



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • January 21, 2021

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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 30. Quorum was reached.

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### B. Call to Order and NY Edge Presentation

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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 (DOE).

Stephanie Black made a presentation about NY Edge’s remote and in-person afterschool program. NY Edge’s mission is to help bridge the opportunity gap among underserved students by providing programs designed to improve academic performance, health and wellness, self-confidence, character and attitudes for success in life. For those who are blended learning students, they will be able to participate in the in-person afterschool program on the days in which their blended learning cohort is at school. For remote learning students, there is not a schedule constraint and there is not a limited number of spots.

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### C. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

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The minutes of the General Meeting held on December 17, 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. Q300 has not received any direct communication concerning the future of gifted and talented (G&T) admissions policy and programming. It is Principal Ramkishun’s understanding that (a) testing for current pre-kindergarteners and first and second graders for G&T admission will occur in April; (b) application and registration will extend into the summer; (c) Q300’s new diversity policy will apply for the students entering in 2022-2023 school year. The policy prioritizes 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: students who qualify for free and reduced lunch and/or currently reside in citywide section 9 housing; citywide NYCHA; or citywide temporary housing. Parent Coordinator (PC) Jenny Lando will be hosting community conversations next week.
2. Q300 has been holding a college awareness week.
3. All Q300 staff are aware they are now eligible to receive a vaccine if they wish to. Please do not ask staff if they have received the vaccine, as this is a personal medical decision.
4. Please fill out the Fall 2020 experience survey from the DOE. The survey will be available online through February 5.

5. On January 27, 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the Specialized High School Admissions Test in-person. Because upper division teachers are proctoring the exam and are unable to provide live instruction, all 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be asynchronous.
6. Lower Division Social Worker provided an overview of upcoming monthly social emotional learning themes. In February, Q300 will celebrate Black History Month and Respect for All Month. March's theme is Women's History. April's themes are Environmental Awareness, Autism Awareness, and Youth Homelessness Matters. May's themes are Jewish American Heritage Month, National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and Career Awareness/Career Day. June's themes are Juneteenth and LGBTQ Awareness.
7. Middle School and high school applications are now open. Please note that although the current 5<sup>th</sup> graders can continue on to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> grade families still need to complete the Middle School application and list Q300. Please contact guidance counselors Khary Chang for middle school admission questions and Christine Katartzis for high school admissions questions.
8. PC Lando explained that each parent/guardian has their own NYC student account to access their student's info. If you have not received a creation code yet, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/vwjQWTnphnkC1Eed7> . She noted that you must have an NYC student account in order to vote in the upcoming Community Education Council District 30 elections.
9. PC Lando provided an overview of the NYCKidsRISE program. 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. For more info, please contact PC Lando.
10. In response to a question, Principal Ramkishun noted that blended learners who first graders are and older are required take a COVID-19 test. In contrast, kindergarteners do not have such requirement.
11. PC Lando reminded parents/guardians of blended learners to take the temperature of their blended learners in the morning, prior to going to school. For those in need of a thermometer, please contact PC Lando.
12. Q300's middle school debate team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in the Urban Debate League Middle School Tournament. Q300 won 2nd place overall as a school.
13. In response to a question, Principal Ramkishun noted that the school has been holding various activities and conversation concerning Black history as part of its social emotional curriculum and teachers are empowered to include such issues in their classroom activities. She also noted that throughout the school year, classroom conversations in morning meetings, advisory, and other classes have included discussions about diversity.
14. PC Lando explained that each parent/guardian has their own NYC student account to access their student's info. If you have not received a creation code yet, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/vwjQWTnphnkC1Eed7> . She noted that you must have an NYC student account in order to vote in the upcoming District 30 Community Education Council elections.
15. In response to a question, PC Lando noted the staff shifts in kindergarten.

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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. In the Lower Division, the PTA funded a virtual arts residency through Arts Connection for grades K-4, began Jan 18. The PTA continues to work with the administration as per the possibility of scheduling other enrichment programs for both the Upper and Lower Division.
2. The 42 PTA-purchased Chromebooks were delivered earlier this month. We have ordered additional Chromebooks as well. The PTA continues to work with the Administration to fund other tech needs and teacher professional training in Responsive Classroom in the Spring.

