



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • March 17, 2022

A. In Attendance

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 38. Quorum was reached.

B. Call to Order

Co-Presidents Maria Hantzopoulos and Lynn Kennedy and called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm EST on the Zoom virtual platform. They wished for those who celebrate, Happy St. Patrick’s Day, Happy Purim and for next week, a joyous Nowruz. They also conveyed our thoughts to families affected by the events in Ukraine.

C. Principal’s Report

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

1. 3rd through 8th grades will be taking the English language arts state test on 3/29 and 3/30 and the Math state exam on 4/26-4/27. Due to staffing shortages, Q300 has been unable to schedule test prep session before or after school. Instead, 6-8th graders have been given test prep packets for work at home.
2. Kindergarten through 4th grades are participating in the PTA funded arts and music enrichment taught by Arts Connection. 5th grade is continuing with guitar class taught by Arts Connection. Q300 is planning an in-person and live-stream showcase of student talent in late May. Upper division students will begin their third cycle of electives on 3/28.
3. Spring break will occur from 4/15-4/22.
4. Upper division Hydroponic lab is up and running in Room 501 and 518. Students have been able to harvest lettuce and basil with the science teachers. A parent requested a virtual tour of the hydroponic lab.
5. In response to a question about the possibility of in-person PTA events, Principal Ramkishun stated that she is willing to consider such events in discussion with the PTA; she is likely to wait for the fall for in-class writing celebrations. Students are still in pods in their class and are not switching classrooms during the day. They are still physically distancing in the lunchroom. Teachers are creatively sharing students’ works virtually. Principal Ramkishun is focused on in-person graduation and stepping-up ceremonies, with a live-streaming option. Currently all adults who enter the building must be vaccinated.
6. Q300 has not yet received an update on Q300 kindergarten admissions or the future of citywide gifted and talented schools. Q300 anticipates that the admission will occur late this year. For Fall 2021, educators from a student’s pre-K school or program determined if the student was eligible to enter a randomized lottery for a G&T seat. For students not enrolled in pre-K, students participated in a short remote interview to determine eligibility to enter into the lottery. Students who already had siblings in the school were given priority as were students who were eligible for Q300’s diversity plan in which students who are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are given admission priority. For open spots for 1st through 4th grades, Q300 contacted students who had taken the gifted and talented exam in the winter 2019 and were wait-listed.
7. Students are participating in virtual trips. Principal Ramkishun noted that students are permitted to participate in in-person class trips; but many venues have capacity restrictions or are fully booked, and Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) buses are fully booked for the spring. Teachers are looking into chartering private buses

(which costs about \$1,000 for a day trip). Teachers could offset those costs using PTA-funded wish list monies. A parent suggested that a class can have a trip to the local library.

8. In response to a question, Principal Ramkishun noted that the afterschool chess program could not be held on Mondays and Tuesdays in the lower division because teachers were using their classrooms for professional development or parent-teacher meetings.
 9. A parent thanked Ms. Ramkishun for helping arrange for space at the upper division campus for a fee-based afterschool Specialized High School Admissions Test prep program. About 2/3 of Q300 students are participating in the program.
 10. Principal Ramkishun is working with physical education teacher Tonianne Campuzano to organize field day outings for lower and upper division students.
-

