

Dear Katherine,

Thank you for reaching out and for providing Mt. Edgecumbe High School with the opportunity to respond.

We take all reports of sexual misconduct, as well as our obligations under Title IX, very seriously. As a lifelong educator, I believe student safety and well-being must remain our highest priorities in schools.

Because neither Superintendent Langford nor I were serving in our current roles in the state at the time of the incident, we worked collaboratively to review your questions. Mr. Langford is prioritizing Title IX rights and responsibilities at MEHS, and I continue to review available state records to determine whether additional information exists.

Based on our review and conversations with staff, _____ reported the incident to the principal, who then immediately shared the information with the superintendent. Two principals subsequently met with _____ to gather additional details. As you may know, _____ was a Sitka day student and did not reside in the dorms, though she frequently visited campus in the evenings to engage in student-life activities at the school.

After hearing _____'s report, school administration contacted the Sitka Police Department, as the incident involved an allegation of sexual assault. A principal was present during the police interview, and we understand that law enforcement initiated an investigation. The alleged male student withdrew from MEHS shortly after the incident.

Based on the information available to us, the report was taken seriously at the time and referred to the appropriate authorities. Supportive measures were offered to _____, consistent with school practices, to help ensure her continued access to education and well-being.

In reviewing records from 2022, we identified gaps related to documentation of Title IX administrative and compliance processes. While these gaps do not change the nature of the reported incident, they are concerning. Specifically, following leadership transitions between spring and fall 2022, including the hiring of a new principal and superintendent, it is not entirely clear how certain Title IX responsibilities and records were transferred during that period.

Although we cannot fully reconstruct all administrative processes from that time, we recognize the importance of strong systems, clear documentation, and consistent compliance. To strengthen oversight and accountability moving forward, the superintendent will assume the role of Title IX Coordinator. In addition, efforts to meet and exceed current federal Title IX requirements are being expedited to ensure full compliance as quickly as possible.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School has already taken steps to strengthen its Title IX practices and align with current federal requirements. These steps include:

- Completing a review of federal Title IX regulations and updating policies and procedures to ensure full compliance
- Updating the MEHS website to provide clear and accessible information on reporting concerns and submitting complaints or grievances
- Expanding training and awareness efforts for staff, students, volunteers, and the broader school community, including foundational Title IX training and prevention education
- Providing role-specific training for the Title IX Coordinator and school leadership to ensure proper implementation of current requirements and response protocols

Updated Title IX contact information and procedural guidance will be made clearly available to students, families, and the public.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School remains committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for students. We will continue to review and strengthen our practices to uphold that commitment and ensure compliance with all applicable laws. This matter is being taken seriously by my office, and we will continue reviewing available records to determine whether additional information can be identified. (We will also be following up with _____).

Cheers,

Deena Bishop