

Graham PTA Nov 10, 2016 General Meeting

Officers Present: Emily Chen (president), Suzie Perkins (treasurer), Karin Huffine (vice president), Jenn Buedel (secretary)

Attendees: Claudette Walton (Principal), Rachel Witkowski, Tamara Anderson, Noelle Klinko, Lussyana Lynch, Rebecca Curtis, Melissa Cleary, Lori Piccininni, Meg Wrobel, Brooke Murphy

CALL TO ORDER: The general meeting was called to order at 9:36am

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Report – Emily Chen

- Blessing in a Backpack – first packing event was a success
- Johnny Red Hots – next restaurant night
- Next skate night 11/15
- Thank you to Lori Piccininni for PT conference food for teachers
- Coat Drive was a success. Thank you to all that donated!

Treasurer's Report - Suzie Perkins

- Income: money from walkathon and transfer from paypal for walkathon
- Expenses: few expenses last month, anticipate receipts for Harvest Party soon
- Box tops brought in over \$580, look for the second round of Box Tops in early spring

Principal Report - Ms. Walton

-Graham has now received all of the chrome books that were purchased with last year's box tops money and additional PTA funds. These chrome books will be used throughout the school for instructional puposes.

Special Presentation: Disability Awareness Presentation by Nancy F. Goodfellow and Michelle Anderson

- focus on teaching empathy and how to approach the subject of disabilities with students
- ideal audience for this presentation is 3-6 grade
- Portions of the presentation:
 - intro
 - presentation by Michelle Anderson, 22 year with downs syndrome
 - Just Like You Autism video: explains common traits of autism and shows a simulation of some of those traits
 - focus on Understanding = Acceptance
- matter of fact approach, define special needs/disability/difference, focus on similarities and emphasize have we are all different, the impact of words to others
- use stories to help explain examples and learn empathy (such as Out of My Mind, Rules, Wonder, Fish in a Tree)

Buddy 2 Buddy: new voluntary initiative to foster friendship and acceptance amongst kids

2 upcoming opportunities: all are voluntary and open to all kids that choose to participate, tentative start dates of Dec. 1.

K-5 Playground Buddy: "Meet me at the Bench" – kids will volunteer to be the designated volunteer at recess on a rotating basis to serve as a friend and helper to kids who need a buddy that day. Special activities will be available to those kids at the Buddy Bench.

5th Grade Buddies: volunteers who give up part of their recess to be a gym or classroom buddy/teacher helper in the adaptive PE or self-contained classrooms.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:39 am