



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • April 11, 2019

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. Quorum was reached.

B. Call to Order

President Paula Marisi called the General Membership of the Q300 PTA Association to order at 6:35 pm in the auditorium at the lower division campus.

C. Approval of the Minutes.

The minutes of the General Meetings held on January 1, 2019, February 28, 2019, and March 31, 2019 were presented. A motion was made to approve such minutes. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the minutes.

D. Co-Presidents’ Report

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

1. In an April 10, 2019 email to the Q300 community, Co-President Julissa McHugh announced her resignation as Co-President, as her family has decided to transfer her child to a new school. Paula thanked Julissa for her service to the PTA.
 2. Thanks to teacher Toni Anne Campuzano, parents Lynn Kennedy and Gina Reis and others who organized the event Q300’s first ever upper division basketball tournament.
 3. The joint Q300/PS 17 PTA Zumba-thon fundraiser, which was held on April 5, 2019, raised over \$2,400. The amounts will be split between the two PTAs. Special thanks to organizers parents Maria Hantzopoulos and Lynn Kennedy, all others who participated in the event.
 4. Today is the last day for parents and teachers to fill out the NYC School Survey, which canvasses families about the school’s learning environment. The survey helps schools create plans for the future.
 5. The PTA has sent out an enrichment and budget survey to the Q300 community. The survey will help identify PTA funding priorities for the upcoming year.
 6. Parents are encouraged to table at Parents Alliance for Citywide Education (PACE)’s upcoming forum on citywide gifted and talented programs on May 6, 2019 in the Lower East Side.
 7. Please purchase your tickets to the Stepping into Summer Dance party and auction, which will be held on May 5, 2019.
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E. School Leadership Team (“SLT”) Report

The SLT has not yet met this month.

F. Co-Treasurers' Report

Treasurer Karen Van Wart delivered the Co-Treasurer's Report. Attached is a copy of summary of the PTA's finances for March 2019. In March 2019, the PTA raised over \$28,800, which included \$20,195 from the Direct Appeal. Outflows were \$67,108, which included teaching assistant payments.

G. Committee Reports

1. **Membership.** Co-Vice President of Membership Maria Hantzopoulos noted that Q300's Open House for incoming lower division students has been rescheduled due to the late issuance of the results of the gifted and talented score results. The PTA is organizing a teacher appreciation day in early May.
 2. **Fundraising.** Fundraising chair Claire Lui noted that the PTA will hold its annual summer read-a-thon. Auction Co-chair Joanna Holzman reported that tickets are available for the Stepping into Summer Dance and Silent Auction Party, scheduled to be held on May 6, 2019 from 3 to 6 pm. Classes have donated theme-specific baskets (Harry Potter, Legos, etc.) that will be auctioned at the Party. The featured sponsor of the Party will be the restaurant chain Bareburger. Direct Appeal chair David Wang reported that \$229,000 has been raised for the Direct Appeal. Participation rate is at 45 percent, which is similar to the rate the same time last year.
 3. **Communications.** The committee is seeking a graphic designer to help with layout for the PTA newsletter.
 4. **Community Affairs.** Co-Vice President of Community Affairs Lynn Kennedy explained that through the participatory budget process, the local council member asks residents how to spend certain discretionary funds that they can use for their districts. One proposal is the funding of new fountain water stations that will enable students to refill their water bottle at Q300 and other School District 30 schools. The Council member will announce the results shortly. A number of 8th graders have made it to the citywide Hackathon challenge. Volunteers are needed for lower division parks clean up Athens Square Park on May 31, 2019. The clean-up will include adding mulch in tree beds surrounding 30th Avenue, painting park benches and building tree guards.
 5. **Enrichment.** Maria Hantzopoulos reported that the PTA has sent out an enrichment and budget survey to the lower division community and will shortly send out the same to the upper division community. The survey will help identify PTA funding priorities for the upcoming year. The committee has been vetting vendors and will propose that Art House Astoria will continue to work in the upper division and will propose a new vendor Arts Connection to work with the lower division students. Kindergarten through second grade will receive a year-long music program and two cycles of enrichment opportunities; third and fourth grades will select from elective options including visual arts, chess, and photography.
 6. **Lower and Upper Division Representatives.** Each grade is putting together gift baskets with themes, such as Legos, Harry Potter, etc. to auction during the Summer auction. Fourth grade is organizing a graduation field trip to Alley Pond Park.
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H. Principal's Report

