



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • February 25, 2021

A. In Attendance

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 44. Quorum was reached.

B. Call to Order

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).

C. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the General Meeting held on January 21, 2021 were presented. A motion was made to approve such minutes. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the minutes.

D. Principal’s Report

Due to a last minute scheduling conflict, Principal Sonita Ramkishun was unable to attend the PTA meeting. Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando noted that any questions submitted will be forwarded to the Principal.

E. Co-Presidents’ Reports

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

1. In the Lower Division, the PTA funded virtual arts residency with Arts Connection for grades K-4, which began Jan 18 and will run until Mid-March. Further work with Arts connection is under discussion. The PTA continues to work with the Administration about the possibility of scheduling other enrichments for both the Upper and Lower Divisions.
2. The PTA will fund 69 more Chromebooks, which was requested by the Administration and will fund professional development for teacher training in Responsive Classroom this spring.
3. The PTA and Public School 17’s PTA are co-organizing a virtual Zumbathon to benefit Astoria Mutual Aid and Food Pantry on March 19 at 5:30 pm
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 its website. The PTA is considering virtual parent-led cooking or craft classes, game nights, an earth day event, a spring fitness events, drive-in movie event, and a virtual auction.
5. At the NY city chess championship, Q300 students won a number of individual and team prizes. For a listing of Q300 chess accomplishments - <https://www.q300chess.com/highlights>.

6. On February 5-6, the Q300 math team participated in the 2021 Queens Math Counts Chapter Competition. Out of the 11 students, 4 of them qualified for the invitational competition.
 7. Congrats to the Q300 debate team, which received team, speaker, novice and varsity awards. All 30 team members have qualified for the New York State championships.
 8. Thanks to the 48 parents who participated in a PTA led community conversation on February 10. Community members shared their voices regarding current enrollment changes to the lower division for next year. The meeting's aim was to seek common ground and share ideas about how to move forward. Anonymous feedback has been shared with the Administration. The PTA continues to encourage parents with more specific questions to contact the Superintendent's or Chancellor's office or attend monthly Community Education Council meetings. Q300 parents have met with parents from other citywide gifted and talented schools to discuss the enrollment changes.
 9. Thanks to co located school partner PS 17 in helping to plan the upcoming Zumbathon.
 10. Thanks to Co-Vice President of Membership Abby Swenstein for organizing the virtual family cooking class and fundraiser. The fundraiser raised about \$300 for the PTA and for Lifeline Groceries.
 11. Thanks to Co-Vice President of Membership Erica Soto Eng for organizing the virtual game night. The event raised over \$600.
 12. Thanks to parent Tomonori Nagano for designing and producing PTA flyers.
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F. Co-Treasurers' Reports

Co-Treasurers Yi-Wen Wang and Yan Zho delivered the Co-Treasurers' Report. Attached is a summary of the PTA's finances through January 2021. During this period, the PTA raised over \$16,000, including \$15,000 from the Direct Appeal. The PTA expenditures were about \$595, including \$490 for virtual game night expenses.

G. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report

SLT parent member Fiona Yung gave an overview of the February 24, 2021 SLT meeting. The following are highlights:

1. Daniel Hildreth, Senior Director of Kindergarten and Gifted & Talented (G&T) admissions at the DOE discussed the new admissions process for rising kindergarteners and first through third graders. The application process will occur from March 8, 2021 to April 9, 2021. Offers will be issued in June 2021. For current students in "pre-k for all" programs, educators from the program will determine if the student is eligible to enter a randomized lottery for a G&T seat, and they will complete a nomination form. For children not enrolled in "pre-k for all" program, a DOE early childhood team will determine their eligibility based on a short remote interview. If the child is eligible, they will enter a randomized lottery for a G&T seat. The DOE has not determined the difference between students who are eligible to attend a district G&T programs and those eligible for citywide G&T programs.
 2. Principal Ramkishun discussed recent changes in in-person learning. Blended learning fifth graders will return to the upper division campus. Blended learning sixth through eighth graders will resume in-person learning in the upper division. Blended learning kindergartners will begin 5-days a week in-person learning
 3. The SLT reviewed mid-year analysis of progress toward Q300's Comprehensive Education Plan goals and it broke into breakout groups to discuss the data and what that data means.
 4. The SLT discussed how the diversity committee can support outreach and communications for this year's G&T application process.
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H. Committee Reports

