff. The opportunity to be independent in a safe setting was crucial to my success and others I know from my time there.

The state needs to give this school a chance to get a superintendent that cares. To let the existing staff there that stayed out of purpose to have a say in it. They need to reopen the superintendent search and do it with the MEHS advisory board. The people who are there want to be there, so let them be there.

The amount of students leaving is understandable, even in my time there I had heard doubts from staff in passing and even the students because of the lack of support given. The MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee is a strong start to help the community.

There were many peers there that experienced violence, socially or physically that makes this school extremely important as an option to many communities in Alaska. The connections are so important especially with how much of our youth migrates to Anchorage at some point in their life.

I am an anchorage resident since childhood and I can tell you that knowing at least some friendly faces or people who have connections will be a matter of survival, if not for immediate relief then as a knowledge resource to programs or shelters.

Edgecumbe is a place where alaskans can foster connections before facing the world, the routine in the dorms and the encouragement to get a consistent healthy meal in a safe walkable community is more than a lot of people will get in their adulthood so this school needs to be allowed to show people how life can be with structure and community.

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Karen Case <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 9:57 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Mt. Edgecumbe High School

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am writing to urge you to please reopen the superintendent position at MEHS and to approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is such an important place for so many kids and families across the State of Alaska. It's been heartbreaking to see all the difficulties the students, families and staff have had to face this year. Please step in to get MEHS back on sure footing. Thank you!

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Karen Case and Rich McAlpin  
Supportive Sitka parents

**Ella Lubin**

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**From:** Naomi Paulson-Michael <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 9:51 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Mt. Edgecumbe High School: Request for Action Before March 10–11 Board Meeting

Naomi Paulson

[REDACTED]  
Sitka, AK 99835

March 9, 2026

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am writing as a former educator at Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS), an Alaska resident and a parent of Alaska native children who hope one day to follow their grandparents' footsteps and attend the school themselves. With the Alaska State Board of Education meeting on March 10 and 11, I am asking you to support three specific actions on behalf of MEHS students, families, and staff.

**Reopen the Superintendent Search.** The MEHS Advisory Board voted 4-3 to formally request that the superintendent position be reopened for a thorough rigorous hiring process with Advisory Board and stakeholder input. The commissioner has acknowledged that consultation with the Advisory Board was skipped in the original process. MEHS is a unique, state-run boarding school serving students from across Alaska. It deserves a complete and transparent hiring process.

**Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.** The State Board previously supported forming an ad-hoc committee to address concerns raised by parents, former staff, and community members. That committee must be formally approved at the upcoming meeting. It should move forward immediately, include outreach to families whose students left this year, and provide clear recommendations before the 2026-2027 school year.

**Ensure Meaningful Accountability.** I would ask that the State Board and DEED commit to reopening the superintendent search with full Advisory Board involvement, following policy in the hiring process, ensuring outreach to families who withdrew students, and committing to transparency going forward.

I am also happy to share more about my personal experience teaching at MEHS last year if that would be useful context.

I am happy to speak with you or your staff directly if that would be useful.

Thank you,  
Naomi Paulson  
Former Teacher | Sitka, AK



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**Naomi Paulson**  
Sitka, AK

 | [LinkedIn](#)

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Richard Didrickson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 9:42 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Support for MEHS Leadership Process and Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear Members of the State Board of Education and Legislators,

My name is Richard Didrickson Jr, I am a alumni of Mount Edgecumbe High School. I am writing to respectfully ask the Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the proposed MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Richard Didrickson Jr  
MEHS Alumni

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Alexander Weissberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 8:19 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Concerned Citizen

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

As a concerned citizen and former employee of Mt. Edgecumbe High School, I'm writing to respectfully urge the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

MEHS has a long history and tradition of providing a high quality education, experiences, and opportunities for students from across the entire state of Alaska. Its future depends on transparent governance, stakeholder input, and leadership that is fully committed to MEHS and guided by these principles.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Alex Weissberg

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Tiffany Ongtawasruk <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 7:16 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Action Request: Reopen MEHS Superintendent Search & Approve Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am an alumnus of Mt. Edgecumbe High School writing to urge you to reopen the Superintendent search and to approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board voted to request the position be reopened because the original process did not fully include their consultation, as required in MEHS and State Board policy. **Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.**

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

**MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility** and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school. I would not be where I am today—a graduate student at Temple University in the Bioinformatics and Biological Data Science PSM program—without the teachers and staff who had my back at Edgecumbe. I urge you to take our requests seriously.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Tiffany Ongtawasruk

MEHS Graduate

Thank you,  
Tiffany Siugak Ongtomasruk

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Loretta Phillip <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 6:37 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; jsmrd.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Reopen the MEHS Superintendent search: Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators;

We are Mt. Edgecumbe High School grandparents asking the State Board of Education to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and it's future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

We are so proud that our grandson graduated two years ago and that we currently have a granddaughter who will be graduating in 2027.

