



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • OCTOBER 28, 2016

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### A. In Attendance

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It was noted that (a) parents and other “persons in a parental relation” as defined by the regulations of the New York City Chancellor and designated persons having a relationship to a child or children currently attending Q300 (the “**Parents**”) and (b) eligible Q300 teachers and instructional staff members who are currently employed on a full-time basis (the “**Staff**”) at Q300 were present at the October 28, 2016 general membership meeting (the “**Meeting**”). The total number of Parents and Staff present was 97.

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### B. Call to Order

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Co-PTA President Maria Hantzopoulos and Andrea Tappert called the meeting of the General Membership of the Q300 Parent-Teacher Association (the “**PTA**”) to order at 6:00 pm in the auditorium at the lower division campus at 28-37 29th Street, Astoria, NY 11102.

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### C. Approval of Minutes

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A motion was made to approve the minutes of the PTA General Membership Meeting held on September 29, 2016. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present

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### D. President’s Report

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Maria and Andrea gave the President’s report. The following are highlights:

1. Andrea greeted the Members. She thanked the planning committee of the Costume Party, which was held directly after the PTA general meeting. The committee included Paula Marisi, Richa Dhenke, Maria Hantzopoulos, Lynn Kennedy, Sarah Willet-Chang, Gina Reis, Kevin Gallagher and Sue Sekar.
2. At least one or more class parents have been selected for most classes. Class parent positions are still open for classes 601, 702, and 801. Class parents help encourage families to become involve in special classroom events and PTA activities, among other responsibilities.
3. For those who have not done so yet, please sign up to become a member of the informal grade and schoolwide google groups to receive timely information about Q300 happenings.
4. PTA-funded enrichments have begun for most grades. A class set of chrome books have been ordered for the middle school. All elementary school teaching assistants have been hired.
5. The PTA’s potluck winterfest will be held either in January or February 2017. The potluck has been previously held in November.

6. The PTA and Public School 17 will jointly organize a free Movie Night in the lower division campus on December 9, 2016 at 5:30 pm. Pizza, beverage, and snacks will be sold. Proceeds will be split between the two schools.
7. The PTA will be organizing a coat and sock drive in November and December. As the temperatures drop the PTA is encouraging the Q300 community to contribute what they can and help New Yorkers in need.

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### **E. Fundraising Committee**

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Co-Vice President Blain Kennedy announced that the Direct Appeal, which raises funds for the PTA, is in full swing. He noted that the PTA has a “Sustaining Gift” program in which families can pledge a monthly payment for the school year. He also noted that 100% of current PTA board members have pledged or given to the Direct Appeal and that the PTA will be accepting checks for the Direct Appeal this evening during the Costume Party. At the end of the Costume Party, the PTA will announce the amounts raised or pledged thus far.

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### **F. Treasurer’s Report**

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Treasurer Gina Reis circulated the attached Treasurer’s Report, which summarizes the PTA’s finances as of September 30, 2016. The following are highlights:

1. The PTA raised approximately \$9,500 over the summer from the Summer Read-a-Thon.
2. As of September 30, 2016, the PTA has an adjusted cash balance of \$84,307.58.

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### **G. School Leadership Team (“SLT”) Report**

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Andrea gave the SLT Report. At the October 20, 2016 SLT meeting, second grade parent Pooja O’Hanlon was re-elected as SLT chairperson. Teacher Ali Lisberger was elected SLT secretary. The SLT reviewed its mission and discussed Q300’s Comprehensive Educational Plan.

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### **H. Nominating/ Elections Committee**

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1. **Nominating/Elections Committee.** The PTA is required to appoint a nominations committee to solicit potential candidates for open seats on the Board and to administer the elections. A motion was made to appoint Christopher Podvin to serve on the Nominating/Elections Committee. The committee would consist of Ryoko Mathes, Harold Overweg, Chris Podvin, and Vikas Shah. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
2. **Expedited Election.** Pursuant to Section 5.8.2 of the PTA Bylaws, as amended on June 23, 2016, the PTA held an expedited election for the following board positions: Treasurer, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Community Affairs, Vice President of Lower Division, and Vice President of Upper Division. At least 10 calendar days prior to the Meeting, written notice, as specified in the PTA bylaws, of the election was sent to the Membership.
  - a. Treasurer.

- (i) The following nomination was taken from the floor: Kazumi Naimoli and Gina Reiss, as Co-Treasurers. No other nominations were made.
  - (ii) A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect Kazumi Naimoli and Gina Reiss as Co-Treasurers. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
- b. Vice President of Communications.
- (i) The following nomination was taken from the floor: Thomas Mangan and Amanda Spielman, as Co-Vice Presidents of Communications. No other nominations were made.
  - (ii) A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect Thomas Mangan and Amanda Spielman, as Co-Vice Presidents of Communications. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
- c. Vice President of Community Affairs.
- (i) The following nomination was taken from the floor: Lynn Kennedy and Margarita Soto, as Co-Vice Presidents of Community Affairs. No other nominations were made.
  - (ii) A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect: Lynn Kennedy and Margarita Soto, as Co-Vice Presidents of Community Affairs. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
- d. Vice President of Lower Division.
- (i) The following nomination was taken from the floor: Siobhan Watson. No other nominations were made.
  - (ii) A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect: Siobhan Watson, as Vice President of Lower Division. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
- e. Vice President of Lower Division.
- (iii) The following nominations were taken from the floor: (aa) Lynda Byszynski; (bb) Jenny Lando; (cc) Anne Van der Veer. No other nominations were made.
  - (iv) Members voted on paper ballots. A majority of Members present voted to elect Jenny Lando.

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## **I. Principal's Report**

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Principal Bill Biniaris gave the Principal's Report. The following are highlights:

### 1. Lower Division

- a. Reading assessments have been completed and students have been organized into their guided reading groups.
- b. Kindergarten students in Brooke's class "shopped" for books on their reading levels and some third grade students mentored them on the proper use of book baggies. Both kindergarten classes participated in a volcano construction and eruption project.

- c. The first graders are investigating the properties of various liquids.
- d. Sarah's second grade class designed two-dimensional representations of buildings that could be erected on the lot that is used as the Mount Sinai ER driveway.
- e. Trees New York Director of Youth Programs Cheryl Blaylock visited the second and third grades to discuss the importance of tree stewardship in the City. She improvised a small scene using a paper bag puppet and the students made their own puppets. Next week she will lead our students in a daffodil planting project at both school campuses.

2. Upper Division

- a. Bill enjoyed meeting many parents at the middle school student-led conferences on October 27, 2016. He received some feedback about the conferences and will work with teachers for the next conferences.
- b. Middle school students visited Rocking the Boat program in the Bronx to explore the local ecology.
- c. A guest speaker born in Sudan spoke to sixth graders in connection to the work they are doing with the text from the novel, "A Long Walk to Water" by Linda Sue Park.
- d. The seventh grade hosted a very successful bake sale to help raise funds for their upcoming overnight trip to the Taconic Outdoor Education Center.
- e. The middle school will be hosting a parent workshop on internet safety on November 15, 2016.

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**J. New Business**

There was no new business.

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**K. Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next General Membership meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the **Upper Division campus**.

The meeting was adjourned on or about 6:45 pm.

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David William Wang, Secretary