GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES• MAR. 18, 2021

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 59. Quorum was reached.

B. Call to Order

Co-President Lynn Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm ET on the Zoom virtual platform. Such virtual meeting is permitted under "Functioning in the Virtual Environment: Guidance for PA/PTAs and Presidents' Councils", issued June 4, 2020, by the NYC Department of Education (DOE).

C. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the General Meeting held on February 25, 2021, 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

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

1. Our hearts are heavy upon hearing about the brutal more murders of eight people in Atlanta on Tuesday in which the alleged assailant seemed to have target Asian and Asian American women in particular. Maria noted that we cannot ignore that these killings come at a time and there's been an increase in hate incidents targeting Asian Americans nationwide. She stated that we are thinking about our families and our community, and we hope that we can work with our school community to have the necessary conversations with our children about these incidents and also in general about dismantling the structures that enabled this violence.

2. The Administration is looking forward to continuing to work with Arts Connection. Additionally, it is looking at the cost of theatre programs for grades 3 and 4 definitely and possibly expanding to the 5th grade. Due to scheduling conflicts, Q300 will not have enrichments for the upper division at this time.

3. The PTA is ordering an addition 42 Chromebooks for this spring. In total the PTA will have purchased 14 or so Chromebooks this year. The PTA is also paying for teacher professional development.

4. The PTA is organizing its virtual Zumbathon on March 19 with P.S. 17 PTA to raise money for Astoria Mutual Aid Network and the Astoria Food Pantry. Special thanks to the Zumbathon host Alejandra Villadiego. The PTA is organizing a physically distanced movie night at the Queens Drive in on March 21. Thanks to parent Susan Stewart, Erica Soto Eng, and Maria Hantzopoulos for helping to organize movie night. The PTA is holding a virtual Mango Lassi making event, hosted by parent Anar Bhimani Chanda and family, on March 26.

5. Congrats to the upper division students who competed in the 2021 MATH COUNTS invitational competition. Students Andy Jiang (702) and Ethan Wang (602) have qualified for the NY state competition.

6. Thanks to Auction chair Joanna Holzman and the committee for planning the virtual auction event. Thank to parent Amy He and daughter Stephanie and parent Evon Lopez for organizing the virtual Chinese New Year craft making workshop.

E. **Co-Treasurers' Report**

Co-Treasurers Yi-Wen Wang and Yan Zho delivered the Co-Treasurers' Report. Attached is a summary of the PTA's finances through February 2021. During this period, the PTA raised over $12,755.00 The PTA expenditures were about $8,749.00, including $8,024.00 for Arts Connection enrichment programs for the lower division and $540 or so for teacher wish lists.

F. **Co-Principal's Report**

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

1. The diversity committee has reached out to the local community, including NYCHA tenant associations, daycare centers, and pre-K center, in an effort to recruit potential kindergarten applicants for the gifted and talented (G&T) program.

2. Current in-person learners who are in kindergarten and first, second, and fifth grade, have begun five-days a week learning in the school building. On April5, current in-person learners who are in. the eighth grade will begin five-days a week learning in the school building. Notwithstanding the recent guidance permitting 3-feet physical distancing, Q300 will continue to observe the 6-feet physical distancing between students (as students will need to be 6-feet apart during lunch period as the students will be unmasked while eating).

3. Congratulations to James Woo and the upper division Math team for participating in the Noetic Learning Math Contest. Congratulations to the debate team for placing first in a recent debate competition.

4. Q300 parents/guardians have the opportunity to vote in the upcoming Community Education Council (CEC) elections for District 30. CEC offers parents the opportunity to support and impact education at the district level. The District 30 candidates will participate in an online forum on Mar. 24 and 25. Parent Coordinator gave an brief presentation about the CEC election voting process. She noted that parents/guardians must have a mystudent.nyc account. Each Q300 family (not parent) has a vote for the CEC elections, based on the number of Q300 students and other District 30 students (e.g., if a family has one Q300 child and no other District 30 students, that family has one vote). Voting will occur in early May. If you need assistance, please reach out to JennyLando@Q300.org.

5. The upper division building will reopen on March 25, 2021.

6. Q300 is considering having arts enrichment for K-2nd grade, theater enrichment for 3rd and 4th grades, and CASA theater program for the fifth grade.

G. **School Leadership Team (SLT) Report**

The next SLT meeting will be held on March 25 at 5:30 pm ET.

H. **Committee Reports**

1. One School Committee Chair Marlon Aranda provided an overview of the committee's work. It seeks to consolidate Q300 into one campus. Currently, Q300's grades K-4 are located on the P.S. 17 campus; Q300's

grades 5-8 are located several blocks away on the P.S. 126 campus. The committee has reached out to elected officials to provide them with an understanding of the benefits of having the school community in one campus.

2. Vice President of Fundraising Paula Marisi gave an overview of shopping websites that donates a portion of any purchase to the PTA and noted that the Auction Committee is seeking volunteers. Q300 has once again partnered with Tea Collection (https://www.teacollection.com) in which a portion of any purchase will be donated to the PTA. Parent Dan Bach noted that the PTA is organizing a 5K fun run. Direct Appeal Co-Chair David Wang noted that the Direct Appeal has raised about $117,000. **Now through the end of March**, Online Mindfulness, Creativity, and Yoga with Sacred Space Astoria (owned by 4th grade parent Kim Alexandrescu) will donate a percent of proceeds to the PTA.

3. Co-Vice President of Membership Erica Soto Eng noted that several community-building initiatives, including the virtual Mango-Lassi making event on March 26, virtual Salsa Dance con Suni on April 10, and teacher appreciation day in early May. We encourage

4. Co-Vice President of Community Affairs Soumaly King noted that School District 30 will hold a zoning meeting for schools in Long Island City on March 22 at 5 pm ET. The District 30 Community Education Council will be holding its candidate forum on March 24 and 25. The DOE will be holding upcoming diversity trainings. On March 18, it will hold a gifted and talented application information session.

5. Co-Vice President of Communications Dana Holmes invited Members to subscribe to the PTA communication channels by emailing communications@q300pta.org.

I. New Business.

1. **Resolution 1.** A resolution was presented to approve the re-allocation of $5,000 from the teaching assistant budget line for the launch of "Q300 Strong" spirit wear t-shirts. The PTA will coordinate a design competition for the t-shirt and a bookmark, all of which would provide a creative opportunity for Q300 students. The sale of the t-shirt is expected to pay for the initial expenses for the design, production, and delivery of the t-shirts and provide funds for the PTA. (The school would pay to produce the bookmark and a "Q300 Strong" pencil.) Upper Division students will design a logo for a T-shirt. Lower Division students will design a logo for a bookmark. One winning design will be chosen from each Division and produced by Q300 & the PTA. The winners will receive a prize. After discussion, a motion to pass the resolution was made and seconded. A majority of Members then present voted to approve the resolution.

2. **Resolution 2.** If Resolution 1 above is approved, a resolution was presented to approve the gifting and delivery of a "Q300 Strong" spirit wear t-shirt to each Q300 student for Spring 2021. Providing the t-shirts school-wide would be a way to help amplify community spirit, given this unprecedented, difficult year, where the Q300 community has not been able to meet in-person. The cost of the gifting and delivery of the t-shirts would be $3,000 out of the re-allocation ($5,000) in Resolution 1. The remainder of the t-shirts would be sold to non-Q300 students, including Q300 family members. After discussion, a motion to pass the resolution was made and seconded. A majority of Members then present voted to approve the resolution.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm ET. The next general membership meeting will be held on April 29, 2021, at 5:30 pm ET on a virtual platform.

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