



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • January 27, 2017

A. In Attendance

It was noted that (a) parents and other “persons in a parental relation” as defined by the regulations of the New York City Chancellor and designated persons having a relationship to a child or children currently attending Q300 (the “**Parents**”) and (b) eligible Q300 teachers and instructional staff members who are currently employed on a full-time basis (the “**Staff**”) at Q300 were present. The total number of Parents and Staff (together, the **Members**”) present was 51.

B. Call to Order

Co-PTA President Maria Hantzopoulos and Andrea Tappert called the meeting of the General Membership of the Q300 Parent-Teacher Association (the “**PTA**”) to order at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria in the lower division campus at 28-37 29th Street, Astoria, NY 11102.

C. Minutes

The Minutes of the General Membership Meeting held on October 28, 2016 and November 17, 2016 were presented. A motion was made to approve such minutes. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.

D. President’s Report

Maria gave the President’s report. The following are highlights:

1. Several of the PTA-funded enrichment programs have finished their first cycle. These include the following:
 - a. kindergarten and first grade visual arts with Art House Astoria (Art House);
 - b. 2nd grade architecture class with the Center for Architecture; and
 - c. 3rd grade dance and 8th grade musical theater dance with the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater (Alvin Ailey).

The PTA is grateful to the school for organizing the December arts showcase, where our students shared their talents.

2. The following programs will occur this semester:
 - a. Kindergarten through 3rd grade music programs taught by the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music (BCM);
 - b. 6th Grade Chorus taught by BCM;

- c. 2nd, 3rd, and 7th grade visual arts programs taught by Art House;
- d. 8th grade West African dance provided by Alvin Ailey.

3. Appreciations.

- a. **Movie Night Success.** Over 250 people attended a showing of the movie, *The Secret Life of Pets*. The joint movie night, which was organized by PS 17 PTA and Q300 PTA raised over \$610, which will be split between both groups. Thanks to the following Q300 volunteers: Dan Bach, Meghan Cerrito, Maria Hantzopoulos, Lynn Kennedy, Sue Sekar, Amanda Spielman, and David Wang. Special thanks to Margarita Soto and Sarah Willett-Chang for lending their popcorn machines. The PTA grateful for the PS 17 volunteers who helped coordinate the event. The next joint movie night is scheduled for March 9, 2017 – and the film will be *Pete's Dragon*. Admission is free and popcorn, pizza, drinks and snacks can be purchased at the event.
- b. **Sock and Coat Drive.** Many thanks to Gina Reis and Sarah Willett-Chang for organizing the PTA Sock and Coat Drive! Over 40 coats and many bags of socks were collected.
- c. **Holiday Breakfast.** Many thanks to all of the parents that donated such tasty treats for our Holiday Breakfast for teachers. These include: Karen Babich, Adele Brice, Agapita Chaparro, Wennie Chen, Shirley Cheng, Nicole Collins, Orianna Cosentino, Keri Goldman, Ali Granshaw, Catherine Grillo, Maria Hantzopoulos, Kabrine Indrajaya, Anastasia Jancu, Lynn Kennedy, Jenny Lando, Shek Leung, Sonia Malhotra, Randi Marshall, Selma Mulic-Durmic, Cassandra Nelson-Torres, Saswat Pattanayak, Alma Esther Rodriguez, Jaya Sharma, Wei Tian, and Minyie Zen. Special thanks to Richa for organizing! The Q300 staff were truly grateful!
- d. **Voluntary Holiday Collection.** While not a PTA initiative, we want to thank the families who generously contributed to the 2016 Staff Holiday Fund for the teachers and staff. The Q300 community generously donated over \$8,700 to the Staff Holiday Fund. Amazon and Visa gift cards were provided to the staff, including teachers, and administrative, and custodial staff. Many thanks to Sue Sekar for organizing this.
- e. **SHSAT Test Prep.** Many thanks to Asako Gerra for organizing an after school fee-based Kaplan SHSAT Test prep program for middle school students. The program will start after break.
- f. **Middle School Lending Library.** Many appreciations to Will Bachman for initiating and helping to build the Middle School Lending library (including donating the bookshelves).
- g. **International Potluck.** Big shout out to Sarah Willett-Chang and Siobhan Watson for putting together today's event and the class parents who have organized the game tables. The PTA is organizing a silent raffle today. These include the following: 2 weeks at Kids Creative Summer Arts Camp; 1 week at Double Daring Camp for Girls; 1 week at Camp Half Blood Brooklyn; \$350 towards Central Queens Y Summer Camp (Explorer or Pioneer Day); 3 night Stay at a Farmhouse on 220 acres in Central PA in June or July 2017; Faber – Caster Travel Art Easel; Playmobil Space Rocket with Launch Site; Joy for All Companion Golden Pup Toy; 60 minute Personal Caregiver Session that includes Yoga, Body Awareness and Reiki; \$25 Gift Card to Bare Burger; 2 tickets to any one spring concert at Kaufman Music Center of Merkin Hall; and personalized tour of the American Museum of Natural History

