



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • January 18, 2024

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### A. In Attendance

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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 29. Quorum was reached.

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### B. Call to Order

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President Mauricio López Campero called the virtual meeting to order at approximately 6:35 pm ET.

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### C. Principal’s Report

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Principal Sonita Ramkishun reminded attendees that Kindergarten applications will close on January 19, 2024. Thank you to community members, and in particular the School Leadership Team (SLT) members, who have conducted outreach about Q300’s diversity initiative. The Arts Showcase will take place on January 26, 2024 at the Lower and Upper Division. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please email [jennylando@q300.org](mailto:jennylando@q300.org). A special thank you to the PTA and Q300 families for funding arts programs like this. Only one parent per family can attend the Arts Showcase due to space restrictions, but the school will try to record the performance. Tryouts for the seventh and eighth grade pilot basketball program have just begun. Voluntary, free test prep for the English Language Arts (ELA) and Math New York State tests for third to eighth grades will occur either before or after school. If you would like your child to attend test prep, please fill out the permission slip and return it to school with your child. Regardless of their participation in the test prep session, all students will receive a free test prep booklet.

In response to parent questions, Principal Sonita responded as follows:

1. Teachers have previously assigned one or two questions from the test prep book for students to work on at home. Teachers can answer student’s queries about the test prep questions.
2. Scheduling of the prep sessions depends on staff capacity and availability. This year, third graders have after-school chess prep; fourth through sixth grade test prep will occur before school.
3. Please ask your student about whether they will be performing in the Upper Division Showcase, since some of the electives like the cooking class will not be presenting.
4. The Upper Division’s volleyball program ended in December. The basketball pilot program is currently the only sports offering in the Upper Division.
5. Eighth grade teachers will provide test prep for the Living Environment and Algebra I Regents exam during school hours, including holding mock tests and review sessions.
6. Principal Sonita would consider including questions about what sports offerings students would like to see at the Upper Division in the annual PTA Enrichment Committee survey. She noted that space and staffing constraints could affect the offerings.

Please contact Principal Sonita directly at [principal@q300.org](mailto:principal@q300.org) with any questions.

#### **D. Treasurer's Report**

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Co-Treasurer Sophia Peng delivered the Treasurer's Report. In the month of December, Direct Appeal inflows were approximately \$70,000, bringing the year-to-date total to \$156,000. December inflows from fundraising events were just under \$15,000. The Summer Readathon netted almost \$1,500. The Fall Costume Party netted \$2,200. The Uno Pizzeria and Grill meet-and-greet netted just under \$400. The raffles to date have netted \$2,000. Thanksgiving Pies netted almost \$2,000. The gift card fundraiser netted approximately \$800. The Tea Collection fundraiser netted approximately \$300. The New York Martial Arts Academy netted approximately \$1,500. The PTA earned bank interest and incurred PayPal fees related to the Direct Appeal. Cash outflows for the month of December were approximately \$57,000. If you would like details from the December Treasurer's Report, please email [treasurer@q300pta.org](mailto:treasurer@q300pta.org).

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#### **E. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report**

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SLT Parent Member Maria Hantzopoulos reported on the SLT. The last SLT meeting was December 11, and was reported on at the December 21 PTA meeting. The next SLT meeting will be on January 30.

This year, the Diversity Committee is a subcommittee of the SLT, where at each SLT meeting, the SLT will devote 30 minutes of the Diversity Committee's work. At the last SLT meeting, the SLT used this time to update the diversity initiative flyers and to reflect on them. The diversity initiative prioritizes 40% of available kindergarten seats for students who qualify for free lunch and/or live in Section 8 housing or New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) housing. Last year, the diversity committee was a stand-alone committee with parents, staff, and administrators.

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#### **F. Committee Reports**

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1. Fundraising Co-Vice President Lisa Christopher reported that the Summer Camp Auction will take place alongside Winter Fest. Thank you to those who have volunteered with the Winter Fest and the Summer Camp Auction. If you have suggestions for potential Summer Camp donations, please email [auction@q300pta.org](mailto:auction@q300pta.org) for a copy of a form request letter that you can tailor to a particular summer camp. The Auction Committee is happy to make the request as well. The Fundraising Committee is currently looking for volunteers to research potential vendors for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Carnival, which is tentatively scheduled for May 18. The Fundraising Committee holds a call the third Wednesday of every month. If you would like to get more involved, please email the Fundraising Committee at [fundraising@q300pta.org](mailto:fundraising@q300pta.org) or join the meeting, the link for which is included in Principal Sonita's Friday emails and in the Google Group.
2. Direct Appeal Co-Chair David Wang spoke about the Direct Appeal, which raises more than 80% of the PTA's budget and helps fund Teaching Assistants (TAs) in the Lower Division, enrichments in the Lower and Upper Divisions, teacher "wish list" stipends for classroom use, Chromebooks for the Upper Division, and many other resources. As of December 31, the Direct Appeal has raised \$173,000 (including pledges), roughly 75% of its goal of \$230,000. Thank you to Sue Sekar who is the Direct Appeal Co-Chair and to the Q300 families who have made donations or pledges to the Direct Appeal. The next stage for the Direct Appeal is "March Madness," where the goal will be to raise the remaining 25% of the Direct Appeal goal and to increase participation among Q300 families. If you are able and have not yet done so, please donate to the Direct Appeal. If the amount is meaningful to you, it is meaningful to the PTA. Please send Direct Appeal donations via your child's backpack or through the mail; online donations require a credit card fee. Acknowledgement letters will be issued for tax purposes. If your donation was received or postmarked by December 31, 2023, you will be issued a letter for the 2023 tax year.
3. Community Affairs Vice President Salua Baida reported that Q300/PS 17 held a screening of "Super Mario Brothers" on January 12 at 5:00 pm, with high turnout, great reviews, and high level of volunteers from both schools. Thank you to Q300 Assistant Principal Anna Milonakis, Q300 Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando, and PS 17 staff who helped with Movie Night, and all the volunteers. The following suggestions were made for future events: (a) the organizers should create a separate waitlist so families can join in the event of last-

