MEHS Improvement Ad Hoc Committee

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Paul Reid, Project Coordinator

June 17, 2026

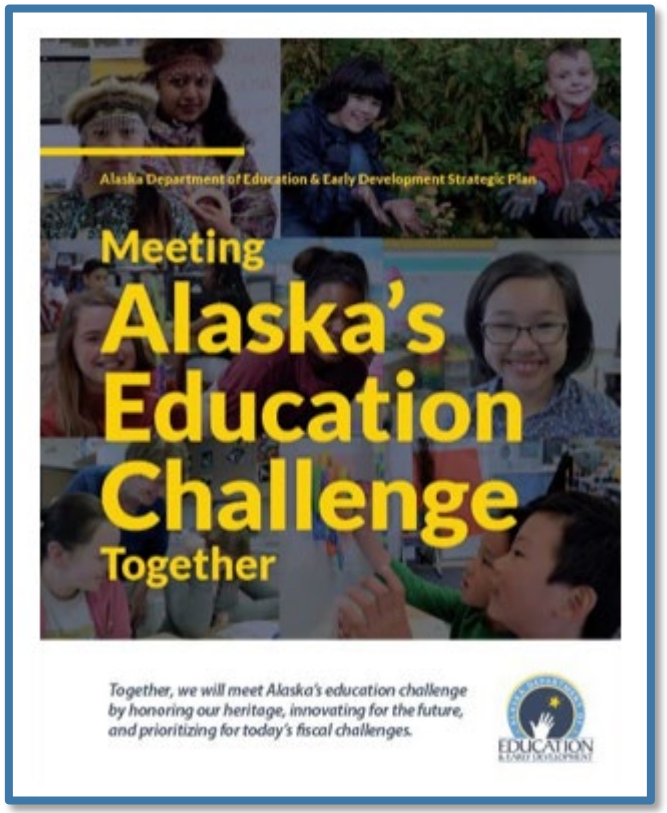
Mission, Vision, and Purpose

Mission	Vision	Purpose
An excellent education for every student every day.	All students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them. - Alaska Statute 14.03.015	DEED exists to provide **information**, **resources**, and **leadership** to support an excellent education for every student every day.

Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

Five Shared Priorities:

1. Support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade.
2. Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs.
3. Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources.
4. Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals.
5. Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes.



education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge

Agenda

MEHS Improvement Ad Hoc Committee
Meeting Agenda
June 17, 2026

1:00 – 1:20 **Overview & Purpose**

- The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Board is to gather information, engage stakeholders, and review options and considerations related to next steps for moving Mount Edgecumbe High School forward.
- The committee's work will help to inform the Board as it considers matters related to the school's governance, leadership structure, and long-term direction.

Introductions

- Parent representatives: Gretchen Kelly and Kristin Donath
- Alumni representative: Dorothy Chase
- Student representatives: Kayden Cross and Ilana Kalke
- SBOE Representative: Kimberly Bergey
- MEHS Advisory Board Representative: Doug Walrath
- Tribal Representative: Dr. Joel Isaak

Housekeeping

- Meeting dates & times: June 17, July 8, August 12, September 9 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

1:20 – 1:40 **Open Meetings Act Requirements**

Committee norms

1:40 – 2:00 **Governance framework**

2:00 – 2:50 **Review student, staff, and parent surveys**

2:50 – 3:00 **Executive Session (if necessary)**

2:50 – 3:00 **Next meeting: July 8**

3:00 **Adjourn**

Overview & Purpose

- To gather information, engage stakeholders, and review options and considerations related to next steps for moving MEHS forward.

- To inform the State Board of Education as it considers matters related to the school's governance, leadership structure, and long-term direction.

Introductions

- Alaska State Board of Education: Kimberly Bergey
- MEHS Advisory Board: Douglas Walrath
- MEHS Alumni: Dorothy Chase
- Parent of MEHS student: Kristen Donath
- Parent of MEHS student: Gretchen Kelly
- Student Government Representative: Kadyn Cross
- Student Government Representative: Ilana Kalke
- Tribal Representative: Joel Isaak
- Staff Support: Paul Reid, Susan McCauley

Open Meetings Act

- Meetings are open to the public.
- Public notice is given.
- Minutes are kept.
- Meeting materials are public records.

Committee Norms

- Join meeting on time and stay for whole session.
- Listen respectfully and invite all voices.
- Be concise so everyone has an opportunity to contribute.
- Keep discussion aligned with the Committee's purpose and objectives.
- Respect confidentiality of individuals.

Governance Structure

- State Board of Education
- Commissioner
- Director
- Advisory Board

Alaska Statute 14.16.010
Establishment of state boarding schools

The department may establish and operate boarding schools, to be managed in accordance with this chapter. A state boarding school must offer a secondary education curriculum to students enrolled in it, and must provide domiciliary services for students needing such services, if approved by the board.

