

**February State-Wide Teleconference**  
**February 2, 2023 at 7pm**

In Attendance

Suzzuk Huntington - Superintendent  
Miranda Bacha - Academic Principal  
Andrew Friske - Residential Principal  
Alex Weissberg - Residential Dean of Students  
Rachel Sorokin - Behavior and Mental Health Coordinator  
Chohla Moll - Cultural Integration Specialist  
Kristen Homer (via phone) - Nurse Practitioner/Clinic Manager  
Rosie Palof (taking minutes) - Home to School Coordinator

Suzzuk Huntington

Welcome and Introduction

- 1) Suzzuk Huntington yoo xat duwasáakw. Inupiaq áyá xat. Shishmaref kwaan áyá xat. Mt. Edgecumbe-x' yéi xat yatee. Gunalchéesh hatt yeey.aadí.
- 2) Wiinga atqa Suzzuk Huntington-aaruq. Shishmaref-armiunguunga. Maani Edgecumbe-aami superintendent-aaruunga.
- 3) Suzzuk Huntington se'ooze'. Shishmaref huts'enh ts'aadaanslet. Skeetka lesdo.
- 4) Wanja atiga Suzzuk Huntington. Kigiqtaamiuguzruja. Sheet'ka-mi inuuniaqtuna suli sawittuna.

Kristen Homer

- 1) New evening nurse: June Han
  - a) started mid-January.
  - b) Monday-Friday 3pm -11pm
  - c) strong background in psychiatric nursing
  - d) Masters in nursing
  - e) He is really enjoying working with the MEHS students
  - f) We are excited to have him on board
- 2) Reminder to parents
  - a) Student Health Center has over the counter medications available to students
  - b) including ibuprofen and tylenol
  - c) Students can receive medications
    - i) Student Health Center 7:30am-11pm
    - ii) in the school office during the school day
    - iii) the dorms at night (after Health Center is closed)
- 3) Students are **not** allowed to have:
  - a) over the counter medications, vitamins, or supplements in their dorm rooms.
  - b) These should be turned in to the nurse's office
  - c) They can be accessed there

- d) If you are mailing medications to students remind them to drop them off at Health Center
- 4) Student Health is offering the meningitis B vaccine to seniors
  - a) Meningitis B is a serious bacterial infection of the brain
  - b) It is rare but can cause death and disability in those who are infected
  - c) The meningitis B vaccine is not yet routinely recommended for healthy adolescents
  - d) but is required by many colleges and universities for high risk groups
    - i) Teens and young adults in dorm settings
  - e) If you have a senior and are interested in having them vaccinated against meningitis b, please reach out to Student Health.
  - f) You can call the nursing office at 907 966-3264 or have your student stop by.
- 5) If you have any questions or concerns about your student's health or care they have received, please feel free to reach out to me directly at 907-966-5205 Monday- Friday

Questions?

1. Parent asked if the vaccine was optional.

Kristen Homer responded that the vaccine is optional. The school will not be administering it without a request. It is being offered because some students will go on to colleges that do require the vaccine, and will be planning ahead.

### Miranda Bacha

- 1) Just finished Family Night Dinner
  - a) Barbeque
  - b) Students and teachers alike, seemed to have a good time
- 2) ACT Testing Feb 11
- 3) 5 students were selected for Legislative Fly In
  - a) Heading to Juneau tonight
- 4) Educator Rising students heading to Fairbanks this month
- 5) T3 <https://t3alliance.org/>
  - a) STEM Program with Upward Bound connected with UAF
  - b) Students get experience with drones, 3D printers, and computer science
  - c) Went to Juneau in January
- 6) DDF good season
  - a) Going to State Feb 24th
- 7) UAF Yup'ik class
  - a) In total we now offer: Spanish, Japanese, Tlingit, Iñupiaq, Sign Language, AND Yup'ik
- 8) Welcome Back Dance last weekend
- 9) Trimester 2 ends Feb 24th
  - a) Final exams that week

