



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • February 14, 2018

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 present was 19.

B. Call to Order

Co-PTA President Maria Hantzopoulos called the meeting of the General Membership of the Q300 Parent-Teacher Association (the “**PTA**”) to order at 8:15AM in the auditorium at the upper division campus at 28-37 29th Street, Astoria, NY 11102.

C. President’s Report

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

1. Parents were polled and it seems that morning PTA meetings would be better for some people so we are giving it a try. There is the possibility of future morning meetings.
2. The “Winter Camp Auction” is live and available to the Q300 community and families and friends outside of the school. Please help spread the word about the amazing prizes by sharing on social media and with your networks.
3. The annual Zumbathon is coming up on March 9 at 5:30PM at the ES Campus! It’s a fun, community-building event between Q300 and PS17. Last year, we raised \$4K at the event. You can also participate by pledging to sponsor a Zumbathon participant.
4. The NY International Children’s Film Festival takes place thru March 18th. The PTA gets \$3 for every ticket purchased. Last year, we raised almost \$600!
5. Tea School Days Fundraiser running 2/26 – 3/5. The PTA gets 15% of proceeds and everyone gets 15% off. The link will be sent out soon.
6. The PTA Spring Auction is on May 6 at the Bohemian Beer Garden. More info to come!
7. We have another Film-raiser for the film Early Man. If you buy tickets during February and March, \$1 will go back to the PTA.

8. The 4th and 8th graders will have Bake Sales during the Parent-Teacher Conferences on March 15. Money raised will go toward funding end of year activities.
9. Family Fun Night with Alvin Ailey is coming up! It will be a free event but the PTA will be accepting donations. The PTA is funding this fun activity where the kids will learn moves with Alvin Ailey instructors. There will be a PTA meeting before the event. The evening will take place at the Elementary School.
10. The Winter International Potluck was a huge success. Bill, Anna, teachers, parents and students were there. We had performances. We want to thank Sarah, Siobhan, Ellie and all of the parents that organized tables. At this point, we raised over \$1K and the auction is open!
11. Thank you to Kevin for organizing the Bierocracy night. There was a nice sized crowd of parents who came to socialize. We will share proceeds from the event when we receive the totals. We encourage parents to organize something like Bierocracy - a fundraiser gathering in their local community.
12. Thank you Lynn and Margarita for organizing the Hackathon. We had 82 kids participate! Two of the teams went on to the Borough competition and got 3rd place.
13. Thank you to Keri Goldman for organizing the Square One Arts fundraiser.
14. Thank you to Gina Reis for organizing the Box Tops fundraiser.
15. Thank you to all of the parents who organized the Chess Tournament fundraiser. The Q300 team got another trophy!
16. The PTA-funded middle school electives have started: musical theater, animation program, and choir. We have heard great feedback on these programs.
17. We continue to fund the Teacher Wish Lists.
18. We are ordering 5 more printers for school and trying to get 3 more air conditioners.
19. The 7th Grade overnight trip will possibly be a day trip this year. The PTA will fund a portion of the trip. Stay tuned for details.

D. Treasurer's Report

The attached Treasurer's Report was circulated, which summarizes the PTA's finances as of January 31, 2018.

In January, we raised \$14,000 in direct appeal - bringing us to almost \$172,000 for the year to date. We also received almost \$2,000 in our kickback from the Stomping Ground photos, \$700 from the Winterfest potluck (raffle and donations) and \$750 for a corporate match for the Gallery Event fundraiser last year.

In December, in relation to enrichments, we paid out \$5,000 for the 8th Grade Video Production election and \$300 for the MS Math Competition fees. We also paid \$850 for the PTA D&O insurance.

Net income for the month of January was \$12k, for the year to date \$53k and we have over \$237k in cash.

E. SLT Update

The School Leadership Report was delivered by Mara Cusker Gonzalez.

The SLT met last Monday. They have been focusing on the Comprehensive Education Plan (CET) Report. They have been working to take stock of where things stand and starting to set goals for 2018-19. They are looking at instruction, teaching, effective leadership, and strong school/family ties.