Sincerely,  
Bob & Loretta Phillip  
Anaconda, MT

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** tiahna capelle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 5:31 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Meeting Requests

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am a current Mt. Edgecumbe High School Alumni and sibling of a current student, asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Tiahna Capelle  
MEHS Class of 2022 Alumni  
Sibling a current of MEHS Graduate

**Ella Lubin**

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**From:** Charlene Robertson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 5:29 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Support for Reopening MEHS Superintendent Search and Establishing Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am writing as the parent of a Mt. Edgecumbe High School alum, the aunt of two current MEHS students, and the daughter of an MEHS alum from the Class of 1955—my mom. Mt. Edgecumbe has been part of my family’s life for generations, and I care deeply about the future of the school and the opportunities it provides to students from across Alaska.

I respectfully ask the Board to take two actions at your upcoming meeting:

**1. Reopen the Superintendent Search**

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request that the search be reopened because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following established policy and ensuring the Advisory Board’s participation in a transparent search process is essential to maintaining trust in this important decision.

**2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee**

MEHS has experienced record student attrition, and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support may be contributing factors. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for the formation of an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations. This type of review would help ensure the school remains strong and responsive to student needs.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School serves students from communities across Alaska and has long been an incredible residential school. Its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and values the unique role it plays in our state.

Thank you for your time and for your service to Alaska’s students.

Sincerely,  
Charlene Robertson  
Parent of MEHS Alum

Aunt of Two Current MEHS Students  
Daughter of MEHS Class of 1955 Alum

**Ella Lubin**

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**From:** Paul Comolli <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 5:22 PM  
**To:** House Education  
**Subject:** Save Mt Edgecumbe

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

We are Mt. Edgecumbe High School alumni parents. Both our daughters attend Edgecumbe and had amazing, fulfilling high school experiences they could not have had in our village of Hoonah.

We are asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Paul & Mary Comolli  
MEHS Parent  
Parents of MEHS Graduates

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Jamal Alstrom <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 4:38 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Mt. Edgecumbe Ad-Hoc Committee/Superintendent Search

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am a Mt. Edgecumbe High School alumnus asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee. Several of my relatives have attended Mt. Edgecumbe, and one is currently a student, so the school and its future are very important to me.

### **1. Reopen the Superintendent Search**

The MEHS Advisory Board recently asked for the Superintendent search to be reopened because the original process did not fully include the Advisory Board as required by MEHS and State Board policy. Following the policy and including the Advisory Board in a clear and open process is important to rebuild trust.

### **2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee**

Mt. Edgecumbe High School has had a record number of students leave the school, and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe cuts to residential life staffing, training, and student support may be part of the reason. The MEHS Policy Manual allows an ad-hoc committee to review these concerns and make recommendations.

MEHS serves students from more than 100 communities across Alaska and has long been an important residential school. Its future depends on open leadership and strong support for students.

Thank you for your time,  
Jamal Alstrom  
Mt Edgecumbe Alumni

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Martha Foster <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 4:01 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** urgent letter for your consideration

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am a current Mt. Edgecumbe High School grandparent asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Martha Foster  
MEHS Grandparent  
MEHS Graduate 1983

***Martha Foster***

[REDACTED]  
**Twin Hills, Alaska 99576-4023**

[REDACTED]

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Regina Bellereide <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 3:51 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** MEHS Matters

Good afternoon, Members of the State Board,

I am reaching out to express my continued concern regarding physical safety and mental health of MEHS students.

Attempts to call or email the school have been met with less than desired results. There is no consistent communication outreach for parents of MEHS students. Parents have to "chase" information and understanding.

A more recent communication regarding staff concerns of a sexual nature sent to David Langford was never acknowledged by him. While I did receive an acknowledgement from Nicole Ritzinger, Dorm Administrator, who had forwarded my communication to other parties, those parties did not reach out to validate and/or assuage concerns either.