D. Co-Presidents' Report

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

1. In its February 2022 general membership meeting, the PTA amended the use of the enrichment budget line to include the funding of virtual or in-person trips or experiences for up to \$500 per class. This is for the 2021-2022 school year only, as several budgeted enrichment residencies did not occur this school year, due to scheduling challenges arising from the COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions.
2. PTA has approved \$200 per grade for spending toward a grade activity or event that supports relationship building, in lieu of in-person events. If you are interested, please reach out to your Class Parents for details and guidelines.
3. The PTA will be sending out surveys that will give families and students the opportunity to weigh-in on enrichment programs for the coming year. Your input and participation are essential in helping Q300 and PTA determine the enrichment program that the PTA will fund for next year.
4. The PTA has allocated funds for the kindergarten and 4th grade stepping up ceremonies and the 8th grade graduation.
5. Upcoming Q300 PTA fundraisers include (a) the 5th annual ZUMBATHON, a joint initiative of the Q300 and PS17 PTAs to raise money for both schools, as well as the Connected Chef Lifeline Groceries project; (b) the Little Caesar's pizza or cookie-making fundraiser, in which a kit will be shipped to your home address and the PTA will make \$6 per kit sold; (c) the PTA's 8th annual auction (please consider donating a parent/community prize in which you can share a special skill (e.g., offer an hour or two of conversation in another language; offer a lesson in cake decoration; offer a homemade meal or to teach how to cook your specialty, etc.); (d) the New York International Children's Film Festival in which the PTA earns \$3 back for every ticket purchased; (e) Spring Flower Power in which you can purchase flower bulbs, vegetable seeds, and more; and (f) Fun Run, in which the community can go out and run.
6. The PTA has organized a list of Women's History Month Resources .
7. March is Women's History Month and while women have always contributed to the fabric of our society, we have compiled a list of happenings that honor them. Please click here, Women's History Month Resources 2022, to see this ongoing list and if you have more to suggest, let us know.
8. The PTA has organized its Chat and Chill Mondays! On the Second Monday of each month at 10am, the PTA will host casual and virtual meet-ups for folks and share a (virtual) coffee while talking about life and parenting.
9. The Green Team has been sharing "Green Team Green Tip of the Week," in the school-wide Google Group and on FB page! It is also starting to plan activities for Earth Day in April. To join the Green Team, please contact rachanas@Q300pta.org
10. The PTA is encouraging Q300 families to complete the NYC School Survey for each child in their family attending a DOE school. There are two ways to participate - online or on paper. The survey closes on Friday, March 25.
11. Thanks to Lynn Kennedy and Yvette Choy for coordinating the purchase of KN 95 masks for Q300 students. Shout out to Ellie Rabinovich for organizing the packaging them and sending of the masks home to families. Thanks to Erica Soto for coordinating the Kindness Challenge in which students participated

Random Acts of Kindness projects. Thanks to guidance counselor Christine Katartzis for all her work in helping the 8th graders for applying to high school. Thanks to teacher Elijah Cho for leading the debate team. Thanks to James Woo for leading the Math Team. Thanks to teacher Anna Hauser and Laura Parris for coordinating the yearbook and graduation.

E. Co-Treasurers' Report

Co-Treasurer Xi Lin delivered the Co-Treasurers' Report. Attached is a summary of the PTA's finances through February 28, 2022. In February, the PTA raised about \$11,600, including \$10,700 from the Direct Appeal and \$900 from other fundraising. The PTA expenditures were about \$6,240, which includes reimbursement for air purifiers.

F. SLT Report

Dragos Bozdog gave the School Leadership Team (SLT) report. The following are highlights from the March 20, 2022 SLT meeting:

1. Student representative Julia gave the student's report. She asked how to create a Q300 300 student sports team. Principal Ramkishun suggested that the students survey the student population on the types of sports in which they would be interested as well as speak with physical education teacher ToniAnne Campuzzo. In response to Julia's question, Principal Ramkishun will speak with the new custodian on hanging a new mirror in the girl's restroom.
2. The SLT members broke out into small groups to review assigned sections of the NYC School Survey Results and Quality Review, and for each section highlighted one glow (positive item), one grow (needs work), and one actionable next step to address the grow. The results will be used to revise the Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP), which focuses on prioritized mid-year goals and data analysis. The school survey parent participation rate was 54%; 6-8th grade student participation rate was 50%; and 27 teachers participated. The survey results are on the NYC DOE website.
3. The United Federation of Teachers reported that the teachers have voted to have the parent-teacher conference on one day for next year. This past year, the parent-teacher conferences occurred on several days.

G. Bylaws Presentation

Co-Secretary David Wang presented the proposed second amended and restated PTA bylaws. The following are highlights:

1. Under Chancellor's Regulation A-660 and the current Bylaws, Q300 PTA's mandatory officers are the following three officers: President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The current Bylaws requires that all three mandatory positions need to be filled in order for Q300 PTA to constitute a functioning PTA under A-660. If any of the 3 mandatory positions was unfilled, Q300 PTA would no longer be considered a functioning PTA. The amended Bylaws reflects a recent change in A-660 in which only 1 of the 3 mandatory positions needs to be filled in order for Q300 PTA to be recognized as a PTA under A-660.
2. The amended Bylaws would permit the General Membership and Board meetings to occur in any of the following meeting formats: (a) in-Person on school premises ("In-Person"); (b) Virtual Remote Platform ("VRP"), which is a platform that allows for meetings conducted livestream online; or (c) "Hybrid," which is an In-Person meeting that is simultaneously live streamed on a VRP.
3. The current Bylaws only permits In-Person meetings. (Due to the Chancellor's waiver of the in-person meeting requirement during the beginning of the pandemic, Q300 PTA has been allowed to hold Zoom virtual meetings. Recently, A-660 has been amended to allow In-Person, VRP, or Hybrid meetings.)
4. Following A-660, Q300 PTA would hold Board and School Leadership Team ("SLT") elections either In-Person or VRP format. (Please note that A-660 continues to prohibit elections that are held in the Hybrid format.)

