



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • MAY 30, 2019

---

### A. In Attendance

---

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 (**Parents**) and (b) eligible Q300 teachers and instructional staff members who are currently employed on a full-time basis (**Staff**) at Q300 were present. The total number of Parents and Staff (together, **Members**) present was 31. Quorum was reached.

---

### B. Call to Order

---

President Paula Marisi called the General Membership to order at 6:40 pm in the auditorium at the upper division.

---

### C. Co-Presidents’ Report

---

President Paula Marisi gave the President’s report. The following are the highlights:

1. Please volunteer in welcoming incoming Q300 families at the Welcome breakfast on June 15, 2019 at the lower division campus and incoming lower division families during student registration on June 17 and June 20, 2019 in the lower division campus.
2. The PTA is partnering with 1st Day to deliver student supplies to the school. This option offers one-stop shopping for school supplies. The PTA will get a small amount of the proceeds from each box sold. A big thank you to Catherine Leopando, Esther Manzano, Maria Hantzopoulos and Sue Sekar.
3. The PTA is launching its 4th annual Summer Read-a-Thon. Last year, the PTA raised over \$7,000 through this initiative.
4. Please volunteer to help organize a book swap for 1st, 2nd, and 5th grades on June 7, 2019.
5. Q300 families will be gathering on at Sanger Hall, at 48-20 Skillman Ave in Sunnyside, on June 1, 2019 to watch the UEFA Champions League soccer finals. Sanger Hall is owned by a 2nd grade family, who has generously donating a portion of the bill to the Q300 PTA.
6. Ample Hills Creamery will donate 25% of your bill to the PTA on the last day of school, June 26, 2019, between 12 to 4 pm. It is located at on at 34-02 30th Avenue, Astoria.
7. The PTA is organizing a trip to a baseball game between Brooklyn Cyclones and the Staten island Yankees on Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 2:00 pm at MCU Park in Coney Island.
8. The Stepping into Summer auction and dance party was a huge success, with over 280 attendees and raised over \$21,000. Thanks to the co-chairs Maria Hantzopoulos and Joanna Holzman, as well as the committee members Hong van Tieu, Barbara Monroe, Gina Reis, Paula Marisi, Kevin Gallagher, Janet Perez, Jenn Eliasi,

Amina Kulmishova, Claire Lui, and Karen Van Wart. Special mention goes to Siobhan Watson and Jason Engdahl for creating the journal. Many thanks to those people who volunteered at the event.

9. Many thanks to all that helped with Teacher Appreciation Day! Shout out to Sara Clough and Maria Hantzopoulos for spearheading the whole effort! This year, the PTA provided a hot breakfast from Bel-Aire Diner, as well as coordinated “appreciation” posters with student quotes at both campuses.
10. Many thanks to parents who helped with the PTA Middle School Orientation on May 22, 2019.
11. Many thanks to parents Sue Sekar and Kevin Poon for preparing the PTA’s tax returns.
12. Many thanks to Lynn Kennedy and Gina Reis for organizing the Lower Division Park Day at Athens Park on May 31, 2019.

---

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

---

At the May 20, 2019 SLT meeting, a Department of Education (DOE) representative gave a presentation concerning students with disabilities and how to provide accommodations for such disabilities. The SLT discussed potential ways of increasing school diversity, including reserving a certain percent of seats for students who are from low-income households and live in school district 30 and students living in public housing (NYCHA). All of these students would meet the gifted & talented (G&T) testing criteria.

---

#### **E. Co-Treasurers’ Reports**

---

Treasurer Karen Van Wart delivered the Co-Treasurer’s Report. Attached is a copy of summary of the PTA’s finances for April 2019. In April 2019, the PTA raised over \$15,990, which included \$7,800 from the Direct Appeal and \$8,200 from other fundraisers. Outflows were \$14,160, which included fundraising expenses (Stepping into Summer auction and dance party), teaching assistants, school supplies, and professional development.