Principal Biniaris and Assistant Principal Sonita Ramkishun gave the Principal's Report. The following are highlights:

1. On April 8, 2019, Dr. Sherman Austin, who has served as a co-investigator of several NASA grants and as a fellow at the Goddard Institute of Space Studies, gave a presentation to the upper division students about space exploration. The Principal thanked Anna Hauser, Lynn Kennedy, and Wennie Chen for organizing the event.
2. On April 12, 2019, Q300 will hold its second annual story slam in which upper division students will present personal stories. Thanks to Laura Parris for organizing the event.
3. The fifth graders went on a field trip to Flushing-Corona Park. Students learned about tree care and mulching.

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4. Q300 chess team came in second place in the K-3rd grade category in the 3rd annual girl's chess championship. Overall, 8 out of a total of 14 Q300 students won trophies.
5. Q300 debate team made it to the New York City championship. Teachers James Woo and Anna Hauser took upper division students to a math league competition.
6. In connection with the PTA-funded architecture class, the second graders took a walk around the neighborhood near the school to observe architecture. Third graders are writing and reading poetry in connection with Poetry month.
7. Lower division technology teacher will be taking parental leave; a substitute teacher will be taking her place.
8. Applications for the lower division talent show are due on April 18, 2019. The talent show dates are as follows: second grade show will be held on May 21, 2019; third grade show will be held on May 22, 2019; kindergarten and first grade show will be held on June 3, 2019 and the fourth grade show will be held on June 13, 2019.
9. Q300 will be holding a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) fair on May 24, 2019. This year's theme will be NASA.
10. Third through eight graders will take the state math assessment test on May 1 and May 2, 2019.
11. The lower division field day will be held on May 20, 2019 at Randall's Island.
12. The Department of Education (DOE) is renovating the upper division science lab, which will include a hydroponic lab.
13. Arts Connection will provide arts and music to the lower division; Art House will provide the same for the upper division. In the lower division, Q300 will have a new approach to enrichment. Kindergarten through second grade will have a PTA-funded music enrichment program and a second enrichment, which may include creative movement. Second and third grades will have a choice of enrichment electives. The elective terms will be longer – from 10 weeks to 16 weeks.
14. Principal Biniaris stated that his administration is analyzing the data about the number of students who have left the school and whether or not the administration is following up with the families of such students to determine the reason why the students left the school. He expressed a willingness to meet with the “founding families”.
15. Several upper division parents expressed concern that the eighth graders had organized a regular snack stand with candy and other unhealthy snacks during lunch period to raise funds for their graduation. The parent coordinator noted that the stand originally had healthy option but later unhealthy snacks were introduced. The administration has ended the snack stand.
16. Q300 will continue to follow DOE lice policy. He noted that if the school finds only nits (lice eggs) on a student, then only the parents of the affected student are informed. He noted that parents can inform one another about the discovery of the nits.
17. Q300 is working with Global Kids to establish a cooking and gardening component to the program.
18. Principal Bill agreed to obtain the service contract between the DOE and lower division after school program Serious Fun.
19. A second grade teacher and fifth grade teacher will be taking parental leave in the fall.
20. The administration is interviewing teachers for the fall in the event of staff changes.

I. Resolution

1. A resolution was presented to appoint current co-president Paula Marisi to fill the remaining unexpired President's 2018-2019 term on her own. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the resolution.

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2. A resolution was presented to allocate \$4,000 (four thousand dollars) to pay for a multi-day visit of the Biobus, a mobile science lab to Q300. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the resolution.
3. A resolution was presented to appoint a nomination committee for the upcoming PTA board and SLT parent elections. Such committee members would include parents Kevin Gallagher and Luke Lukose. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the resolution.
4. A resolution was presented to allocate \$25,000 from the budget to pay for teaching assistant salaries. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the resolution.

J. New Business

No new business was discussed.

K. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm EDT. The next general membership meeting will be held on May 30, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the upper division campus.

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