F. Principal's Report

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

1. Assistant Principal Anna Milonakis has been formally appointed Assistant School Principal. Congratulations to Anna!
 2. As part of SLT work, we are constantly monitoring communications with parents. Bill has been trying to send out weekly emails with accomplishments and achievements and has started using PupilPath as well. Quick shout out to Eileen, the new parent coordinator. Eileen has been adding emails of parents to the list for better communication. Through PupilPath, the school will start sending SMS messages with important reminders.
 3. In March, you will see an improved Q300 website with better information.
 4. PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports): Erica at ES and Christine at MS have been doing great work. We have a mental health consultant (Alexandra), who helped create a plan for Q300 this year. We have begun implementing this plan. Alexandra has been working closely with Christine. In this context, we have a partnership with Western Queens Mental Health, an organization that helps us shape plans for addressing mental health issues at school. There is a matrix that the school works with: Accountability, Safety, Participation, Inquiry, Responsibility, Empathy (ASPIRE). It is being rolled out in the ES. It is important as 4th graders transition into the MS.
 5. We have also introduced life skills workshops, not only mental health-related.
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G. Resolutions

1. **Approval of December 2017 and January 2018 PTA meeting minutes.** A motion was made and seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.
2. **Increase budget to for additional Pay Pal/Credit Card fees.** A motion was made to increase the budget by \$1,000 for Pay Pal/Credit Card fees due to more people paying by Credit Card than previous years. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.

H. New Business

1. Lynn Kennedy reported on the One School Building Initiative. This is a long-term plan, about 5 years down the road. There currently is not have a timeline because there is nothing concrete. We are checking on viability of various possibilities through the DOE and the School construction authority. We are hopeful with the new chancellor to get more attention.
2. The participatory budget in our district (22) will take place soon. The district asks representatives how they want to spend money. We are looking at proposing 2 projects: one is for a refurbished gate around IS126 (cost: \$250,000), and the other is a co-located library for PS17 and Q300. We came every close to getting funding for this last year. We need people to come out and vote on it again. It's helpful to still be positive about our co-located school even though we are looking at a new space. If you live in this district, please go out and vote, and please tell everyone you know to vote.
3. There was a question (on Facebook) about 2nd grade technology curriculum and whether Ali will return to the ES. Bill said that the plan is for Ali to return and for the technology curriculum to continue.
4. There was a question about the 40-minute gap between ES and MS morning start times. Bill said he would try to resolve this with the co-shared school principals, but that he did not foresee anything changing for the time being.
5. There was a discussion about the 7th grade trip, which may not take place as an overnight this year because staff is not available to join. Taconic is unfortunately already booked. The PTA has approved \$500 toward a 7th Grade trip. Bill's goal is to make the trip happen, but he cannot guarantee that it will.
6. There was a question about Pass/Fail grades given to Ms. Reyes' students this year. Bill hopes that they will go back to regular grades eventually to ensure that art/music are just as important as other subjects.
7. There was a question about whether kids are getting enough time to eat lunch at the ES. Bill said he would keep an eye on things, and make sure that classes move through lunch with enough time to eat.
8. There was a discussion about the Girls' bathroom in the MS. It continues to be a struggle, though the custodians now check in regularly, as do Anna and Eileen. Maria brought up the possibility of the PTA paying for individual trash-cans in the stalls. The school will get back to the PTA on what is needed.
9. Maria Hantzopoulos raised parental questions posed to her about technology (half the hours) and hopes there will be time to discuss at next PTA meeting.
10. Maria Hantzopoulos reported that the PTA is putting together a new welcome packet and that a newsletter is coming out soon.
11. Blain Kennedy reported that the winter Summer Camp auction site is up and parents should take a look and spread the word.
12. Eighth grade graduation will take place on June 20th. Kindergarten Stepping up will be on June 18th and the Fourth grade ceremony will be on June 19th at the PS 17 campus. The eighth grade graduation will be at LIC High School from 12-3 pm. The location was chosen

because of the air-conditioning. The K and Fourth grade ceremonies will be at the Elementary School.

13. Winter International Potluck Raffle drawing: Heidi Springer is the winner!

I. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The March General Meeting date and time are TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30AM.

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Prepared by: Hillit Zwick, PTA Member

David William Wang & Gina Reis, Co-Secretaries