1. Auction chairperson Joanna Holtzman provided an update on the "Stepping into Summer" virtual auction party. The event, which will likely be held in May, will be similar to the recent virtual game night and have

a low entry fee. The auction, which will be virtual, will likely have bid items involving parent or teacher-led experiences or workshops. For physical items, the PTA will set up a system where the donors would provide the items to the bidding winners.

2. Co-President Maria Hantzopoulos 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. The PTA is partnering with Tea Collection, where purchasers get a 15% discount on any purchase PLUS 15% gets donated to the PTA when the promo code SDS21Q300PTA is used.
3. Co-VPs of Communications Susan Stewart and Dana Holmes asked for written submissions for the upcoming PTA newsletter. Thanks to parents Amy Ho, Fiona Yung, and Alvin Yoo and newsletter contributors for their work on the PTA newsletter.
4. Co-VPs of Membership Erica Soto Eng and Abigail Swenstein thanked all the participants for the first-ever virtual game night held on January 23. The PTA will hold a virtual Lunar New Year arts and crafts event, led by a kindergarten parent, on February 27 at 5:30 pm. The PTA is looking to hold another virtual game night in the Spring, a virtual mango lassi making event, and a virtual salsa dancing event, among other events.
5. Co-VP of Lower Division Yvette Choy noted that in honor of Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17th, the PTA has invited all students and their families to participate in the Kindness Challenge. Fill out as many boxes on your Kindness Bingo Board and then post about what you did on the Padlet (<https://padlet.com/monroe66/zcoaacp444sez58a>). Shibley Day Camp will be hosting a free, fun scavenger hunt for lower division students on March 7 at 4 pm.
6. Co-VPs of Upper Division Sunilda Carabello and Margarita Soto are coordinating an upper division scavenger hunt for the Spring. Thanks to fifth grade parents Saswat Pattanayak and Agnes Luo for organizing memory gift bags for the fifth graders that included a yearbook in which each student designed a page and a “Class of 2020” t-shirt (to celebrate the students stepping up to fifth grade last year).
7. Co-VP of Community Affairs Marisa Nagano and Soumaly King noted that P.S. 17, P.S. 234, and Q300 food drive was a success. Many Q300 parents attended the Queens Borough President’s (QBP) discussion on the G&T application process. 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 Committee is meeting on March 2 at 7:00 pm. Soumaly attended the QBP’s workshop on Resolution A capital funding in which schools can requesting a minimum of \$50,000 funding for capital projects, including science lab, auditorium, and restroom renovations. Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando asked parents to 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. Each Q300 family (not parent) has a vote for the CEC elections, based on the number of Q300 students and other District 30 students (e.g., if a family has one Q300 child and no other District 30 students, that family has one vote.)

I. New Business

1. A motion was made to approve the following resolution: “A Spring virtual family fun run/roll/walk that will promote wellness and fitness while raising funds for the PTA. The proposed fees could be \$25 per adult; \$15 per child. Each participant may receive a t-shirt designed by the community. The PTA will allocate \$600 for expenses including the purchase of t-shirts. It is expected that the expenses would be recouped via the proposed fees.” During the discussion, it was noted that the PTA’s financial aid policy would apply to this event. The policy provides financial assistance to Q300 students, when needed, in order for them to participate in the event. 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: “Q&A and performance with a Broadway theater actor. The proposed fee could be \$15-\$20 per family. The PTA will allocate up to \$600 for an honorarium to the artist. It is expected that the expenses would be recouped via the proposed fee.” During the discussion, it was noted that the PTA’s financial aid policy would apply to this event. After discussion, the motion was seconded. A majority of Members then present voted to approve the resolution.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm EST. The next general membership meeting will be held on March 18, 2021 at 5:30 pm EST on a virtual platform.

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