

Dear East Lansing Students, Teachers, Families, and Community Members,

Over the past few days there have been repeated incidents of violence, and we collectively have strong concerns of safety that are causing some students to no longer feel safe. We are at a moment where students no longer can focus on their Algebra test, Spanish homework, or safely attend a Basketball game, but instead are worried whether they will be the next victim of a violent act. This violence has been apparent since the start of the year, and in recent weeks the anxiety has only been exacerbated. We implore the board to consider the consequences of previous policies put in place in regards to suspension, gun violence, and repeated physical altercations. For the emotional well being of students and staff alike we, The Student Congress Executive Board, demand the implementation of the following from the East Lansing School Board;

1. Enforcement of punishments, and clear consequences for student actions. The gross misuse of the board's policies and privileges allow for students that have broken state law (i.e Bringing a firearm on school grounds) to resume learning with zero additional thought to patterns of violent behavior. This will reinstate authority back into the hands of teachers and administrators, which has slowly been taken away from them as a result of the lack of discipline and loose consequences that students have seen this year, and ensure the safety of students and staff of ELHS.
2. Kath Edsall to resign as School Board President. At yesterday's (Jan. 23rd) school board meeting, Edsall was dismissive towards parents, teachers, students and community members. She has been focusing more on her image rather than the best interest of the students, and has had a lack of accountability with regards to dealing with expulsion and suspension policies. The unprofessionalism shown towards one community member in particular showed that Edsall is unable to separate herself from professional matters. We call upon Dr. Edsall to do what is right for the community by relinquishing this power willingly.
3. Increased mental health support for staff and students affected by violence. This includes but is not limited to, additional mental health days, counseling services for staff, and increased opportunities for students to see school support officials. We need more open conversations and dialogue between staff and students to restore trust and have greater transparency.

We request an immediate response from the school board, and improved communication between staff, administrators, and the school board. The students at East Lansing High School

feel that we need change and we need that change now. School should be a safe place for all students, staff and administrators.

Signed,

The Student Council Executive Board representing the ELHS Student Body.

Will Beekman, Meghan Heiler, Gretchen Rojewski, Charles Moeder, Andrew Schreiber, Evan Newcombe, Zoë Cruz, Gabe Benavides, and Xander Mielock