



The 30th Avenue School (Q300)

Elementary Campus

28-37 29th Street, 4th Floor, Astoria, NY 11102

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Middle School Campus

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www.Q300.org

Vasilios Biniaris, Principal

**School Leadership Meeting
Elementary School Campus
February 6, 2017**

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members Present

Bill Biniaris

Ali Lisberger

Olena Kebalo

Jason Booher

Pooja O'Hanlon

Maria Hantzopoulos (PTA Co-Chair)

Kalliopi Hatziathanasiou

Alex Lunz

Mara Cusker Gonzalez

Elizabeth Yarmy

Kristina Jelinek (guest)

Members Not Present

Jill Kaufman

Minnie Zen

Review and Approval of Minutes from 1/9/17

Motion to approve- Maria

Second- Jason

All in favor to pass approval of minutes



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PTA/Parent Report

The Winter International Potluck raised close to \$2500. During the PTA meeting preceding the event two resolutions were passed to monetarily support new enrichment programs for this year. These are--beginning February 27th sixth graders will receive weekly Spanish instruction provided by the Cervantes Institute, followed by a weekly supplementary seminar. Both Kindergarten classes will participate in a 10 week Mindfulness program run by Colin Lieu of Multitasking Yogi. This residency may be extended into other grades in the future.

The PTA has begun collecting recipes from school community for the first ever Q300 Cookbook. Recipes will be collected through the end of February, with cookbook sales later this winter/spring.

The New York International Children's Film Festival 2017 being held from February 24 - March 19th will be showcasing the best new films for children ages 3-18. PTA has entered a program where it will earn \$3 back for every ticket purchased.

Family Movie Night with PS 17 will be on Friday, March 3 at 5:30 pm at PS 17 campus. The movie will be *Pete's Dragon*. Admission is free, food and drinks will be available for purchase. All proceeds will be split between the two school's PTAs.

Q300's second annual Zumbathon with PS 17 will be on March 24th at 5:30 pm. Additional information on how the school community can participate and help to raise money will be shared soon.

The PTA's largest event, Stepping Into Summer Auction and Dance Party will take place on Sunday, May 7 from 3-6 pm at the Chian Federation in Astoria. Save the Dates have been sent out.



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The PTA has shared a Project Proposal Form that parents can complete if they have an idea they'd like to pursue to support the school. One parent, for example, is interested in working with Bill on creating a lending library for the school.

In response to a question regarding the replacement 3rd grade teacher for class 301, Bill answered that several phone interviews had been conducted as well as two demo lessons. There were a few more scheduled but he was working on a replacement as soon as possible.

Bill also shared information regarding the email shutdown for middle school students. He explained that there were a couple of incidents where students were using their emails inappropriately. The exchanges were taking place during school hours and raised the question of monitoring -- the school's ability and capacity. Administration had met with MS students and discussed these issues. Kristina mentioned that students still have access to google docs, google classroom etc. The appropriate work wasn't done in advance to communicate school email expectations. Therefore there was an immediate email freeze so school staff can rethink this situation.

A question was raised regarding MS advisory and the curriculum. Some parents felt that the social emotional focus is being lost this year. Last year there was a focus on diversity and it was a space for teachers and students to talk about identity as well as other issues. Maria posed the question, how do we make sure that was special about this school (kids feeling like they are a part of a community) is maintained?

Bill brought up an advisory based program called Sanford Harmony but noted that it's going to be a challenge moving forward because in order to keep advisory effective, the numbers must be low (10) and Q300 didn't have enough staff to maintain that. Pooja suggested possibly partnering with outside organizations which may be able to help with that. Olena spoke about how advisories are run and explained that social emotional work is currently happening. Advisory meets 3 times a week for 1 period.

After representing our school at the Astoria School Symposium on February 4th, Alex



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shared his observations. Many people that live in this community are not aware of Q300. He expressed that currently, Latinos are heavily underrepresented in our school community and wondered how we could reach into the local communities and give parents the information they need. Bill recommended that we visit schools in our district to tell them about our school, what it is about and how to begin the admission process. It was agreed that it may be too late for this year, but we should consider this for next year.

Principal's Report

The NYS assessments are coming up in March. Q300 will have an after school program available to third grade students, which will focus on test preparation. More information will be available to parents shortly.

SLT members reviewed the 2016-2017 Quality Review Report. Q300 received one rating of Well Developed, several Proficient, and two Developing. The quality reviewer observed a lot of great practices but did not see them being “universally applied”.

There was a discussion if these findings were an accurate portrayal of the school. Bill explained that there is some value to the report but a lot of it is difficult to implement and very hard to achieve. Kristina mentioned that she thought a lot about where we are as a third year school and that the report was not problematic, that for a young school we have things to work on. The idea of us being in development makes sense and that we're not established enough to have our practices institutionalized. Some details are not completely accurate but the report can be used to think about who we are and where we are going/want to be going.

Following some discussion the SLT agreed that the Quality Review rubric for the school might be even more helpful than the report itself and suggested staff members use it to identify areas of improvement. These could also be part of the CEP goals for the upcoming school year.



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SLT then proceeded to work on the framework for CEP goals for school 2017-2018. Bill provided all members with a SMART goals list. SLT members broke out into groups and discussed ways to identify specific improvement goals.

UFT Report

Ali, on behalf of teachers brought up the current music program and its fit across all the grades and if other options should be explored for the next school year.

Maria reminded the group that the PTA enrichment committee was in the process of getting together to explore enrichment options for the upcoming school year.

Remuneration Logs

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 pm