5. Following A-660, the amended Bylaws states that upon the resignation or removal of a co-officer, the remaining co-officer must choose whether to serve alone for the remainder of the term or resign so that the position can be filled by succession or expedited election.
6. The amended Bylaws updates provisions concerning filling officer vacancies, nomination/election procedures, expedited election procedures, transfer of records at the end of the school year, disciplinary action of board members, and other issues.
7. The following are the next steps in the Bylaws amendment process: (a) please review the proposed amended Bylaws and send any thoughts, comments, or questions to David; (b) the PTA Board will then vote on the proposed amended Bylaws at its Board Meeting on April 1, 2022 at 9am; and (c) the proposed amended Bylaws will then be submitted to a vote at the PTA General Membership meeting on April 28, 2022 at 6:30 pm on a Zoom virtual platform. An approval of 2/3 of the Members present at the meeting would allow the amended bylaws to go into effect.

H. Committee Report

1. Co-VP of Community Affairs Meghan Cirrito noted that the Green Team is looking for help in organizing environmental initiatives. At its monthly meeting, the District 30 Community Education Council (CEC) is gathering parents' thoughts on the fair student funding formula, which funds schools based on the number of students enrolled at each school and the needs of those students, including special needs students and English language learners. Please reach out to your teacher if you have questions about the i-Ready assessments.
2. Co-VP of Communication Dana Holmes shared that they will be sending out the quarterly newsletter in the spring. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please reach out to Dana. If you are not receiving PTA communications, please check your spam filter and reach out to communications@q300pta.org.
3. Co-VP of Membership Ellie Rabinovich-Buchalter announced that the PTA is organizing outdoor gatherings in the Spring, Please contact membership@q300pta.org for more info. Co-VP of Membership Erica Soto Eng thanked those students who participated in the Kindness Challenge projects. The PTA has shared the projects on its Facebook Page.
4. Co-VP of Lower Division Marco Newbury encourages families to organize grade-specific gatherings. The PTA will reimburse up to \$200 for the costs of those grade-specific gatherings.
5. Co-VP of the Upper Division Hayoung Kim noted that the 8th grade graduation planning committee has been meeting to organize student fundraising for the 8th grade trip and graduation.
6. Co-VP of Fundraising Lisa Christopher stated that the Little Caesar's pizza or cookie-making fundraiser, in which a kit will be shipped to your home address, ends tomorrow. She also expressed thanks to those who purchased cups, bags, and other items with student-created artwork through Square 1. About \$1,000 of the Square 1 purchases was donated to the PTA. The PTA needs volunteers to distribute Square 1 items to students' backpacks. Joanna Holzman from the Auction Committee gave an update on the upcoming spring auction. She noted that the deadline for auction items is tomorrow. Marco Newbury discussed plans for a Q300 Fun Run, which may include a field day in May or June. He noted that the Fun Run committee is reaching out to local companies to advertise their business on the Fun Run t-shirts.

I. New Business

A resolution was presented to re-allocate \$15,000 from the Enrichment budget line to Supplies budget line. This year, the PTA had allocated \$15,000 in PTA funds for the Arts Connection enrichment program; however, the Administration received federal arts funding to cover the program costs for this year only. This resolution would re-allocate the unused PTA funds to the Supplies budget line for Administration requested supplies and equipment. In the discussion, a Board member noted that the funds would be spent, in part, on classroom air conditioners. Another Board member asked that Q300 determine the warranty period for such air conditioners, what the maintenance costs would be, and whether there were other bids. Several board members shared that these details were being worked out with the school as was explained and shared in previous board emails. Several parents then expressed support for the resolution, noting that the administration had requested the funding, that

there is a need for air conditioners in the spring and fall, and that there are limited DOE-approved vendors to purchase and install such air conditioners. A majority of Members present then approved the resolution.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm ET. The next general membership meeting will be held on April 28, 2022 at 6:30 pm ET on a virtual platform.

David William Wang, Amy Wong
Co-Secretaries