3. In lieu of the International Winter Potluck, the PTA will be holding “in-house” family-friendly cooking classes tied to our cultures and heritage, throughout the spring. If you would like to offer your cooking talents to more Q300 virtual cooking classes for our community (and we know some of you are chefs), please contact Membership at [membership@q300pta.org](mailto:membership@q300pta.org).
  4. If you have an idea for a PTA event or would like help in organizing an event, please contact the PTA through its project proposal form on the website. The PTA is considering organizing game nights, Spring fitness, drive-in movies, and a virtual auction.
  5. The Q300 Chess team is organizing a team to play in the 2021 virtual NY City Championships, which will be held on Jan. 30-31. The cost is \$60 to register. For more info: [www.gnyscc.com](http://www.gnyscc.com).
  6. Although there is no specific news or guidance from the DOE as to what will take place for the 2021-22 Q300 admissions policy, we encourage parents with questions to contact the Superintendent’s or Chancellor’s office.
  7. 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.
  8. Big thanks to Co-Vice President of Membership, Erica Soto Eng for organizing the Virtual Family Game Night, which will occur on January 23 at 5:30 pm and to Co-Vice President of Communications Abby Swenstein for organizing two fundraisers for [Lifeline Groceries](#), an organization that provides fresh, healthy groceries to food-insecure families throughout Queens. Thanks to parent Tomonori Nagano for making the flyers for the events. Thanks to David and Sue for all of their work on the Direct Appeal! Thank you to all parents who helped to contribute in 2020. More information in the Treasury report.
  9. Thanks to Marlon Aranda for spearheading the “One School” Committee, which is advocating for the housing of Q300 in one building.
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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 December 2020. During this period, the PTA raised over \$57,160 including \$56,953 from the Direct Appeal and \$210 from other fundraising. The PTA expenditures were about \$1,040, which largely consisted of Paypal credit card fees associated with Direct Appeal donations.

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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. Presentations were made about NY Edge’s in-person and remote afterschool programs and the college savings program NYCKidsRISE.
2. Principal Ramkishun discussed her plans to move to 5-days a week of in-person for current kindergarten blended learning students.
3. The SLT discussed the proposed changes to the gifted and talented admissions policy, including open questions.
4. During small group discussions, the SLT reflected on the Q300’s Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP)’s goals across the Math, Literacy, Science and Wellness workstreams, tracked any progress made, and proposed next steps.
5. The SLT reflected on a training video from the Chancellor on the SLT’s roles and responsibilities, and how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted how the SLT fulfills those roles and responsibilities.

6. Principal Ramkishun discussed District 30 initiatives regarding training for teachers on diversity issues, implicit bias and lesson planning.
7. The SLT minutes are posted on the school and PTA websites. Everyone is allowed to dial in to the SLT meetings to observe. The SLT is looking at revising the dates for its future meetings due to scheduling conflicts. The SLT will update its schedule on the school and PTA websites.

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## H. Committee Reports

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1. VP of Fundraiser Paula Marisi noted that the PTA is considering creating Q300 spiritwear clothing. It is exploring a process on how to create spiritwear designs. She also noted that the PTA website has fundraising links for Amazon and other shopping sites, where the sites donate a percent of sales to the PTA. DA Co-Chairs David Wang and Sue Sekar announced that the Direct Appeal has raised about \$105,000 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.
2. Co-VPs of Communications Susan Stewart and Dana Holmes noted that the February bulletin will be out.
3. Co-VPs of Membership Erica Soto Eng and Abigail Swenstein invited Q300 members to attend an evening of fun and family-friendly competition with interactive game show-style challenges, scavenger hunts, charades, trivia, and more. Hosted by a live DJ, the event is open to all grades in our school. The event is on January 23.
4. Co-VP of Lower Division Barbara Monroe and Yvette Choy noted grade level virtual activities. If anyone has any activity suggestions, please contact them.
5. Co-VPs of Upper Division Sunilda Carabello and Margarita Soto noted that they are considering coordinating an upper division scavenger hunt.
6. Co-VP of Community Affairs Marisa Nagano and Soumaly King noted that P.S. 17, P.S. 234, and Q300 are organizing a food drive. 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. The School Construction Authority noted that about for 2020-2024, the SCA plans to spend \$19 billion in capital projects, including \$50 million for School District 30. Please consider running for a position on the District 30 Community Education Council (CEC), which is charged with are charged with promoting student achievement, advising and commenting on educational policies, and providing input to the chancellor and the Panel for Educational Policy. Parent/guardians who have children attending a public school in District 30 are eligible to vote for the positions on the District 30 CEC.

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## I. New Business

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1. No new business.
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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 February 25, 2021 at 5:30 pm EST on a virtual platform.

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