Further, my student sustained a concussion earlier in the year which has yet to be addressed by administration. He has sustained TWO concussions at MEHS within a span of approximately nine months. The first one was accidental due to basketball; the second one, was inflicted with more intention. My disgust lies in the fact that the nursing staff, my student and I were left to sort through the matter. The concussion left him with Post Concussion Syndrome that impaired his thought processes and emotions leading him to "give up" for a time, further leading to mental health concerns. I never heard from the school regarding the incident, and I have no clear picture as to whether or not counseling was provided as was suggested. Negligible, beyond a doubt...

Incidentally, when I raised concerns LAST school year regarding student safety in the dorms and overall lack of supervision, the dorm principal's response was to the effect of, "Students who attend MEHS are expected to be responsible enough to be left alone," or similar messaging. While this might seem like an appropriate response to some, MEHS are still minor children whose developing prefrontal cortices do not support this haphazard line of thinking.

Returning to this year's lack of supervision, my student was afraid to come forward and state that a student named "Dante" had come into his dorm room randomly and began messing with him physically. When my student tried to defend himself, his head was slammed onto the floor at least three times. There was absolutely NO follow up from the dorm leadership. Thankfully, the medical staff there is competent.

My student has also faced food insecurity at MEHS. He has called to report that the food this year has been subpar. Only in the last three weeks has he said there has been improvement--improvements that he has attributed to a classmate's efforts...

Why have I not pulled my student? He was given a choice and he decided to remain for now. He is my proverbial silver lining kid, at the end of the day. Disrupting his year with yet another change would prove more unsettling than what he has already experienced.

Finally (for now at least), I am requesting that 1. You reopen the MEHS Superintendent search and 2. You approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Regina Bellereide, MEHS Parent  


## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Vernae Angnaboogok <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 2:45 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Request to Reopen Mt. Edgecumbe High School Superintendent Search and Approve Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am a current Mt. Edgecumbe High School parent asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, student support, as well as changes in the academic and dormitory leadership have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Quyaana,

Vernae Angnaboogok ([hear name](#))  
Current Parent of MEHS 4-year Senior  
Parent of MEHS alumni student, class of 2022  
MEHS Alumni (myself), Class of 2002

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Sarah Pate <sarahepate99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 2:13 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** MEHS

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am a Mt. Edgecumbe High School alumni asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Sarah Pate

Alumni

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Tessa Coopchiak <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 2:03 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Reopen/Approve as Follows

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislatures,

I am a Mt. Edgecumbe High School Alumni and Aunt of a current student asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search with full Advisory Board involvement, and formally approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

MEHS experienced a record student reduction last year and students are still leaving this year. I believe this is caused by reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support. These are key factors in running a great residential school along with keeping students' morale high as they face personal challenges, and life adjustment. As an alumni, I strongly support and will continue to support the school as they review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations on what we can do to better the kids' overall wellness and experience. They are and should always be the first priority.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and each year it serves students across the great State of Alaska. MEHS has always been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance, qualified leadership, and genuine passion for the school.

Quyana cakneq. (Thank you so much.) For your time and service.

Respectfully,  
Tessa Coopchiak  
MEHS Alumni

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Tamara Ongtawasruk <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 1:58 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** MEHS Superintendent and Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am a Mt. Edgecumbe High School alumnus asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Ongtawasruk  
Alumnus Class of 2006

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Tina Marie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 1:54 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov  
**Cc:** james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Reopen the MEHS Superintendent search Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

My name is Tina Edwards, I'm from the village of Pilot Station, two of my children graduated from MEHS & my son's girlfriend is also attending MEHS and is a Senior at MEHS and is graduating in May 2026.

My daughter who is my youngest child would like to attend high school at MEHS, it is the number one school in all of Alaska.

I am a current Mt. Edgecumbe High School parent asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Tina Edwards  
MEHS Parent  
Parent of MEHS Graduate

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Annie Foruria <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 1:24 PM  
**To:** House Education  
**Subject:** Call to action for MEHS

Annie Foruria  
10505 Ridge Park Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
[REDACTED]

March 9, 2026

Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing as the mother of two students currently attending Mt. Edgecumbe High School. My children have the option to attend high school in their hometown, yet they chose Mt. Edgecumbe because of the school's longstanding legacy, its reputation for strong academics, and the opportunities it provides Alaska's students who are willing to live and learn in a residential community.

Unfortunately, recent changes in leadership and school operations have significantly impacted the student experience, and not in positive ways. I feel compelled to share concerns that many families and students are discussing but that have not been addressed transparently.

