



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • December 17, 2020

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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 NYC Chancellor regulations 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 (Members) present was 39. Quorum was reached.

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### B. Call to Order

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Co-Presidents Maria Hantzopoulos and Lynn Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm EST on the Zoom virtual platform. Such virtual meeting is permitted under “Functioning in the Virtual Environment: Guidance for PA/PTAs and Presidents’ Councils”, issued June 4, 2020 by the NYC Department of Education (NYCDOE).

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### C. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

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The minutes of the General Meeting held on November 19, 2020 were presented. A motion was made to approve such minutes. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the minutes.

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### D. Principal’s Report

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

1. Second grade teacher Stephanie will be returning to work after parental leave. .
2. The lower division campus should re-open on January 4 after the winter break. The upper division campus will remain closed until further notice.
3. The first marking period ended on December 11. Report cards should be available digitally on December 23, 2020. The second marking period is from December 14 to March 19. This year, students in grade K-5 will not receive a level 1 or 2 (out of 4) in their report card, instead it will be replaced by a “N”. Students in grades 6-8 will not receive any grade lower than a 64 (out of 100), instead it will be replaced with a “NX”. This new grading policy was adapted from the DOE grading policy. Please log in to [mystudent.nyc](http://mystudent.nyc) to ensure you will be able to view report cards. If you have any issues, please contact Parent Coordinator (PC) Jenny Lando.
4. PC Jenny Lando is arranging for the Department of Education (DOE)-issued iPads to be picked up by families who have requested them. If those families are no longer need the iPads, the iPads will be reassigned.
5. Thanks to the parent who created desktop towers for families in need of technology.
6. Q300 has received a Resolution-A grant, which will help fund school’s technology need. Q300 will receive 32 Macbooks and 32 chromebooks with classroom storage carts.
7. The upper division campus will be getting two hydroponic labs (rooms 501 and 511) and new science lab equipment for room 511.
8. On January 11, 2021, Q300 will host mini-presentations for parents/guardians to review expectations for in-person and remote learning. Those unable to attend will receive any presentation materials.

9. The Office of Student Enrollment approved Q300's diversity proposal and plans to apply it for the upcoming kindergarten admission cycle. The proposal would prioritize 40% of incoming kindergarten seats to students who get an overall score of 97 or above and who meet any or all of the following criteria: (a) students who qualify for free and reduced lunch and/or currently reside in citywide section 9 housing; citywide NYCHA; or citywide temporary housing.
  10. Q300 has received a \$1,000 grant for this school year to implement social emotional activities and community building activities.
  11. On December 23, Q300 will be having a wellness day where students will engage in different activities throughout the day and get excited for the holidays.
  12. All new K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade families are eligible to begin saving for college for their child with NYC Kids Rise (nykidsrise.org). NYC Kids RISE will automatically deposit an initial \$100 into an NYC Scholarship Account for every District 30 kindergartner, unless their parent/ chooses not to participate. Families can receive additional funds for their child's scholarship account by taking certain steps like signing up on the NYC Kids RISE website to track their account.
  13. Q300 will share info on the middle and high school admission and enrollment process as soon as it receives such info from the DOE.
  14. In response to a parent's question, Principal Ramkishun noted that COVID-19 positive rates cover all reported COVID-19 reports for the entire building/campus, which is the total number of positives for Q300 and the co-located school (s). Further, if a student is in close contact with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, the student's family will be notified.
  15. A student in blended learning can temporarily opt in to remote learning for an approved reason, such as a need to quarantine. Please contact the administration to discuss.
  16. Q300 is working on scheduling arts programming in the lower division. She noted that both the lower and upper division respective schedules are very tight.
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#### **E. Co-Presidents' Reports**

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Co-President Maria Hantzopoulos and Lynn Kennedy delivered the Co-Presidents' Report. The following are highlights:

1. The PTA will fund a virtual arts residency for the lower division, beginning in January 2021. It is also working on a potential music residency for the lower division grades. Schedule permitting, the PTA is working with the administration to add a music, theater, and film electives for the upper division.
2. The PTA-funded Chromebooks should arrive by January 2021. The PTA will purchase additional Chromebooks.
3. The PTA is considering several virtual school-wide and grade-specific community and fundraising events, including parent-led cooking classes, game night, drive-in movies, and fitness classes. If you have an idea for an event or would like to help, please contact the PTA.
4. The Q300 Chess team will be participating in the online U.S. Chess nationals and the NY State girls championship tournaments. The next Q300 home tournament will be held in February 2021.
5. Special thanks to parents Agnes Luo and Li Lin for organizing the voluntary holiday group collection to show appreciation to Q300 teachers and staff who have dedicated themselves tirelessly to Q300 students'

education. Thanks to PC Jenny Lando and parent Erica Soto Eng for helping distribute the collection to teachers and staffers.