4. The following are highlights from the District 30 President Council Meeting:
 - a. Parents can run for positions on the Community Educational Council. Q300 Parent Coordinator Dora Firotodimitrakis has circulated information concerning the elections.
 - b. District 30 currently has seventeen dual language programs. District 30 President Council passed a resolution calling on New York State Governor Cuomo and NY State legislators to support a full two year phase-in of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity monies distributed through a formula that helps New York State provide a sound basic education for all New York City children.
5. The PTA is organizing the following events:
 - a. January 18, 2017: Pizzeria Uno fundraiser
 - b. March 3, 2017: joint Q300/PS 17 movie night;
 - c. March 24, 2017: joint Q300/PS 17 zumbathon fundraiser;
 - d. May 7, 2017: Stepping into Summer Dance Party and Auction
6. The PTA has initiated an online form to solicit potential ideas for PTA projects.
7. The Enrichment Committee has been working on identifying enrichment gaps at the school, drafting surveys to solicit enrichment ideas from parents and students, researching potential enrichment programs for the school, and working with the Administration to identify programs that match the school's approach. The committee is also researching potential after school options.

D. Treasurer's Report

Executive Vice President Sue Sekar circulated the attached Treasurer's Report, which summarizes the PTA's finances as of December 31, 2016. The PTA raised approximately nearly \$44,247.88 during December 2016. Its expenditures for that month was \$2,590.00 and it had an adjusted cash balance of \$133,850.84 as of December 31, 2016.

E. School Leadership Team ("SLT") Report

Maria gave the following highlights from the SLT meeting, held on January 9, 2017:

1. Mayor De Blasio and Chancellor Farina announced a new \$10-million-dollar initiative in which approximately 3,500 kindergarteners in School District 30 will each have \$100 allocated to them in scholarship accounts in fall 2017, plus up to an additional \$200 in matching funds during the program's first three years. There will be no cost to participate in the program, and every kindergarten student enrolled in public schools in that district will be automatically enrolled in the program starting in the fall.
2. Principal Bill Biniaris is holding monthly meetings with parents. Monthly meetings with Bill in the ES would start at the end of January. Parent Coordinator Dora will send an email out to families.

F. Fundraising Committee

Co-Vice President of Fundraising Blain Kennedy announced that the Direct Appeal has raised thus far raised about \$93,500. He noted the following upcoming fundraisers: (a) a Q300 recipe book, which will be sold, is

being compiled; and (b) a gift card fundraising program with the Great Lakes Scrip Center. At certain times during the year, Q300 family and staff members would order and pay for gift cards for certain retailers at face value through the PTA. The PTA would submit such orders and payment to the Great Lakes Scrip Center. The Great Lakes Scrip Center would issue the gift cards and give the PTA a rebate based on a percent of the face value of the purchased gift cards.

G. Resolutions

1. **Kindergarten Mindfulness Residency.** A motion was made to allocate \$460 for a mindfulness residency in kindergarten taught by Colin Lieu of Multitasking Yogi Balance. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
 2. **Middle School Spanish.** This year, science teacher Olena Kebalo has been teaching Spanish language to the 7th and 8th grade. The 6th grade, however, does not have Spanish language instruction. A motion was made to allocate \$6,500 for a Spanish residency for the 6th grade. The program would start after the February break. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
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H. Principal's Report

Principal Bill gave the Principal's Report. The following are highlights:

1. On January 23, 2017, Bill had a morning meeting with fifteen lower division parents and another with about fifteen upper division parents. He is interested in hearing different viewpoints about school-wide issues.
 2. Bill mentioned the new \$10-million-dollar initiative in which approximately 3,500 kindergarteners in School District 30 will each have \$100 allocated to them in scholarship accounts in fall 2017, plus up to an additional \$200 in matching funds during the program's first three years.
 3. Q300 was awarded \$90,000 in Resolution A capital funds from Queens Borough President Melina Katz and Council Member Costa Constantinides. The awards will be used for technology, including Smart Boards. Bill expressed appreciation to Co-VPs of Community Affairs Margarita Soto and Lynn Kennedy for their efforts in coordinating the school's efforts in applying for the funding.
 4. The sixth grade will be visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
 5. Q300 will be participating in the Astoria School Symposium on February 4, 2017. The symposium is an opportunity for schools and parents to share information about educational choices for Astoria children.
 6. Second grade teacher Sarah Duer will be presenting the second grade architecture class at a Chancellor event about teaching highly able students.
 7. Middle school teacher Polly P. will teaching English language arts. Middle school teacher Kathleen Boyle will be taking parental leave. Third grade teacher Eileen Wolejsza will be leaving the school. Bill has been interviewing potential replacements.
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L. New Business

There was no new business.

M. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The February General Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the **Upper Division campus.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

/S/

David William Wang, Secretary