Dear Mt. Edgecumbe students, staff, parents, alumni, partners and greater Alaskan, tribal, and general community:

January 23, 2024

Quyana for showing your commitment to ensuring that Mt. Edgecumbe High School continues to represent the values we stand behind by filling out the MEHS Logo & Mascot survey. This survey was created in response to a letter written in February 2019 by a then current student addressed to the MEHS Advisory Board. Additional background information about the process can be found on our website under the Info & Plans section titled <u>Logo & Mascot Survey</u>, including a compilation of survey results through June 2020.

It had not come to resolution when the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted education. Prior to the recent social media posts, MEHS administration had not received any new correspondence nor been actively involved in the process. With the topic re-emerging, we will be putting the review process back in place. As we do so, the public and members of the Mt. Edgecumbe community will be kept informed and will be given opportunities to give input before decisions are made.

Like you, I hold a lot of pride in being a member of the Edgecumbe Family and have added some of my personal background in blue below. This topic is one that weighs heavy on my heart, and when we re-initiate the review process, I fully intend to ensure we step into the work fully together as an Edgecumbe community, bring the issue to our governing bodies (the MEHS Advisory Board and State Board of Education) in full transparency with guidance from Indigenous Education Leaders that have experience navigating the mascot topic. We have come to the point where this matter needs to be settled.

As the responses to the survey have come pouring in over these last two days, it clearly is an issue that is greater than each of us individually or even the generations and various roles that connect us to Mt. Edgecumbe. The survey will remain open through January 31, 2024 at which time it will be closed.

Again, I appreciate the commitment and passion you each hold for our state's school with its rich and nuanced history by sharing your thoughts on this important topic. I look forward to working for and with you as we move forward through this process.

Qinuinaq, (Peace in Shishmaref Inupiaq)

Suzzuk Mary Huntington

Superintendent

MEHS Graduate: c/o 1994

Parent of MEHS Graduates: c/o 2023, 2019, 2017

MEHS Advisory Board Member: 2017-2022 Child of MEHS Graduate: c/o 1966

Tribal Member: Native Village of Shishmaref