



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • April 27, 2023

A. In Attendance

It was noted that (a) parents and other “persons in a parental relation” as defined by NYC Chancellor regulations as 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 34. Quorum was reached.

B. Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35 pm ET.

C. Principal's Report

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

1. In connection to Earth week, students will be planting lavender in their classroom. Students may be bringing home some herbs.
2. 3rd through 7th grades will be taking the NY State math test on May 2 and 3. For those who do not feel well on the test days, they should stay home and rest. A make-up test will be administered. In lieu of the NY State math test, the 8th grade will be taking the Algebra regents in June.
3. The Q300 Green Team will be holding a week-long Earth Week celebration at Randall's Island. Randall's Island Park Alliance has organized a unique and grade-appropriate experience for each class. Each grade will have a chance to visit the Island and participate in a nature exploration activity or volunteering experience.
4. Over 80 students will be presenting their science project at the Science Fair, which will be held on May 15, 2023 in the Lower Division cafeteria from 5:30-7:30pm. There will be three viewing sessions where you can walk through the fair to listen to presentations, see cool experiments, and ask our young scientists questions about their projects. Special thanks to technology teacher Ali Lisberger and parent coordinator Jenny Lando for organizing the fair.
5. Students will be participating in several upcoming field trips.
6. All students will be taking the end-of-year i-Ready assessments in math and reading. i-Ready assessments, which are taken periodically over the school year enable teachers to evaluate the progress of students' learning. After the assessments are completed, the school will share the assessment results with parents/guardians. Please feel reach out to the teachers with any questions.
7. On May 4th, Q300 will be hosting its "Looking Ahead to 2023-2024 School Year" from 4:30pm-7:00pm. Please save the date and time. This event will be virtual. During the sessions, teachers will be presenting the curriculum and expectations for their grades in the 2023-2024 school year. Afterwards, the school will email the grade-specific Powerpoint presentations to parents/guardians.
8. A parent expressed concern about the middle school 2022 school survey results about the racial disparity in responses to questions concerning supportive environment. (For example, in response to a question, “[a]t this school students harass, bully, or intimidate each other because of their race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, or citizenship/immigration status.” Students who are white or Asian provided a more favorable response than

students who are Black, Hispanic or Latinx.) Principal Ramkishun expressed appreciation in the parent raising the issue and that the SLT will be reviewing the data to begin planning for the goals for the next school year.

9. The school will be providing more info about the upcoming June cultural talent shows at both campuses.
10. A parent asked whether the school would strongly consider having a more robust upper division enrichment program, where outside vendors would provide sports, theater, music, robotics, and other enrichments, aside from the teacher-led electives and the existing art class. The parent noted that the lower division students seem to have more outside enrichments than the upper division and that there seemed to be a more varied upper division program pre-pandemic. Principal Ramkishun noted the upper division has an arts class taught by a dedicated arts teacher and that the teachers-led electives, such as brain game, ultimate frisbee, and butterfly storytelling, are very popular. She stated that the outside vendors include New York Chess Academy and the CUNY Creative Arts Team (Shakespeare Festival). She noted that the physical education teacher Toni-Anne Campuzano was unable to provide sports elective outside of gym class, as her time is limited due to her providing physical education instruction at both campuses. She is willing to look into other enrichment opportunities including sports. She stated that the upper division students are getting a great selection of programs and expressed appreciation to the teachers for leading many electives and the PTA for its funding.
11. A parent expressed concern that since students were creating their science fair projects at home rather than at school, the science fair projects may be parent driven rather than school led. Principal Ramkishun stated that the students love to explore and the school would like to support their creativity. The students are coming up with many amazing science questions and that the school is supporting the students by providing science boards and helping them with their projects. She has received positive feedback from families and that many of the science questions are at or above the students' grade level. She encouraged all families to attend the science fair. She noted that technology teacher Ali Lisberger and parent coordinator Jenny Lando will reach out to parents/guardians for volunteer opportunities at the science fair.
12. A kindergarten parent asked whether the administration could encourage teachers to provide more updates to the grade-specific Google sites. Ms. Ramkishun stated that she will encourage them to do so. She noted that each teacher have their own way of communicating and that the Google sites are something extra that the school is asking them to do. She encouraged parents/guardians to provide the school with suggestions about other communication platforms that are easier to use.

D. President's Report

Co-President Salua Baida and Yvette Choy gave the President's report. The following are highlights:

1. In response to a question, Yvette reported that the City Council District 22 participatory budgeting did not fund the proposed renovation of the lower division library, which would have been used by Public School 17 and Q300 students.
2. Yvette expressed appreciation to Lynn Kennedy, who coordinated the upcoming grade field trips to Randall's Island, where students will work on environmental efforts, including weeding, planting trees, and other activities. The Randall's Island Alliance has developed a curriculum for our students.
3. Salua noted that the PTA website has educational resources activities in celebration of Arab American Heritage Month. Christine Serdjenian Yearwood invited all to attend a panel discussion that she will be speaking on "Immigrant, Refugee and Citizen Futures: Anti-Armenian Racism and Armenian-American Organizing Past and Present" at the Asian American/Asian Research Institute.
4. Salua encouraged the Q300 community to provide suggestions for potential enrichment programs to the PTA.
5. Yvette encouraged parents/guardians to run for PTA board and SLT parent member positions in the upcoming elections.
6. A parent suggested that the PTA organize an orientation for new families to help them learn about the school and its community. She also noted the importance of translating PTA notices in non-English languages to ensure that all Q300 community members, who may not have fluency in the English language, can fully

participate in the PTA. She also noted that Q300 informed her that it can take up to 2 months to translate materials.