6. Thanks to Direct Appeal (DA) co-chairpersons David Wang and Sue Sekar for their fundraising efforts.
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#### **F. Co-Treasurers' Reports**

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Co-Treasurers Yi-Wen Wang and Yan Zho delivered the Co-Treasurers' Report. Attached is a summary of the PTA's finances through November 2020. During this period, the PTA raised over \$18,500, including \$15,000 from the Direct Appeal and \$2,400 in Thanksgiving pie sales. The PTA expenditures were about \$4,800, including \$1,100 for the upper division debate and math teams, about \$1,750 for Thanksgiving pie expenses, and \$800 for upper division Chromebooks.

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

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SLT parent member Sue Sekar gave an overview of the December 16, 2020 SLT meeting. The following are highlights :

1. The SLT reviewed the SLT by-laws and discussed potential amendments, including changes in the composition of the SLT, the terms for parent and teacher members, and revising the consensus-based, decision making process.
  2. The SLT discussed the staff and spacing restrictions that prevent Q300 from moving to a 5-day in-person learning program. Principal Ramkishun is prioritizing those students in need socially, emotionally, or academically. The SLT discussed the remote and blended learning models, sharing glows and grows.
  3. The SLT will determine whether or not to amend Q300's Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP), in light of the District 30's circulation of the District's CEP goals.
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#### **H. Committee Reports**

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1. Co-VPs of Membership Erica Soto Eng and Abigail Swenstein announced that the committee is organizing a virtual game night, which includes a scavenger hunt, charades, trivia, and other fun and interactive activities. See below for details.
2. Co-VPs of Upper Division Sunilda Carabello and Margarita Soto noted that high school admissions process has not yet been issued. Q300's middle school virtual tour is on the Q300 website. Sunilda has organized improv activities for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade during advisory class and is considering introducing the improv activities to other grades. Other potential community events include a student-led trivia night. They are working with upper division teacher Scott Waldman for the annual upper division hackathon.
3. DA Co-Chairs David Wang and Sue Sekar announced that the Direct Appeal has raised about \$70,000 in pledges and contributions for this school year. The PTA is mindful that these are financially challenging times, due to the pandemic. For those who haven't done so and are able to do so, please become a Direct Appeal donor. The funds help pay for crucial enrichment programs, services, and supplies. The PTA will accept donations for the 2020 tax year through December 31, 2020. Further, there has been change in the federal tax provisions that are designed to encourage charitable contributions in 2020.
4. Co-VPs of Communications Susan Stewart and Dana Holmes thanked the PTA newsletter organizers for creating such a great newsletter on being grateful and thankful. If you have any ideas for the next newsletter, please let them know. Thanks to parent Tomonori Nagano for his timely PTA website postings.
5. Co-VP of Lower Division Yvette Choy noted grade level virtual activities, including a kindergarten Mystery Reader in which parents take turns hosting a read-aloud and a third grade weekly lunch club. A potential activity is a book club or Lego club. If anyone has any activity suggestions, please contact Yvette. all

lower division class parents have been chosen. They recently held a meeting to discuss how to build community in this remote time.

6. Co-VPs of Community Affairs Marisa Nagano and Soumaly King noted that the “One School” Committee is organizing educational meetings with elected officials and others about why Q300 should be sited in one building, rather than two separate buildings that are several blocks apart. A food drive, which is being organized by P.S. 17, P.S. 234, and Q300, has been postponed until January 2021. The District 30 Community Education Council passed a resolution that called on the DOE to allow those students who are fully remote the opportunity to opt into blended learning.

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## I. New Business

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1. A motion was made to approve the following:

Resolution to approve the following fundraiser: the Connected Chef, an Astoria-based company, will teach live virtual cooking demonstration classes to Q300 families. The classes would include family focused classes (for kids) and adult-focused classes, which may include a “cocktail and appetizer” class. Q300 families will pay a registration fee to The Connected Chef for each class and receive a virtual link to the live event. For those within New York City, they will receive a delivery of the recipe ingredients (with the exception of alcohol). Much of the net proceeds will be donated to Lifeline Groceries, an Astoria based organization that delivers high-density, nutritious groceries to families in Western Queens, NYC who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, with a portion going to the PTA (\$10-\$15 per family).

After discussion, the motion was seconded. A majority of Members then present voted to approve the resolution.

2. A motion was made to approve the following:

Resolution to allocate \$450 to pay for a virtual family game event, which will include fun and family-friendly competition with interactive game show-style challenges, scavenger hunts, charades, trivia, and more, hosted by a live game host. The \$450 will be used to pay for the host services. The event will have a suggested donation per family.

After discussion, the motion was seconded. A majority of Members then present voted to approve the resolution.

3. Global Kids is running a virtual citywide afterschool program for fourth to eighth grades. The program includes youth leadership development, cooking, and improv classes. Serious Fun is offering its regular afterschool programming for lower division students including a musical theater program.

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## J. Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm EST. The next general membership meeting will be held on January 21, 2021 at 5:30 pm EST on a virtual platform.

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