MEHS Legal Status

Mt. Edgecumbe High School is a state boarding school established and operated by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development pursuant to AS 14.16.010-14.16.080.

State Board of Education Duties

The State Board of Education & Early Development is the governing body for Mt. Edgecumbe High School (4 AAC 33.100). The State Board retains the policy-making functions for Mt. Edgecumbe High School, and delegates the execution of the policies to the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Director.

State Board of Education Duties

The duties of the State Board include, but are not necessarily limited to:

a) Adopting a philosophy of education (AS 14.16.020);

b) Approval of a chief school administrator (AS 14.07.145(e));

c) Approving the employment of personnel necessary to operate the boarding school (AS 14.16.020);

d) Establishing the salaries and benefits to be paid teachers, excluding administrators (AS 14.16.020);

State Board of Education Duties

e) Designating the employees authorized to direct disbursements from the money appropriated for the operation of the state boarding school and for the construction of facilities (AS 14.16.020);

f) Providing annually for auditing of school accounts and filing a certified audit copy with the Alaska Commissioner of Education & Early Development. (AS 14.16.050);

g) Providing custodial services and routine maintenance of physical facilities (AS 14.16.020);

State Board of Education Duties

h) Establishing procedures for the development and implementation of curriculum and the selection and use of textbooks and instructional materials (AS 14.16.020);

i) Prescribing health evaluation and placement screening programs for newly admitted students (AS 14.16.020);

j) Establishing procedures for staff evaluation (AS 14.16.020); and

k) Providing staff training (AS 14.16.020).

State Board of Education Duties

The State Board of Education & Early Development is the governing body for Mt. Edgecumbe High School. In accordance with 4 AAC 33.100(b), the State Board will adopt policies relating to school management and control, and student admission and discipline during regular School Board meetings..

The Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, shall consult with the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Director to identify items to come before the State Board for action or information. Generally, such items will relate to the duties of the State Board.

Adoption of new policies or changing existing policies is the sole prerogative and responsibility of the State Board.

Role of the Commissioner

The Commissioner or Commissioner's designee is the direct supervisor of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Director.

Role of the Director

The Director of Mt. Edgecumbe High School is the administrative head of Mt. Edgecumbe High School.

Establishment of Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory School Board

The State Board recognizes that the successful operation of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School depends on the participation and guidance of the community it serves. Therefore, pursuant to 4 AAC 33.100(a), the State Board establishes the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory School Board. The purpose of the Advisory School Board is to advise and inform the Director of Mt. Edgecumbe High School in fulfilling his or her duties as Director. The Advisory School Board will operate under the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory School Board Bylaws.

All recommendations of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory School Board are subject to final approval by the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Director and by the State Board.

Lines of Communication

State Board of Education & Early Development

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Commissioner of Education & Early Development

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Mt. Edgecumbe High School Director

. . .

Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory School Board

Establishment and Appointment of Ad Hoc Committees

The State Board recognizes that it must be well-informed in order to successfully operate Mt. Edgecumbe High School. The State Board also recognizes that from time to time the use of ad hoc committees will be necessary to provide the information required for successful operation of Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Therefore, it is the policy of the State Board to establish and appoint ad hoc committees from time to time to assist the State Board in studying the issues that may affect Mt. Edgecumbe High School and the boarding school system. The purpose of ad hoc committees should be to provide the State Board with information on the issues relevant to the operation of Mt. Edgecumbe High School, and to bring to the State Board's attention issues that may require the State Board's consideration.

Survey Data

- Students: 186 respondents
- Parents: 65 respondents
- Staff: 14 respondents

Two Types of Questions

- Questions with response options of strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree.

- Open response.

Homework

- What themes, patterns, or similarities occur across the three sets of data?

- Focusing on communication and residential life, what ideas do you have for improvements (based on the data and/or your own experience)?

Next Meeting: July 8

Contact Information

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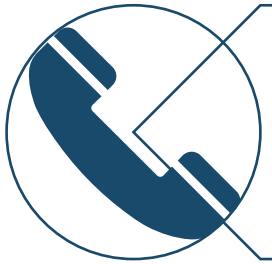
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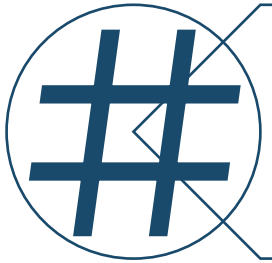
Website

- education.alaska.gov



Phone

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- Teacher Certification: (907) 465-2831



Social Media

- @AlaskaDEED