---

#### **F. Committee Reports**

---

1. **Membership.** Co-Vice President of Membership Maria Hantzopoulos invited families to meet incoming families during the Welcome breakfast on June 15, 2019 at 10 am at the lower division campus. The Back to School picnic will occur on August 25, 2019 from 3 pm to 6 pm at Rainey Park, pending park permit approval. Q300 will organize its training during the week of August 25, 2019 for in-school volunteering.
2. **Fundraising.** Fundraising Vice President Claire Lui noted that in addition to the fundraisers noted above, the PTA will hold its annual summer read-a-thon. This year, the PTA has raised a total of \$306,000.
3. **Community Affairs.** Co-Vice President of Community Affairs Lynn Kennedy noted that the lower division parks clean-up of Athens Square Park will occur on May 31, 2019. State Senator Michael Gianaris and City Council Costa Constantinides will be attending.

---

#### **G. Principal’s Report**

---

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

1. Thanks to the assistant principals for their hard work in helping to organize Q300’s first Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math Fair (STEAM) earlier this month. He also thanked each teacher. A special thanks

goes out to Superintendent Dr. Philip A. Composto for taking the time out to attend the event. Thanks to upper division art teacher Erin Tornatore for creating an art gallery that showcased her students' work.

2. Thanks to upper division teachers Jean Kim, ToniAnne Campuzano, Corey Marx, Esteban Villafuerte, and James Woo for helping to organizing and for attending this week's 7th grade overnight trip to the Sharpe Reservation.
3. Upcoming events include the following: (a) June 5, 2019: Alvin Ailey dance performance by the third and fourth graders; (b) June 10, 2019: Upper Division Talent Show; (c) June 12, 2019: 8th grade overnight trip to Club Getaway; (d) June 13, 2019: Monthly Coffee with Bill meeting (8:30 am to 9:30 am at the Upper Division); and (e) June 13, 2019: 4th Grade Talent Show
4. Arts Connection will teach arts and music programming in the Lower Division. It is known for working closely with teachers to tailor the program to the classroom and to the teachers' interests and is over 150 NYC public schools. Art House Astoria will continue to teach arts and music in the Upper Division.
5. The following are the proposed enrichment programs:
  - a. Kindergarteners will receive the following PTA-funded enrichment programs: year-long music once a week for one period; 16-week visual art once a week for one period; and 16-week puppetry once a week for one period.
  - b. 1st graders will receive the following PTA-funded enrichment programs: year-long music once a week for one period; 16-week visual art once a week for one period; and 16-week theater once a week for one period.
  - c. 2nd graders will receive the following PTA-funded enrichment programs: year-long music once a week for one period; 16-week visual art once a week for one period; and 16-week architecture once a week for one period.
  - d. 3rd and 4th graders will choose among the following PTA-funded 16-week, double-period, once-a-week enrichment electives: chess, musical theater, modern dance, West African dance and percussion, vocal music, and visual arts. They can also select teacher-led enrichment electives. The plan is to schedule 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade elective on Fridays.
  - e. 5th graders will have guitar lessons twice a week for the entire year.
  - f. 5th through 8th graders will choose among the following PTA-funded 16-week, once-a-week enrichment electives: chess, film production, animation, multi-instrumental band, musical teacher/chorus. They can also select teacher-led enrichment electives.
6. Chess will not be taught in K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Responses to a recent PTA survey noted that other enrichments were a higher priority than chess for lower division parents. Chess will be an afterschool option on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. The chess team will continue to be active.
7. During the May 20, 2019 SLT meeting, a DOE representative discussed the school's options to diversify the school's population with changes to the school's admission policy. Principal Biniaris would like the DOE representative to speak with the Q300 community and that DOE plans to implement a new admission policy by September 2020. Another representative discussed how Q300 could be more accommodating to students with individual education plans.
8. For upcoming school year, the upper division guidance counselor will be on a study sabbatical. A 5th grade teacher and a lower division school secretary will be leaving Q300. The other fifth grade teacher will be on leave in the fall. A second-grade teacher will continue her maternity leave. A third-grade teacher, who is currently on leave, will be transferred to the first grade. The current 4th grade ELA teacher will be transferred to the 5th grade. The current 4th grade science teacher will be transferred to the 1st grade.

