



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • October 20, 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 51. Quorum was reached.

B. Call to Order

President Yvette Choy called the virtual meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm ET.

C. Principal’s Report

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

1. Q300 has almost completed its beginning-of-the-year assessments. For K-2, students are doing Acadience (reading) and iReady (math). For 3-8, students are doing iReady (reading and math). Reports will come out two or three weeks later and will be shared with families. The teachers are reviewing the data for student intervention and/or differentiation. Parents will soon be receiving the assessment reports.
 2. Lower division picture day is on October 28th. On this day your child can wear any outfit. They are not required to wear their Q300 uniform. Group photos will be taken. If your child wears a mask to school, please let them know if they may remove their mask for the group photo. Given the logistical issues, sibling photos will be limited to those who are on the same campus.
 3. The Upper Division Math Team will begin meeting during afterschool hours starting November 9th. Students eligible to join will be notified about the procedures by math teachers James Woo and Jessica Huang.
 4. An upper division science teacher will be taking parental leave. The administration is interviewing substitute teachers.
 5. In response to a question, Principal Ramkishun noted that the Administration is considering organizing parent volunteer opportunities. Parents have helped move packages up the stairs to the classrooms. Parent Janet Perez made photos of items in the lost-and-found box.
 6. Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando will be sending weekly emails on Q300 news.
 7. The upcoming PTA costume party will have limited attendance and no tickets will be sold on the day of the event.
 8. The administration has extended offers to six teaching assistants (TA), who are now undergoing the NYC Department of Education (DOE) onboarding process. Q300 continues to interview TA candidates. TAs will be trained and incorporated into the Q300 community.
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D. PTA Board and Elections

A resolution was presented to appoint Kevin Gallagher, Blain Kennedy, and Rachael McCarthy to the Elections Committee for the 2022-20223 school year. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the resolution.

The Elections Committee administered the elections of PTA Board positions. The following are highlights:

1. Kevin gave an overview of the expedited elections process. Parents/guardians and teachers are eligible to vote. To ensure that only eligible persons cast votes, all participants without a code (or verified phone number) will be removed from the meeting, with the exception of Q300 administration observers (who will be unable to vote). This will ensure that all those who vote will be verified voters. All those who are ineligible will not be able to vote on the platform.
2. Q300 Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando confirmed that the eligibility of all voters for the PTA Board elections has been verified. The “anonymous” box was selected in the Zoom platform to prevent tracing votes to specific individuals.
 - a. **President.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Yvette Choy and Salua Baida running as a team. No other nominations were made.
 - b. **Executive Vice President.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Patrick Nau. No other nominations were made.
 - c. **Secretary.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Kate Swearngen and David William Wang. No other nominations were made.
 - d. **Treasurer.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: (i) Chu Zheng and Sophia Peng as a team and (ii) Liviu Vlaiconi. No other nominations were made. Each candidate was given the opportunity to speak to the Membership.
 - e. **Vice President of Fundraising.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Lisa Christopher and Christina Lee, running as a team. No other nominations were made from the floor.
 - f. **Vice President of Communications.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Sonia Martins and Betty Ruan. No other nominations were made.
 - g. **Vice President of Lower Division.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: (i) Mauricio Lopez Campero; and (ii) Jordan Cranfield. No other nominations were made. Each candidate was given the opportunity to speak to the Membership.
 - h. **Vice President of Upper Division.** The following nomination was taken from the floor: Amy Ho. No other nominations were made.
3. Without any objections from the Members present, a majority of Members then present voted to elect (i) Yvette Choy and Salua Baida as Co-Presidents; (ii) Patrick Nau as Executive Vice President; (iii) Kate Swearngen and David William Wang as Co-Secretaries; (iv) Chu Zheng and Sophia Peng as Co-Treasurers; (v) Lisa Christopher and Christina Lee as Co-Vice President of Fundraising; (vi) Sonia Martins and Betty Ruan as Co-Vice President of Fundraising; (vii) Mauricio Lopez Campero as Vice President of Lower Division; and (viii) Amy Ho as Vice President of Upper Division.

