



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • February 15, 2024

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 25. Quorum was reached.

B. Call to Order

President Mauricio López Campero called the virtual meeting to order at approximately 6:35 pm ET. He encouraged parents to volunteer to help with the upcoming 10th Anniversary Carnival/Stepping Into Summer auction.

C. Principal’s Report

Principal Sonita Ramkishun thanked families and teachers for working together to ensure that the fully remote instructional day on the snowy February 13 was successful. Spring enrichments have started at the Lower and Upper Division. The NYC School Survey has opened and will close on April 5. The survey gives school leaders a better understanding of what members of their school community think about their school. The information collected by the survey is designed to support a dialogue among all members of the school community about how to make the school a better place to learn. Paper copies of the survey were backpacked home in a green envelope. Parents can also complete the survey by logging into their NYC Schools Account. Parents are permitted to complete one survey per child. If you need help, please email Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando at jennylando@q300.org. I-ready parent reports for reading and math will be sent home on February 16 in your child’s communication folder. Due to scheduled parent-teacher conferences, March 7 will be a half day for students. In celebration of Black History Month, Harlem Magic Masters will present to the Upper Division Students on February 27. In the Lower Division, students will participate in an in-school fieldtrip in Harlem Renaissance-oriented art project led by Togetherhood. February 16 is “No One Eats Alone” Day, when students will have the opportunity to eat lunch with a new individual/new group. February 16 is also Pajama Day when students may wear school-appropriate pajamas to class. Midwinter Recess will be held from February 19-23.

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

1. Due to auditorium capacity and scheduling difficulties, the one-parent limit per student cannot be lifted for in-school events like the Arts Showcase, Even with the one-parent limit, some parents did not get a seat in the auditorium. The only way for two parents to attend is to schedule a separate showcase for each grade.
 2. For students who had difficulty logging on during the remote instructional day on February 13, students will be marked present so long as they completed a minimum of 45 minutes of work, either synchronously or asynchronously. If there is a specific question or concern about a particular student, please reach out to your child’s teacher.
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D. President’s Report

President Mauricio López Campero reported that Winter Fest, held on February 3 at the Upper Division, was very successful. Parents brought more than 50 potluck dishes. On behalf of Membership Vice-President Afrosa Amin,

Mauricio thanked those who attended and those who volunteered who helped with the silent auction, raffles and arts and crafts. Afrosa plans to publish a new Q300 Cookbook, which will feature recipes from families. On behalf of Community Affairs Vice President Salua Baida, Mauricio reported that the next Movie Night with PS 17 will take place on March 22.

E. Treasurer's Report

Co-Treasurer Sophia Peng delivered the Treasurer's Report. In the month of January, Direct Appeal inflows were approximately \$25,000, bringing the year-to-date total to \$181,000. January inflows from fundraising events were \$7,600. The Fall Costume Party netted approximately \$2,000. The Uno Pizzeria and Grill meet-and-greet netted just under \$400. The PTA earned bank interest and incurred PayPal fees related to the Direct Appeal. Cash inflows for the month of January were \$32,000. Cash outflows for the month of January were \$6,000. If you would like details from the January Treasurer's Report, please email treasurer@q300pta.org.

F. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report

SLT parent member Mauricio López Campero reported on the SLT. He encouraged parents to complete the NYC School Survey. In evaluating last year's responses to the NYC School Survey, the SLT noted several issues, including (a) certain groups within the school felt that they are not getting the support they need; (b) some parents expressed concern that communication is not as strong as it could be, and (c) certain teachers' responses to the survey. At the last SLT meeting on January 30, the SLT focused on developing a shorter survey with five questions for families, five questions for teachers, and five questions for students. These questions will focus on the areas of concern identified by the SLT in the responses to last year's NYC School Survey. The shorter survey has been emailed to parents by Sonita and Jenny. If you did not receive the survey, please let Mauricio know by emailing president@q300pta.org.

The SLT also addressed the Diversity Committee's activities. This year, the Diversity Committee is a subcommittee of the SLT. At each SLT meeting, the SLT will devote 30 minutes to the Diversity Committee's work. Last year, the Diversity Committee prepared a calendar with proposed presenters for each month (for example, Black History Month and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month). The SLT discussed the need to plan ahead for 2024-2025 events, including scheduling potential presenters. The 2023-2024 PTA budget already includes \$2,000 for these types of events, with the idea that each event would cost approximately \$300. However, presenters are offering quotes much higher than \$300. Executive Vice President Yvette Choy suggested tapping into the Q300 parent community to see if they would be willing, or if they knew someone who would be willing, to speak or do a reading in connection with Diversity activities.

G. Committee Reports

1. Lower Division Representative Erica Soto Eng reported on the upcoming fourth annual Kindness Challenge. The 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. Each grade will pick a cause, charity, or initiative (for example, a food drive or a park clean-up). This year, the PTA secured an indoor space at the school on March 16 for grades to come together and assemble their projects. The Class Parents will shortly be sending out more info. The Kindness Initiative is separate from the in-class service projects that students typically do in May. Erica was recognized and thanked for her work on spearheading the Kindness Initiative over the past four years.
2. Fundraising Co-Vice President Lisa Christopher reported that the Summer Camp Auction will close at 10:00 p.m. on February 15. The auction is open to people outside the Q300 community. There are many great camp opportunities in the auction that still have not received bids. Fundraising Committee volunteers are researching potential vendors for the 10th Anniversary Carnival, which is tentatively scheduled for May 18. This month, the Fundraising Committee will hold its monthly call on February 28. To get involved, please email the Fundraising Committee at fundraising@q300pta.org or join the meeting, the link for which is

included in Principal Sonita’s Friday emails and in the Google Group. The Aigner Chocolates fundraiser has now closed; thank you to those who participated.

3. 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. To date, the Direct Appeal has raised \$200,000 (including pledges), roughly 85% 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. Currently, the participation rate is approximately 38%. 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.
4. David Wang reported on behalf of Community Affairs Vice President Salua Baida on the participatory budgeting process. City Council Member Tiffany Cabán (City Council District 22), whose district covers Q300, has apportioned off approximately one million dollars in capital funding and a certain amount for operating expenses to be given to worthy projects in District 22. The Q300 administration and Salua wrote proposals for several projects, which were vetted by a group of participatory budgeting delegates, including David and Salua. The following Q300 projects made it to the ballot: (a) the Lower Division/PS 17 bathroom renovation, courtyard renovation and auditorium renovation, and (b) the Upper Division water fountain updates. Those items will appear on the participatory budgeting ballot. In early April, those items will be voted on by eligible voters in District 22. The PTA will provide members with information on voting eligibility and the Q300 items that will be on the ballot, as well as a text that can be sent to friends who are eligible to vote in District 22.

H. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 18, 2024 general membership minutes. The motion was seconded. The members then present approved the motion.

I. New Business

An informal dim sum brunch will be held on March 3 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Royal Queen (Grand) Restaurant on the 3rd Floor of the New World Shopping Mall (in Flushing). If you are interested in attending, please RSVP via the instructions provided in the Google group.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 pm ET. The next general membership meeting will be held on March 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm ET on a virtual platform.

Kate Swearngen & David William Wang, Co-Secretaries