9. Several parents noted that the departure of the 5th grade teacher is a huge loss. The 5th grade teacher was an amazing teacher with substantive experience and that her departure reflects poorly on the school's ability to retain talented staff. Another parent noted that the current guidance counselor is awesome, that she worked closely with individual students, and that her sabbatical will result in a deep void in the counseling of students in the upper division and in assisting them with high school admissions.
10. A parent stated that the departure of a 1st grade teacher (mid-year in January 2019) and a 5th grade teacher may be an indication that they were not be supported by the administration. She noted that the administration was aware of the challenges in the 1st and 5th classes since the beginning of the year; yet the challenges were not addressed, resulting in the teachers departing the school.
11. Principal Biniaris plans to have two experienced teachers teach next school's 2nd grade. The current second grade teacher will remain and the 4th grade science teacher will move down to 2nd grade.
12. Principal Biniaris noted that successes in the 5th grade are less visible than difficult situations. He noted that there are systems in place to remediate the class's challenges. He offered to meet with the 5th grade parents to discuss next year's plans. He noted that for next year's 6th grade will have 3 classes – one of which will be an integrated co-teaching class – and that the student mix for each class will be changed.
13. In response to a question, Principal Biniaris stated that exit interviews for departing Q300 employees have begun this year. He also noted that the stated reason for the departure of the 1st and 5th grade teachers were due to personal reasons.
14. In the next school year, the gym teacher will continue to serve students in both campuses. The school will provide outside support, such as dance and yoga, to the gym teacher so that she can cover all gym classes.
15. Several parents expressed concern that the 4th grade will not have any experienced teacher. 4th grade test scores are considered in the middle school admissions process.
16. A parent stated that the STEAM fair was a “disaster” for the fourth grade. The fourth graders created biodomes for the moon. The biodomes was an “arts and craft” project that had little basis in science. Most of the projects did not consider that the moon's environment. Another parent noted that when he was in the fourth grade, he had done experiments involving growing mold in different media. A parent was struck that the fair was not demonstrative of much science learning. Principal Biniaris noted that this was the first year for the STEAM Fair and that he will consider the feedback for next year.

---

## H. Resolution

1. A resolution was presented to appoint Eve Wolff to the nomination committee for the upcoming PTA board and SLT parent elections. Such committee members include parents Kevin Gallagher and Luke Lukose. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the resolution.
2. A resolution was presented to allocate \$500 to the eighth-grade trip. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the resolution.

---

## I. Expedited Elections

---

The PTA held an expedited election for all Board positions and for one SLT parent member. At least 10 calendar days prior to the Meeting, written election notice had been sent to the Membership.

1. **President.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Milko Milkov. No other nominations were made. A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect Milko Milkov as President. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
2. **Executive Vice President.** No nominations were received from the floor.

3. **Co-Treasurers.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Yi Wen Wang and AJ Jackowska. No other nominations were made. A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect Yi Wen Wang and AJ Jackowska. as Co-Treasurers. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
4. **Co-Secretaries.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: M. Daniel Bach and David William Wang. No other nominations were made. A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect M. Daniel Bach and David William Wang. as Co-Secretaries. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
5. **Co-Vice Presidents of Membership.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Maria Hantzopoulos and Elle Rabinovich. No other nominations were made. A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect Maria Hantzopoulos and Elle Rabinovich as Co-Secretaries of Membership. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
6. **Vice President of Fundraising.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Claire Lui. No other nominations were made. A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect Claire Lui as Vice President of Fundraising. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
7. **Co-Vice Presidents of Community Affairs.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Marisa Nagano and Soumaly King. No other nominations were made. A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect Marissa Nagano and Soumaly King as Co-Vice Presidents of Community Affairs. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
8. **Co-Vice Presidents of Communications.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Diana Wang and Ian Koh. No other nominations were made. A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect Diana Wang and Ian Koh as Co-Vice Presidents of Communications. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
9. **Vice President of Lower Division.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Barbara Monroe. No other nominations were made. A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect Barbara Monroe as Vice President of Lower Division. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
10. **Vice President of Upper Division.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Sae Makino-Siller. No other nominations were made. A Member made a motion to cast one vote to elect Sae Makino-Siller as Vice President of Upper Division. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
11. **SLT Parent Member.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Sara Clough and Ilyse Bosch. Each candidate gave brief remarks. The nominating committee distributed ballots for the SLT parent member position to Members. After the Members marked the ballots, the nominating committee collected the marked ballots. It counted the ballots and announced that Sara Clough was elected as an SLT parent member.

---

## J. New Business

---

No new business was discussed.

---

## K. Adjournment

---

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm EDT. The next general membership meeting will be held on June 20, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the lower division campus.

/S/

---

M. Daniel Bach and David William Wang, Co-Secretaries