- 10) Remind students to use academic supports
  - a) StAR Center
    - i) Tutors available to help with homework and projects
- 11) Founders Week
  - a) Gathering of Cultures
  - b) Elizabeth Peratrovich Day
- 12) If you have Seniors
  - a) Make sure to send in baby pictures for seniors!
  - b) Encourage students to meet with their graduation advisors
  - c) Look for flights and hotels for graduation
- 13) Saturday School this week
  - a) Science Department working on their Saturday School
    - i) Seniors will have special trip
- 14) Prom
  - a) April 8th
  - b) Prom Princess with Alaska Airlines
- 15) Applications for next year are open
  - a) Encourage friends and family to apply

### Chola Moll

- 1) Celebrating the additional indigenous languages
  - a) It is important for students to have access that learning opportunity while away from home
- 2) Exciting to be the meeting of cultures
  - a) Founders Week February 13th-17th
    - i) Gathering of Cultures 15th
    - ii) 5 MEHS dance groups
    - iii) Local dance group -Tlingit
      - (1) MEHS students participating in local Sitka Native Local Education Program
        - (a) Learning Tlingit
  - b) Keynote address from Dionne Yeidikook'áa
  - c) NYO demonstration
    - i) Celebrating students Peter and Norton who are currently competing at the Arctic Games
    - ii) Demonstration of other NYO games
- 3) Cultural Artist workshops
  - a) Jamie Bradley
    - i) Felt earrings
  - b) Will Peterson
    - i) Intro to NW Coast ART
    - ii) Focus on form line art and carving techniques
  - c) Scheduling an artist to teach students to sew fish skins

- 4) Elizabeth Peratrovich Day
  - a) dance groups will be involved in parade and local celebration
- 5) Visit to local 4th graders
  - a) March 1st
  - b) Representatives from dance groups will teach all 4th graders about all the different Alaska Native Cultures
  - c) NYO students involved as well
  - d) Opportunity for MEHS students to practice being cultural leaders

Questions?

1. Parent asked about graduation location.

Chola Moll answered that graduation would be held in the gym.

Suzzuk Huntington added that 8 preferential seats will be set aside for each graduate family, but there will be extra seats if more family and friends wish to attend.

2. Parent asked who they should contact about needing extra seats for graduation.

Suzzuk Huntington responded, Margo Livermore and Mrs. Bastoky. Guardians of seniors should have received an email about this topic earlier in the school year.

3. Parent asked if there would be a formal announcement saying that open enrollment was now open for new students.

Suzzuk Huntington answered, we will send one out if we have not already.

Rachel Sorokin

- 1) Wellness coordinator
  - a) Here to support students with social and emotional needs
- 2) Dorm life
  - a) Lots of little things throughout the year
  - b) Any stresses
- 3) Wellness team educates students
  - a) small groups and one on one
  - b) Problem solving and independence
- 4) A lot is asked of students
  - a) We are here to support them
  - b) Help them rise to the occasion
- 5) Respond to mental needs of students
  - a) Relationships
  - b) Dorm life

- c) Substance abuse
- d) Stress
- e) Daily life needs
  - i) Remind them they need to wash sheets, etc
- 6) End of Trimester brings more stress
  - a) Students want to do well with their grades
  - b) Wellness team offers support through the final push before exams

### Alex Weissberg

- 1) Dean of Students
  - a) Play a role in disciplinary action
    - i) When students get in trouble, working with them to change that behavior
- 2) Recent Topic Tuesday
  - a) Reach out to whole student body with dorm issues
  - b) One floor or dorm at a time
  - c) So far topics have been- inappropriate language, loud music/shared space/ brave behavior
- 3) Theft
  - a) Encourage students to play a part in prevention
    - i) Locks available from Mr. Weissberg
    - ii) stay organized
      - (1) often reported thefts are lost items
  - b) Theft does happen
    - i) Policy can be found in handbook
    - ii) Currently- investigate and return when possible,
      - (1) under \$100
        - (a) 5 demerits and 5 days restriction
      - (2) more than \$100
        - (a) 10 demerits and possible suspension, police may be involved
- 4) Work with Upper Campus Committee (UCC)
  - a) Led by Trisha Bessert- Recreation Coordinator
  - b) Selected by staff and peers to improve dorm life
  - c) UCC will be putting on a show called "Edging Out"
    - i) Was a pre covid event that is coming back
  - d) Group voted to put on a Triathlon at the end of the year

Questions?