One of the most troubling changes has been the reduction in staff availability in the boarding environment. Fewer staff members appear to be responsible for more students, which has led to increasingly restrictive policies affecting students' daily lives. Rather than improving safety or quality of life, these changes have limited student independence and diminished the supportive environment that once made Mt. Edgecumbe unique.

Equally concerning is the lack of clear and honest communication from the current superintendent regarding these operational changes. Families and students deserve transparency about how decisions are being made and how the school is being managed. When communication is inconsistent or incomplete, it erodes trust between leadership, students, and parents.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School has always represented opportunity, community, and a proud legacy for Alaska families. In my own family, that legacy spans generations. My mother attended the school when it first opened, beginning at the age of nine. She often described the boarding school experience of that era as strict, hungry, and emotionally difficult. It breaks my heart to say that in 2025 my children are beginning to describe elements of their experience in ways that echo those same sentiments.

No parent expects perfection, but we do expect leadership that prioritizes the well-being of students and

communicates openly with the families who entrust their children to the school.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Board consider the following actions:

1. Reopen the search for a dedicated superintendent for Mt. Edgecumbe High School and allow the current superintendent to focus on his existing responsibilities in his other school district.
2. Establish and approve an ad hoc committee to review current operational decisions, staffing levels, and the overall boarding school environment.
3. Increase transparency with parents and stakeholders regarding how the school is being managed and how decisions affecting students are made.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School holds a special place in the history of Alaska education. My children chose to attend because they believed in that legacy. I am asking for your help to ensure that the school continues to live up to that reputation for future generations of students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Annie Foruria, RN

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Kristin Johanson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 1:20 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Mt.Edgecumbe

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am a 2011 alumna of Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) writing to urge the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening this position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation, as required by MEHS and State Board policy. Adhering to these policies and ensuring a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in the leadership selection process.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition, which continues this year. Many families believe that recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed to this decline. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide necessary recommendations.

MEHS is the responsibility of the State of Alaska, serving students from 117 communities across the state last year. Its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that is deeply committed to the school's unique mission.

My time at Mt. Edgecumbe from 2009 to 2011 was an incredible experience; my only regret was not enrolling sooner. During my years there, the staff felt like family and the campus felt like home. I never questioned my safety, and the range of activities was exceptional. It is heartbreaking to hear that current students are now concerned about basic needs such as clean drinking water, building repairs, and a lack of mental health support.

Thank you for your time and your service to our students.

Sincerely,

Kristin Swafford (Johanson)  
Class of 2011

**Ella Lubin**

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**From:** Doug Branlund <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 1:18 PM  
**To:** House Education  
**Subject:** Mt Edgecumbe Alumnus Request

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am a Mt. Edgecumbe High School alumnus asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Doug Branlund McClenahan  
MEHS Alumnus, Class of 2014

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Katie Riley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 1:00 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** MEHS ad-hoc committee and superintendent search

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

My name is Katie Riley, and I am an alumni of Mt. Edgecumbe High School. I write today to request that the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

It concerns me that the current Superintendent is doing double duty as Superintendent of the Chatham School District and MEHS. Superintendent of a school district is a serious, time-consuming exercise, and I do not think that it can be performed for two school districts adequately, especially two as unique as these. Chatham SD encompasses a multitude of small schools spread out across the region, and MEHS is a unique state-run boarding school housing students from across Alaska. Both of these school districts deserve the full and undivided attention of their own superintendents.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

The challenges that are facing MEHS students are growing as climate change issues, mental health issues, traditional lifeways and resource scarcity grow across the state. Now more than ever, we need as many dedicated and bright minds as possible addressing student health, wellbeing, and ways to improve academic outcomes as possible. An ad-hoc committee would assist in bringing these minds together for the betterment of students and thus, the future of our state.

Thank you for your time and service.

Katie Riley

Graduate, C/O 2011 Mt Edgecumbe High School

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Florence Kargi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 12:09 PM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** MEHS Support

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner and Legislators,

I am a Mt. Edgecumbe High School alumni asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

**1. Reopen the Superintendent Search**

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

**2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee**

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are STILL leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee specifically to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Florence Kargi  
MEHS Alumni of 2007

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Kathryn Mathews <kathykm46@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 11:40 AM  
**To:** Sen. Löki Tobin; Senate Education; sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.flwley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; House Education  
**Subject:** Superintendent - MEHS position & MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

Good morning,

I am asking with many other that you please approve the request to reopen the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Superintendant Position; as well as approve the request for the MEHS Ad-Hoc committee.