minute declines, (b) the organizers should have pre-made popcorn and cotton candy available (in addition to those made fresh at the event); and (c) the organizers could raffle free movie tickets to a local cinema. If you are interested in soliciting requests for free movie tickets, please email [saluab@q300pta.org](mailto:saluab@q300pta.org). The next Movie Night will likely take place in early March. District 22 Councilmember Tiffany Cabán will speak at an assembly for second through fourth graders followed by a read-aloud of the book Sofia Valdez, Future Prez to kindergarten and first grade. Councilmember Cabán has also been invited to speak about participatory budgeting at the Upper Division in April. With help from Ms. Rachel, Salua is crafting an invitation for Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to visit Q300, perhaps in March for Career Day or in May for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Carnival. Council District 22 Participatory Budgeting delegates Salua and David Wang will be working with other delegates to help vet potential projects that will be placed on the Participating Budgeting ballot. In April, eligible Council District 22 voters will have the opportunity to select projects listed on the ballot for funding by Councilmember Cabán. For the Upper Division campus, Q300 and its co-located school I.S. 126 have submitted the following proposals: (a) auditorium refurbishing, including installing new seating, and air conditioning; (b) classroom air conditioners; and (3) enhancing outdoor space including by updating equipment and adding greenery. For the Lower Division campus, Q300 and its co-located school PS 17 have proposed the following: (a) auditorium renovation; (b) classroom air conditioners; (c) shared library materials and furnishings; and (d) renovation of the two courtyards (the cement entrance and the inner courtyard area). Councilmember Cabán's office has requested that Q300 and its co-located schools rank the proposals in order of priority and to prioritize certain aspects of the proposed auditorium refurbishment in the event that funding is unavailable for the full refurbishment.

4. Lower Division Representative Erica Soto Eng reported on behalf of the Membership Committee. The Winter Fest Committee is soliciting donations of new items from families, particularly items that will appeal to children, for its raffle and silent auction. Items may be auctioned on their own or bundled with others. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact [auktion@q300.org](mailto:auktion@q300.org) or send the items in your child's backpack to Ms. Jenny. The upcoming fourth annual Kindness Challenge is an opportunity for each grade to highlight Q300's core values of inquiry, inclusion, and responsibility by performing community service or highlighting worthy causes. The PTA is securing space for the grades to come together and assemble their projects in March.
5. Membership Vice-President Afrosa Amin reported that Winter Fest and Multicultural Show will take place on Saturday, February 3 at the Upper Division. The Winter Fest will feature over 40 potluck dishes, a silent auction and raffle, the sale of soft drinks organized by fourth grade parents for the Fourth Grade Moving Up ceremony, a CPR training session organized by parent Erik Marketan, a photobooth organized by eighth grade parents for the Eighth Grade Graduation, and cultural arts and craft tables organized by class parents. The Multicultural Show will feature student performances. Those who plan to perform in the Multicultural Show should register for the Winter Fest as well. Registration closes January 26. Priority in registration will be given to current Q300 families. Alumni will be invited if there is enough space. If you are interested in volunteering to help at Winter Fest, please indicate that when you register or email [winterfestival@q300pta.org](mailto:winterfestival@q300pta.org).

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### **G. Approval of the Minutes**

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A motion was made to approve the December 21, 2023 general membership minutes. The motion was seconded. The members then present approved the motion.

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### **H. New Business**

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Executive Vice President Yvette Choy reported that the Green Team, which is presently comprised of three teachers and four parents, met recently. Q300 will start a composting program in March. All food scraps and anything that is compostable from lunches and snacks can be composted and will be collected by the City. There will be gentle rollouts at the February climate action days where students will get to do waste auditing and sort items.

The PTA has received a request from the administration to fund Black History Month events at the Lower and Upper Division. More details will follow.

The PTA is researching wired and blue tooth microphones for student interviews for the Eighth Grade graduation video.

An informal dim sum brunch will be held in early March in a Flushing restaurant. More details will follow.

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## **I. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 pm ET. The next general membership meeting will be held on February 15, 2024 at 6:30 pm ET on a virtual platform.

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Kate Swearngen & David William Wang, Co-Secretaries