

Salem Hyde FTO Board Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2022, 6:00 pm. Meeting held in the Salem Hyde Elementary School library.

Attendance: Board members Melanie Emery (co-chair), Claire Joyce (co-chair), Deborah Ketola (co-treasurer), Jayme Wonderland (co-treasurer), Christine Dunne (secretary), Principal Becky Groat, and Chrissy Lefkus.¹

Becky Groat updated the board on some Salem Hyde news. She said last year the school performed very well on state testing for science, but has room to grow for math and ELA. This year students (fourth- and fifth-graders) will need to improve scores for the school to remain “in good standing.” Groat also mentioned efforts to communicate with families about upcoming events (for example, through sending home paper calendars), and how the penny wars fundraiser has had a positive impact on the school climate.

Board members discussed the next FTO general meeting, at which the winning penny wars staff member will perform a TikTok dance. Chrissy Lefkus will ask her students if they have any ideas for a good dance. The meeting will also include tacos for dinner, information about upcoming testing (and what families can do to prepare), and a survey for families.

Deborah Ketola updated the board on FTO finances. The total account balance is \$4,210.16, which includes \$2,700 to be given to the different grade levels and specials. Becky Groat will remind teachers that this money is available to claim. The board went through the different costs and fundraisers on the budget to determine whether any should be removed for this year.

The next topic of conversation was the school yearbook. Joe Foster (the art teacher) has asked students to design a front and back cover for the yearbook; a contest will take place to determine which design will be used. For fair judging, several community members will be asked to choose their three favorites. Then students will vote on their favorite entry. Other upcoming yearbook tasks include taking photos of staff that did not have their picture taken by BJK Photos in the fall.

The board brainstormed some ideas for teacher appreciation week in May, including a nice breakfast spread on Friday, May 12. One board member will request a gift card donation from Wegmans, similar to last year; a donation of coffee is also possible. To make the teachers feel extra-special, board members’ children might create posters to display that week. Another upcoming event is the Mother’s Day flower sale.

Next, Jayme Wonderland bought up the idea of creating a staff directory (for families) that includes photos, email addresses, and some information about the staff. While details need to be worked out, this resource could be located on the FTO website.

¹ Melissa Hidek, the social work assistant/family engagement coordinator at Salem Hyde, was also in attendance.

Other topics of discussion included FTO board member nominations for the 2023-2024 school year (which will start being accepted March 1, at the general meeting); the date of next year's rollers skating night (the Friday before winter break); and the need for more items in the school clothing closet—including new underwear and pants.

The meeting ended around 7:20 p.m.