E. Co-Presidents' Report

Co-Presidents Salua Baida and Yvette Choy gave the Co-Presidents' Report. They welcomed newly elected Board Members and thanked all candidates. They noted that there are many other ways to get involved and support Q300, including joining the Translation Committee, Web Committee, and committees focused on specific events like the Costume Party or the Summer Read-a-thon. Volunteers can sign up to help with a task like delivering pies or stationing the Food Scrap Drop-off Table on Friday afternoons. Please fill out the Volunteer Survey.

F. Treasurer's Report

Lisa Christopher delivered the Treasurer's Report. The following are highlights: The Treasurer's Report for September 2022 showed a \$829.98 inflow and \$84,775 outflows for teaching assistant payments, academic, enrichments, and similar items, among other expenses.

G. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report

SLT parent member Fiona Yung gave an overview of the October 12, 2022 SLT meeting. The following are highlights:

1. The SLT provides feedback to the Administration for its Expectation Guide, which will be a resource for school administrators, parents/guardians, and students.
 2. The SLT is reading a book called Students at the Center by Bena Kallick and Allison Zmuda about student-centered learning and teaching.
 3. The SLT is working on publicizing its diversity plan, in which 40% of Q300 incoming K-3 seats are prioritized for students who qualify for free lunch, and/or reside in citywide Section 8 housing / NYCHA.
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H. Committee Report

1. Co-VP of Fundraising Lisa Christopher noted that the Summer Read-a-Thon raised over \$4,000. The second grade had the highest participation rate. The second grade will receive 10 new library books. If you love gardening or are looking for holiday gift ideas, the PTA is partnering with “Flower Power Fundraising” to sell varieties of bulbs, including tulips, daffodils, lilies, and more. The deadline for online orders is October 15. Please order a pie for Thanksgiving. Please purchase clothing at the Tea Collection Clothing Company, which will give community members a discount while providing the PTA with a percent of any sale. Please consider purchasing gift cards for the holidays.
 2. Co-VPs of Community Affairs Christine Serdjenian Yearwood and Janet Perez noted that the PTA is organizing a fundraiser to support the victims of Hurricane Ian in Florida with DRAW’s Fill a Bucket campaign. The goal is to collect \$615 by October 25. Buckets will go directly to survivors! Donate any amount to our collective pool. Participatory Budgeting has started. Participatory Budgeting is an opportunity for community initiatives to be funded by the city. Money is put aside each year to fund projects that community members age 11 and up suggest and vote for in each local district. For example, upgrades to public parks, bike lanes, bus shelters, building repairs, AC units for public schools, etc.
 3. Co-VPs of Membership Erica Soto Eng and Amy Wong are forming committees based on volunteer surveys filled out by parents/guardians.
 4. The PTA invites you to Fall Costume Party on Sunday, October 23 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm at the Lower Division. Admission is \$5 per person (age 5 and up), and includes access to the live DJ dance party, games and activities. Space is limited so please buy your tickets. The PTA will not be selling tickets at the door.
 5. Co-editor of the PTA newsletter Fiona Yung requested submissions of photos, articles, and other content for the PTA newsletter.
 6. Co-VPs of the Lower Division Nick Skolnick and the Upper Division Ellie Rabinovich asked parents/guardians to serve as a class parent to support their student’s teacher and serve as a liaison to fellow parents and the PTA.
 7. Q300, P.S. 17 and The Connected Chef are providing Lifeline groceries in a new subscription service. Subscribers can choose to purchase a weekly box filled with produce and grains (as well as optional add-ons) to be picked up at the **Lower Division** each **Friday afternoon**. Delivery in and around Astoria can be arranged. A basic box will cost \$25, but if you choose to pay \$35 or \$45 the additional funds will be used to provide free boxes to any of our families who may be in need of some support.
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I. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made to approve the September 29, 2022 general membership minutes. The motion was seconded. The Members then present approved the motion.

J. New Business

None.

K. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm ET. The next general membership meeting will be held on November 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm ET on a virtual platform.

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David William Wang & Kate Swearngen, Co-Secretaries