



**The 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue School (Q300)**

**Elementary Campus**

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

[718.626.8502](tel:718.626.8502) (main) [718.626.8508](tel:718.626.8508) (fax)

**Middle School Campus**

31-51 21st Street, 5th Floor,

Long Island City, NY 11106

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[www.Q300.org](http://www.Q300.org)

**Vasilios Biniaris, Principal**

**School Leadership Team Meeting**

**April 30, 2018**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Vasilios Biniaris, Principal

Sarah Duer, Teacher

Elijah Cho, Teacher

Alex Lunz, Teacher

Ali Lisberger, UFT Rep

Jennifer Choi, Parent

Mara Cusker Gonzalez, Parent

Maria Hantzopoulos, PTA Co-President

Monica Mohan, Parent

Elizabeth Yarmy, Parent

**Members Absent:**

Jennifer Choi, Parent

**Observer:**

Susan Sladowski, Parent

**Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM.**

**Brief Parent Report:**

- The annual Stepping Into Summer party and auction is coming up on Sunday, May 6, at the Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden. It is likely to sell out. Many have provided prize donations -- thank you!
- There are many PTA activities going on in the lead up to the end of the year.
- There will be a new student welcome breakfast in June.
- At the request of at least 10 members, a special meeting of the PTA has been scheduled for Thursday, May 3, in the ES to attend to the resolution put forth at the last meeting. The school confirmed the permit on Friday afternoon, though the time is still pending.



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**Vasilios Biniaris, Principal**

**Brief Principal's Report:**

- Bill reported on the administration's efforts to move forward to address concerns about the school and leadership that were discussed during the last SLT meeting, recent PTA meetings, and meetings with Dr. Composto. Bill emailed an "Action Plan" that day to members of the Schoolwide Leadership Cabinet, the SLT, and the PTA Board, and invited their feedback. He plans to send it to the broader school community the following day on May 1.

**School Website:**

- The website subcommittee has formed, circulated a work plan, and begun to implement changes to the site based on initial discussions and feedback from the Website Survey. The subcommittee will track progress using Google sheets.
- The group agreed to share the results of the Website Survey with the school community after redacting a few instances in which the respondent provided his or her name as part of a comment.
- There was a question about whether we can return to the original website address (<https://www.q300.org>). Bill's understanding is that that address is owned by an individual and that we need to have a new address independent of an individual.

**UFT Report:**

- Nothing new to report.



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**Vasilios Biniaris, Principal**

**Discussion of Preliminary Budget and Staffing Plan for 2018-19:**

- Bill presented a preliminary staffing plan for the 2018-19 school year with cost estimates for each staff member. Bill advised that the staffing plan was based on best estimates of the funds that will be allocated to the school. He does not expect to receive more specific information until a budget meeting in June, but he will attempt to obtain more information for the May 7 SLT meeting.
- The SLT members calculated in that moment a rough estimate of funds expected, based on last year's budget, the incoming 50 students, and the fair student funding allotment (roughly \$4,100) per student.
- Bill advised that the preliminary plan provides for all existing staff and two fifth grade teachers, with one amendment made during the meeting: the required positions must also include the English as a New Language teaching position.
- Several items in the preliminary plan, namely an art teacher, a second gym teacher, and an SEL coordinator, were highlighted to signify that they are positions for which the availability of adequate budget funding is uncertain.
- Next year's ICT needs are currently under evaluation, but the current expectation is that we will need 3 ICT teachers in the Middle School (MS).
- Bill invited feedback on the preliminary budget, including with respect to prioritizing needs and aligning with the CEP.
- Maria facilitated discussion of the preliminary budget and staffing plan using a tuning protocol that provided for a phase of clarifying questions followed by warm and cool feedback and responses.
  - Clarifying questions included:
    - Can the SEL coordinator position be filled by a social worker? Yes, but a social worker has a higher salary than a coordinator.
    - Can non-PE teachers help satisfy the mandated PE time requirements (120 minutes/week)? Yes, but it can be disruptive for teachers to have to devote class time to movement.
    - Can PTA cover art requirement? In general, yes, but in 7th and 8th grade, a certified art teacher is required.



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- Can a certified art teacher be someone certified in music, theatre, dance, etc., i.e., non visual arts? Yes.
- Can PTA cover some aspect of PE requirements? Likely yes. This was done in the MS in the first year of Q300.
- Can PTA cover the salary of certain teachers? Yes, but this involves financial inefficiencies this is generally not a preferable way to use PTA funds.
- o A number of members expressed support for adding a social worker as a budget priority and agreed that if the budget allowed it, a social worker would be preferable to hiring a second guidance counselor. There was a discussion of the need to make sure than any new SEL hire (whether social worker or guidance counselor) is a good fit for the school. Ideally, it should be someone with experience with students with special needs, gifted students, twice-exceptional students, and someone who can push in to classes and also handle IEP caseloads. Bill suggested having a parent representative assist with the hiring committee
- o There were suggestions to think creatively about: how to staff PE and Art, including through potential “blended” teacher staffing (e.g., a certified dance teacher who could cover both PE and Art); how to maximize teaching periods among cluster teachers; and how to creatively allocate the non-salary-related funds (e.g., funding for professional development, supplies, per diem). One final suggestion was possibly having ToniAnne teach most of the grades (perhaps 3-8) while looking into outside movement and athletic programs for the lower grades either funded within DOE budget or if not possible, through PTA.
- o There was a discussion of “wish list” staffing, which included 2 PE teachers, an Art teacher, a Social Worker for the Elementary School (ES), and an Assistant Principal at both the ES and MS.

**Remuneration logs were not available; will be completed at next meeting.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. Next meeting will be May 7, 2018.**