1. Parent asked if students had access to counselors that would help them with college preparations. (Applications, financial aid, etc)

Alex Weissberg replied that Margo Livermore is our guidance counselor and works with students to get them ready, along with a volunteer, Selena, who goes in and out of classes sharing information, and will also work one on one with students in her office. We also have a Senior Futures class and Junior Advisory Class. Mr. Weissberg suggested he may make this topic the theme of his next Topic Tuesday: to remind students of all the resources available.

Suzzuk Huntington added that those who are not enrolled in the Senior Futures class are still invited to join in on the class unofficially when they need assistance.

### Andrew Friske

- 1) Arctic Winter games
  - a) Two MEHS students have gone to represent Alaska
  - b) Bringing home gold and silver medals
  - c) Trish Bessert coached the All Alaska Gymnastic Team that got gold as well
- 2) Activities
  - a) Basketball, Cheer, DDF, and E-Sports
  - b) 160 student athletes
- 3) Basketball
  - a) Playing against SHS this weekend
    - i) Friday at MEHS
    - ii) Saturday at SHS
  - b) Next week 90 kids traveling for basketball
    - i) Valdez, Juneau, Hoonah
  - c) We have very competitive teams this year
  - d) Regional Tournament is at Houston High School this year
    - i) March 9-11
- 4) E sports
  - a) 25 kids participating
  - b) This team has eligibility requirements just like any other sport
  - c) Coach Grant Grigoryan
- 5) Edgumbe Invitational
  - a) January Fundraiser
  - b) 30 team tournament
    - i) Teams from all over the state
    - ii) 20 adult teams
    - iii) 10 youth teams
  - c) Students participated
    - i) Staffing the tournament
    - ii) 100% of funds go back to MEHS activities
  - d) First time post covid

Questions?

1. Parent wanted to speak about classroom content they saw as inappropriate.

Andrew Friske responded that the Monthly Teleconferences are meant to be informational, and the school gives parents other platforms for controversial topics.

Suzzuk Huntington spoke in regards to the topic in general terms.

- 1) School Advisory Board is meeting this month
  - a) Feb 16th and 17th
- 2) The events regarding this issue played out as follows
  - a) The parent communicated with administration promptly
    - i) The current issues relates to whether or not certain books are age appropriate
  - b) Administration has
    - i) held meetings with teachers, departments, and parents
    - ii) Referenced current policies
    - iii) Worked on developing guidelines related to controversial issues, while respecting academic freedom and censorship policies
    - iv) Observations have been held and lesson plans reviewed
  - c) We are looking at how MEHS notifies parents when there is the possibility of issues with content
  - d) Policies in progress
    - i) Possible review committee
    - ii) Using Anchorage School District as a starting model
- 3) Follow up with Suzzuk Huntington at 907-966-3201 (Please do not follow up on this issue with other members of staff.

2. Parent asked where to find the Founders Week Schedule.

Chola Moll provided Facebook and the webpage as resources.

Suzzuk Huntington added that Cutting Edge News will have highlights from Founders Week. You can find those segments on the webpage or on youtube.

Chola Moll highlighted that the MEHS Ground School was featured on the school radio station, and you can find that article on Facebook or at [KCAW](#).

3. Parent asked about the dates for the Regional Basketball Tournament.

Andrew Friske provided the date and location: Wassila March 9th-11th.

Suzzuk Huntington

Thank you and goodnight

