



The 30th Avenue School (Q300)
Elementary Campus
28-37 29th Street, 4th Floor
Astoria, NY 11102
[718.626.8502](tel:718.626.8502) (main) [718.626.8508](tel:718.626.8508) (fax)
Middle School Campus
31-51 21st Street, 5th Floor,
Long Island City, NY 11106
[718.726.0501](tel:718.726.0501) (main) [718.726.0949](tel:718.726.0949) (fax)
www.Q300.org
Vasilios Biniaris, Principal

**School Leadership Meeting
Elementary School Campus
January 9, 2017**

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members Present

Jill Kaufman
Bill Biniaris
Kristina Jelinek (guest)
Ali Lisberger
Olena Kebalo
Dora Fiotodimitrakis (guest)
Dr. Composto (guest)
Minnie Zen
Jason Booher
Pooja O'Hanlon
Maria Hantzopoulos (PTA Co-Chair)
Kalliopi Hatzathanasiou
Mara Cusker Gonzalez (Second half of the meeting)

Members Not Present

Andrea Tappert (PTA Co-Chair)
Alex Lunz
Elizabeth Yarmy

C-30 Executive Session

Consultation with SLT regarding the appointment of Principal of Q300 facilitated by Dr. Philip A. Composto, Superintendent of District 30. Bill has officially been appointed as principal of Q300.

Review and Approval of Minutes from 12/5/16

Motion to approve- Maria

Seconded by Bill

All in favor to pass approval of minutes.

Principal's Report

Mayor De Blasio and Chancellor Farina announced a new \$10-million-dollar initiative as a result of a grant that is focused on District 30. Starting next year (2017-2018) every kindergarten student in D30 will receive a 529 college savings account with an initial contribution (through the grant) of \$150. Additional contributions, with a ceiling of \$300, will be made during the next two years. This pilot initiative is aimed at generating college awareness for students and families from an early age. The accounts and funds will be given to all students regardless of immigration status. Principals in D30 have already begun brainstorming ways to add to that.

January 11th is College Awareness Day. Staff and students are invited to wear college gear and engage in discussions about their experiences and their hopes. Teachers will emphasize the importance of attending college. The school had planned for five current college students to speak with students at both campuses. Noelle and Olena will combine their advisories to celebrate college awareness. Maria H offered to get some of her Vassar College students to also come and speak to Q300 students.

Q300 was awarded \$90,000 via RESO A funding. This amount is cumulative of two awards, \$60K from the borough President's office and \$30K from the local Councilmember. Both awards are to be used for technology. Additional funds are also expected from Assemblywoman Simotas. Teachers are interested in getting laptop carts. Other ideas on the table are Professional Development for teachers, an art room, partitions for classrooms, sinks in classrooms, new floors, different lighting, etc. SLT members also discussed using some of the funds to revamp the school website.

Erika Ball and her third grade students are joining the Billion Oyster Project (BOP) that is focused on cleansing our water systems. BOP is an ecosystem restoration and education project aimed at restoring one billion live oysters to New York Harbor and engaging hundreds of thousands of school children through restoration based STEM education programs.

Many teachers are receiving professional development both at the MS and ES.

There will be a career day in the spring tentatively scheduled for April 7, 2016. Parents are invited to come in and speak to the students about their careers. Dora and school will send out further information.

Monthly meetings with Bill in the ES would start at the end of January. Dora would send out an email to families.

PTA/Parent Report

The Winter International Potluck is coming up on January 27th. There will be a few prizes raffled and auctioned. It will take place before the PTA meeting scheduled for 5.30pm.

The PTA's big event is the stepping into summer auction and dance party which this year has been scheduled for May 7, 2017. Teachers and staff can donate experience prizes should they wish. The event is popular with families of all grades, new families who have been accepted to Q300 for the 2017-2018 school year are also invited.

Based on the success of recent movie night with PS 17, another similar event is scheduled for Feb. 10, 2017. A Zumbathon to raise funds for both schools is also in the works for March. Maria H., encouraged everyone to join these fun community events.

There was a concern about bed bugs in Cristina Barron's (1st grade) classroom. Bill and school staff had sent out a specimen a lab to be examined. If confirmed a letter would be sent to class parents identifying action taken and next steps. The entire school would be notified only if there's an infestation. In the meantime, custodians have gone in and done a visual sweep. Cristina has been very proactive and instructed students put all their belongings in plastic bags each day. There hasn't been any evidence of any other bugs in classrooms.

PTA in consultation with the contributing parent had decided that the Hamilton tickets were not going to be auctioned. Instead, the tickets will be sold on StubHub and the money will be donated to the school.

Maria followed up on parent volunteers for lunch and recess. Jill mentioned that at this time that initiative was on hold. Some teachers, however, had expressed interest in receiving help with organizing, setting up for art and science, workshops and culminating events. At this time class parents were helping coordinate these activities where they reached out to other parents for additional help.

Core Value Action Teams

The SLT discussed the development of CEP goals for the upcoming school year. It was suggested that rather than focusing on highlighting what we do well, we should identify problems and work on specific ways to improve them. Bill also suggested that if the SLT wanted to keep the Core Value Action team format for small group work, once goals were identified, each team could further work on them based on the synergies (btwn. values and goals). School administration would bring baseline data (ex. the QR summary, CEP goals, end of year survey) to the next SLT meeting to move ahead with this project.

Inclusion/Inquiry: Inclusion group members discussed continuing with a parent tip sheet in order to provide helpful guidelines for parents when volunteering for various opportunities as they came up within the school. Both teams had separate discussions about the school website. Inclusion felt that the school website needs to be revamped with a focus on providing comprehensive information on a variety of matters. If more information is added to the website, it could alleviate communication issues that the school sometimes faces. In addition to the website revamp, which hopefully will be created by engaging a website development professional or firm, the school would have to think about a dedicated person or two to manage it and make regular updates. Various resources were suggested to explore this further for the school for free or low cost. Taproot Foundation offers pro bono support for such initiatives, Pooja would research and bring back information to Bill. SLT will continue this discussion in subsequent meetings.

Responsibility: This group looked at quality review feedback to see how it can align to future CEP goals. One project for teachers could be to change curricula with evidence of data to justify changes.

UFT Report

Staff members thanked all parents for their support and generosity. The staff breakfast that was provided last month was greatly appreciated as well as the extremely generous holiday gifts.

Next meeting: February 6, 2017

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 pm