



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • April 29, 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 37. 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 (DOE).

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### C. Principal’s Report

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

1. Q300 students enjoyed celebrating Earth Week with their classes this week. Thanks to the Q300 Green Team, including teachers Kiera Sullivan, Alejandra Roma, and Kan Chou and parents Lynn Kennedy and Rachana Shah for organizing the celebrations.
2. Approximately 55 remote learning students returned to in-person learning.
3. From May 3-14, Q300 will administer the in-person math state test for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades. All students who have opted-in to take the test have received an email with the date and room number they are scheduled for.
4. Q300 is grateful to the PTA for funding an additional art enrichment cycle for K - 4 students. Grades K-2 will focus on Puppetry and grades 3-4 will focus on Cartooning.
5. 5th graders will receive theater classes through The Cultural After School Adventures (*CASA*).
6. Q300 virtual afterschool enrichment programs begin next week with 6 Q300 teachers.
7. The DOE will have Summer Rising programs open to all students. K-5th graders will attend the program at P.S. 234. 6th – 8th graders will attend the program at I.S. 126. Principal Ramkishun has asked whether or not Q300 students can attend programs at locations closer to their homes. For more info: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/summer>
8. For Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and Jewish Heritage Month, the Q300 community will engage in conversations, reading books, and discussing current event topics to learn more about these cultures and heritages. Next week, social worker Rachel Weiss will be sharing the May social emotional learning newsletter, which will spotlight some of the topics Q300 will be focusing on in class.
9. Q300 parents/guardians have the opportunity to vote in the upcoming Community Education Council (CEC) elections for District 30. CEC offers parents the opportunity to support and impact education at the district

level. Please vote through your mystudent.nyc account. 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). Voting will occur from May 1 to May 11. If you need assistance, please reach out to the Parent Coordinator at [JennyLando@Q300.org](mailto:JennyLando@Q300.org).

10. Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando thanked the parents who organized bags for families who are unsheltered.

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#### D. Co-Presidents' Report

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

1. The PTA placed an order of 42 Chromebooks for the school.
2. The PTA will conduct its annual enrichment survey in the fall, after the DOE and Q300 have determined their plans for the fall. Teaching assistants (TAs) will not be in place at the beginning of the school year, but that decision could be revisited, based on the school's needs as well as COVID-19 health and safety requirements.
3. PTA May events include (a) May 15 Virtual Game Night; (b) Online Auction (May 7 - May 23); (c) Spirit Wear Design Contest for a "Q300 Strong" spirit wear t-shirt and bookmark; (d) Teacher Appreciation, in which parents will provide boxed lunches for teachers and staff; and 5K Fun Run (May 15- June 2).
4. Thanks to parent Suni Reyes and her son for an amazing Salsa dancing event; parent Anar Chanda and her children for a delicious mango lassi making event; and parent Rachana Shah for giving a climate talk earlier this week as part of the green team

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#### E. Co-Treasurers' Report

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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 March 2021. During this period, the PTA raised over \$4,638.96. The PTA expenditures were about \$175.86 for teacher wish lists and Pay Pal fees for online donations. .

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#### F. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report

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SLT parent member Sara Clough gave an overview of the April 22, 2021 SLT meeting. The following are highlights:

1. The SLT continued its work in developing goals for Q300's 2021-2020 Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP). The SLT reviewed the strengths, needs and priorities areas that it had identified by reviewing DOE survey and data. In breakout rooms, the SLT developed CEP goals and action steps for the coming school year, to continue building on the following priority areas: (a) English Language Arts (ELA): Understanding detail and making connections, and understanding writing and language structure; (b) Math: Algebraic skills, critical thinking, explaining solutions to math problems and real world connections; (c) Science: Assessing needs and building SMART goals for the 2021-2022 school year and coming up with action steps; and (d) Social Emotional Learning: Foster peer to peer connections to assist with social emotional and academic growth.
2. The SLT reflected on the past school year to provide feedback to the Chancellor.

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#### G. Committee Report

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1. Vice President (VP) of Fundraising Paula Marisi announced an **Online Book Fair with the Children's Bookstore from May 1 to May 15**. 25% of every book purchase will go directly to the PTA to help pay for enrichment program. The online link is on the PTA website.

2. Co-Secretary Dan Bach announced the PTA's first 5K Fun Run from May 15- to June 2. Feel free to join up with other Q300 families in your local neighborhoods and parks to run, (or walk, stroll or roll), while practicing physical distancing. All participants will get a specially designed Q300 t-shirt. We would like to thank the following sponsors who have graciously donated to the PTA: Code Ninja Astoria ([astoriany@codeninjas.com](mailto:astoriany@codeninjas.com)), Kweller Prep ([kwellerprep.com](http://kwellerprep.com), Arthouse Astoria ([arthouseastoria.org](http://arthouseastoria.org)); and Jackson Heights Orthodontics ([www.jacksonheightsorthodontics.com](http://www.jacksonheightsorthodontics.com)). .
3. Co-VPs of Communications Susan Stewart suggested that parents who have not been receiving the PTA monthly bulletin to check their promotion or spam folder.
4. Co-VP of Membership Erica Soto noted that the upcoming virtual game night will occur at 5:30 pm ET on May 15. Suggested donation is \$15 per family. She also asked families to record appreciations for teacher and staff on the Padlet online platform (the links for each teacher and staff have been sent to Q300 families).
5. Co-VP of Lower Division Yvette Choy stated that the panel judging the design submissions for the "Q300 Strong" t-shirts and bookmark will shortly be announcing the winning design. The PTA will provide each Q300 student with a t-shirt; Q300 will provide the bookmark. The gifts are a way to help amplify community spirit, given this unprecedented, difficult year, where the Q300 community has not been able to meet in-person. Families will have the opportunity to buy additional t-shirts.

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## H. New Business

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1. A motion was made to approve the following resolution:
  - a. **Resolution 1.** A resolution to establish a Bylaws Committee that will conduct a thorough review of the PTA bylaws, including ensuring that the Bylaws conform with NYC Chancellor's Regulations and other applicable federal, state, and local law and regulations. The Committee will recruit committee members from the Membership. It will offer amendments, if any, to the Bylaws for presentation and consideration by the Membership. After discussion, the motion was seconded. A majority of Members then present voted to approve the resolution.
  - b. **Resolution 2.** A resolution to establish a Nomination/Election Committee, which will include parent Kevin Gallagher. The Committee's responsibilities include the following: (a) identifying candidates for the PTA board and for the 2 parent positions on the School Leadership Team (SLT); (b) preparing materials related to the election (including candidate bios), (c) working with Q300 concerning the voter eligibility process, and (d) administering the elections virtually on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 5:30 pm ET. The Committee will recruit between 2 and 4 eligible committee members. After discussion, the motion was seconded. A majority of Members then present voted to approve the resolution.
2. Co-Presidents Maria Hantzopoulos and Lynn Kennedy urged parents/guardians to run for the PTA Board and the two (2) parent positions on the SLT.

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## I. Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 pm ET. The next general membership meeting will be held on May 20, 2021 at 5:30 pm ET on a virtual platform.

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