I am a parent of a Mt. Edgecumbe High School student as well as the Sitka Board Representative for the school. These two items are seriously needed in order to make improvements at the school.

As a board member the current superintendant has not been responsive to emails and concerns for the students safety as Nana Staff have been allowed to stay at the school and live in the dorms. Some of these individuals have current criminal records and active arrest records. I question how they were hired. No response when this was asked of Mr. Langford.

I appreciate your considerations in this matter. As a parent and board member I have been trying for months since asked to be on this committee to bring issues to light. Thank you all for your time.

Kathryn Mathews

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Ella Lubin**

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**From:** Candace Nielsen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 10:07 AM  
**To:** House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** MEHS Alum Request: Reopen Superintendent Search and Approve Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

My name is Candace Nielsen, and I am an alum of Mt. Edgecumbe High School. I am writing to respectfully ask the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and to approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### **Reopen the Superintendent Search**

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request that the Superintendent search be reopened because the original process did not fully include consultation with the Advisory Board as outlined in MEHS and State Board policy. As an alum who cares deeply about the long-term health of this school, I believe it is important that the process follow policy and meaningfully include the Advisory Board. A transparent search process is essential to maintaining trust and ensuring the right leadership for MEHS moving forward.

### **Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee**

MEHS has experienced record levels of student attrition, and students are continuing to leave this year. Many families and community members have raised concerns that recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support may be contributing factors. The MEHS Policy Manual provides for the formation of an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and offer recommendations. Approving this committee would allow for a thoughtful review of what students and families are experiencing and help identify constructive solutions.

Mt. Edgecumbe has long been a place that serves students from across Alaska—117 communities last year alone. As an alum, I know firsthand how special this school is and the role it plays in shaping students and strengthening communities across the state. Its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is deeply committed to the mission of the school.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Candace Nielsen  
Mt. Edgecumbe High School Alum Class of 2010

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Izzy Sakikán Jackson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 10:03 AM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education

Dear members of the State board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators

I am an MEHS alumni writing asking to reopen the superintendent search as the hiring process was not done correctly and MAJOR steps were missed. As you've seen ALL over the news, MEHS has had the highest attrition rate due to the incompetence of the superintendent AND the people who hired him. Also due to all the budget cuts the board and state keep imposing. The problem is the people who are higher up (superintendent) who we ALL know has wanted MEHS shut down for years. I attended for 4 years and this was never the case and needs to change IMMEDIATELY for the wellbeing of the students and their education.

Sincerely Izzy Sakikán Jackson

MEHS alumni

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Pamela Young <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 10:02 AM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** MEHS

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am a current Mt. Edgecumbe High School alumnus asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Pamela A Young  
MEHS Graduate Class of 1995  
Sent from Pammy's iPhone 😊

## Ella Lubin

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**From:** Anthony C. Lekanof <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 9:36 AM  
**To:** sally.stockhausen@alaska.gov; james.fields@alaska.gov; james.fowley@alaska.gov; kathryn.mccollum@alaska.gov; pamela.dupras@alaska.gov; barbara.tyndall@alaska.gov; kimberly.bergey@alaska.gov; eed.contact@alaska.gov; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Löki Tobin; House Education; Senate Education  
**Subject:** Mt. Edgecumbe High

Dear Members of the State Board of Education, Commissioner, and Legislators,

I am a current Mt. Edgecumbe High School parent asking the State Board to reopen the Superintendent search and approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee.

### 1. Reopen the Superintendent Search

The MEHS Advisory Board recently voted to request reopening the position because the original process did not fully include Advisory Board consultation as required in MEHS and State Board policy. Following policy and including the Advisory Board in a transparent search is critical to restoring trust in this decision.

### 2. Approve the MEHS Ad-Hoc Committee

MEHS has experienced record student attrition and students are still leaving this year. Many families believe recent reductions in residential life staffing, training, and student support have contributed. The MEHS Policy Manual allows for an ad-hoc committee to review issues affecting the school and provide recommendations.

MEHS is the State of Alaska's responsibility and served students from 117 communities across the state last year. It has long been an amazing residential school, and its future depends on transparent governance and leadership that understands and is passionate about the school.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Anthony C Lekanof

MEHS Graduate, Class of 2015

Cell: [REDACTED]