

UNOFFICIAL South Valley Elementary Home & School
Minutes from September 11, 2018 Meeting

The first South Valley Home & School meeting of the 2018-2019 School Year was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 with a welcome from Former SV Chair, and current SV fill-in Chair, Laura Frederico. Laura introduced Denya Miller, SV Co-Chair, and Toni Nicole Benedetti, SV Secretary.

Two guest speakers attended this meeting. Below is a summary of the comments made.

Ms. Heather Hackl, Principal, South Valley

Ms. Hackl is very excited to be South Valley's ("SV's") new Principal. Immediately prior to accepting her position at SV, Ms. Hackl served in-district for 1.5 years as the Assistant Principal at WAMS. Ms. Hackl brings with her 6 years of secondary school administrative experience, as well as 14 years of classroom educator experience as an art teacher of many grade levels. Ms. Hackl has always wanted to be an elementary principal, and has worked with Dr. Karanjia over the past few months in order to ensure a smooth transition. Ms. Hackl described herself as a solutions-oriented administrator, and encouraged parents to reach out to her with questions or concerns so that she can be of assistance. Ms. Hackl typically does not like to change much during her first year, as she prefers to see things evolve and make the best educated decision she can. So far, Ms. Hackl has made some safety and security tweaks to Preschool arrival and dismissal, but other than that has not made many changes.

Today, to commemorate September 11th, SV, along with Baker and Roberts, observed a moment of silence. In addition, classroom teachers will hold age appropriate discussions about 9/11. Ms. Hackl is aiming for consistency with Roberts and Baker when possible and hopes that SV parents with children in the other elementary schools will appreciate this. MAP testing, an interactive test for second and third graders, will begin this week. Picture Day will be September 20th, and Ms. Hackl will send a reminder via School Messenger the night prior, which is a day off from school. Ms. Hackl advised attendees that SV's Back to School Night will be September 27 from 7-8p.m. for all grades. As a reminder, Back to School Night is not for individual conferences, but instead serves as a great way to meet your child's teacher in a group setting, see your child's classroom, and receive a general overview of your child's typical school day.

Ms. Hackl noted that there is a district-wide increase in school security, and asked that visitors to SV be patient and cooperate with staff, as some visitors may be asked to produce identification or even wait while the purpose of their visit is verified. Ms. Hackl encouraged attendees to utilize the SV Reference Guide she distributed via email in August and backpacked home on the first day of school.

In response to a parent question regarding recess policies, Ms. Hackl commented that she always endeavors for the children to get outside for recess, and that the temperature, heat index and weather safety index are consulted by her and the school nurse when deciding to shift to indoor recess. In the winter, when weather is below 35 degrees, including the wind chill, the children will stay inside. Ms. Hackl informed the group that the Paraprofessionals run recess and when indoor recess is necessary, they rotate the children through four rooms reserved for indoor recess use, including the library as a movie room. Parents inquired as to the possibility of stretching or movement activities, or yoga or mindfulness videos being shown, in lieu of movies, as many children have complained about having to stay seated for movies. Ms. Hackl will look into whether the space can permit movement activities, and in the meantime, asked parents to donate G-rated DVDs to create variety in SV's DVD library.

In response to parent comment about blocked crosswalks, extended corner parking, cars on Mayland Avenue and SV traffic safety concerns in general, Ms. Hackl said that she would notify the police and would draft an email reminder to parents with an aerial visual.

In response to a parent question on facilities maintenance projects, Ms. Hackl informed the group that 45 carbon monoxide detectors are being installed at SV today, roller shades are being evaluated for energy efficiency in the Media Center, and the Main Office has been freshly painted.

Ms. Hackl thanked all of the H&S volunteers and looks forward to working with H&S this year.

Mrs. Melissa Arcaro Burns, President, Moorestown Home and School

This is Melissa's second year as President. Melissa reminded the group that H&S is 100% volunteer run, and encouraged any interested parties to volunteer and get involved with H&S, whether for a one day event or a multi-year commitment. Melissa welcomes questions and/or suggestions and asks that they be sent to her via the Moorestown H&S website. Melissa requested that parents first consult with her before posting on the Moorestown Parents' Facebook page.

H&S's Boosterthon 2018 was very successful, and its proceeds permitted all schools to receive Wish List items that the Board of Education could not fund via the regular budget. With funds raised from the 2018 Adult Social, H&S, in partnership with the MEF, purchased specialized emergency technology for use of all MTPS staff and administrators. Melissa asked attendees to "like" the Moorestown H&S Facebook page, read the weekly H&S emails, and consult the printed H&S Calendar to stay up to date on H&S activities.

Melissa encouraged parents to attend Board of Education meetings, which are held at the WAMS Media Center on the third Thursday of each month. Also, H&S is funding a "Meet the BOE Candidates Night" that will be run and moderated by the League of Women Voters on October 29 at 7p.m. at the WAMS Media Center.

Monthly Business

Toni Nicole Benedetti, Secretary, asked for a Motion to Approve the June 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes, with such Motion made by Nicole Kane and seconded by Doris Stoffers.

Laura stated that SV's budget is in great shape, with a good amount of roll over from last year's use. H&S purchases which benefit the entire school are reimbursable; contact Laura for a reimbursement form. Room Parent spending is not reimbursable.

Old Business

- Laura thanked all Committee Chairs by name, as listed on the Agenda, for their work thus far.

New Business

- SV needs a H&S Chair, as this year's slated Chair recently took on FT employment and stepped down. If no one volunteers to serve as Chair, Co-Chair Denya Miller is willing to Chair. In that case, SV will need to fill the Co-Chair position. Co-Chair focuses on budget and is not as labor intensive as Chair. Please contact Laura Frederico with interest in either position.
- Membership - Please visit the H&S website to join H&S. If you are not a member of H&S, you cannot volunteer inside the school at H&S activities, including serving as Room Parents.
- Room Parent Forms - deadline is tomorrow, there will be no extensions!
- Back to School Night – September 27th – During the school day, Flagg's will be delivering decorations and plants that they have donated; H&S needs a volunteer to create an outdoor display near SV's front entryway – Caty Berman and Heidi Erney agreed to volunteer.
- Staff Welcome and Appreciation Breakfast – This Friday- Visit the Signup Genius to donate.
- Picture Day – September 20th - H&S needs parent volunteers to help assist – Signup Genius forthcoming. Also, Rupal Kaistha needs a Co-Chair to split the day with her.
- Third Grade Yearbook – new this year! Please submit photos of current SV third graders at school events from their K-3 time at SV to the Yearbook Chairs at sv3memories@gmail.com.
- Book Fair – Fall Book Fair will be the first week of October. H&S needs 1-2 additional Book Fair Apprentices, this is a two week fall commitment and two week spring commitment.
- Family Fun Night – October 4th - Kristen McIlwraith needs a Co-Chair for this one night event.
- Room Parent Tea - September 21st at 9:15a.m. - Those selected as Room Parents should attend for clarification on the role and responsibilities of a Room Parent.
- Media Center Volunteers – Volunteer signup will be distributed soon, with volunteer scheduling and training to follow.
- Wizards Game – March 29, 2019 – MTPS faculty play the Wizards at this fun family night out.

Laura Frederico made a Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 10:50a.m., which was seconded by Melissa Burns. The next SV H&S meeting will be held on October 16th at 9:30a.m.