7. Yvette acknowledged the importance of having translated PTA materials and noted that the PTA will make sure that the welcome packets for incoming families and the PTA contact survey will not be just in the English language. The PTA could add a question about language spoken at home to the PTA contract survey.
8. Yvette stated that the PTA will host a Welcome Breakfast for all incoming families at the end of June.
9. Yvette noted that the PTA will help Q300 outreach to potential qualified teaching assistant candidates for the upcoming school year. Such outreach will include reaching out to educational institution.
10. Please drop off any clothing and toiletry donations for recent refugee families at the upper division campus lobby.

E. Treasurer's Report

Sophia Peng delivered the Treasurer's Report. As of March 31, 2023, the PTA had a total inflow of approximately \$2,218 and \$512 in expenses. The PTA is preparing its 2023-2024 budget, based on input from the administration and the community. If you are interested in getting a copy of the PTA budget or the financial report for any month, please email treasurer@q300pta.org.

F. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report

SLT parent member Maria Hantzopoulos noted that there has not been an SLT meeting since the last PTA meeting.

G. Committee Report

1. Fundraising Co-Vice President Lisa Christopher announced that the Upper Division Scholastic book fair will occur on May 15 and 16 and the Lower Division Scholastic book fair will occur from May 23 to May 25. Students will have opportunity to purchase books. Parents may shop as well in-person and can purchase books from teacher wish lists for classroom libraries. Families may request financial aid to participate in the book fair from guidance counselor Rachel Weiss. She noted that the Stepping into Summer Auction will be held on June 3 at 1pm at Katch at 31-19 Newtown Avenue, Astoria. The PTA continues to collect auction items. The winner of the Q300 "Onward and Upward" t-shirt design will be announced shortly. The PTA will be giving a t-shirt to each Q300 student. . There were over 71 submissions. It was amazing to see them come in and to see how amazing and talented the children are. Thanks to our teachers for helping the students in grades K-8 and staff members vote in class. The PTA hopes to be able to share the designs with parents soon.
2. Communications Vice President Betty Ruan announced that the Q300 PTA Newsletter Committee is seeking submissions for the PTA Newsletter. Past articles have included teacher and staff profiles, school trips written by students, extracurricular activities, writing celebrations, and other topics of interest to the Q300 community. If you have an article idea, please reach out to newsletter@q300pta.org.
3. Co-Vice President of Community Affairs Christine Serdjenian-Yearwood announced that the Q300 PTA and Public School 17 (PS 17) PTA and the Q300 Green Team are organizing a screening of the movie, The Lorax, on Friday, April 28 in celebration of Earth Day. On May 5 at the lower division campus, the Q300 PTA and PS 17 will hold a Zumbathon, a night of movement, fun, and community to help our schools raise money for enrichment programs as well as earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria. Thank you to Maria Hantzopoulos, Janet Perez, and others for organizing the Zumbathon. PS 17 and Q300 are organizing an outing to a Mets baseball game on May 17. Community Education Council District 30 will hold its Family Fun Day on May 13 from 12pm to 4pm at Dutch Kills Playground in Astoria. The PTA will hold its annual book swap in June in the Lower Division campus.
4. Upper Division Co-Vice President Ellie Rabinovich noted that PTA has budgeted funds in the upper division to help support school field trips that support the curriculum. Thanks to the class parents and teachers for

coordinating the field trips. For example, the 6th grade is going to the Museum of Math. The 7th and 8th grades visited the Center for Fiction. The 8th grade visited the DNA Lab Center to learn electrophoresis and will be going to an art studio to learn screen printing. The PTA will reimburse up to \$200 for each grade to organize inclusive community events. She also congratulated an upper division math teacher for the birth of her baby.

5. Lower Division Co-Vice President Mauricio Lopez Campero noted that Q300 families are participating in the New York Road Runners' event at Randall Island on Saturday, April 29.
6. Enrichment Co-Chairperson Maria Hantzopoulos stated that the PTA has emailed grade-specific PTA enrichment and budget surveys to families earlier this week. The survey is critical to help gauge feedback from parents, teachers, and upper division students about PTA budget and enrichment priorities and to help the PTA work with the administration to plan for the 2023-2024 school year. For the parent survey, each family should complete one survey per child. Parents should ask their child about the child's experiences with the PTA-funded enrichments this year.

H. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made to approve the March 30 general membership minutes, with certain edits. The motion was seconded. The Members then present approved the motion.

I. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm ET. The next general membership meeting will be held on April 27, 2023 at 6:30 pm ET on a virtual platform.

Kate Swearengen & David William Wang, Co-Secretaries