



### A. In Attendance

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26 Q300 PTA members consisting of (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 in attendance. Quorum was reached.

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### B. Call to Order

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The virtual meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. ET. Co-President Mauricio López Campero greeted the attendees.

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### C. Principal’s Report

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Principal Sonita Ramkishun wished attendees a Happy Lunar New Year.

There have been concerns expressed about arrivals and dismissals at the Lower Division. Please do not double park, pull into the bus areas, or park in the driveways on 29<sup>th</sup> Street. The school is in the process of trying to get a crossing guard. If you are interested in volunteering as a crossing guard at the Lower Division any day of the week from 2:10 to 2:40 p.m., please contact Principal Sonita.

Principal Sonita has been having conversations with some families and grades about safety concerns in school. If you have concerns about safety at school, please contact Principal Sonita, your child’s teacher, social worker Rachel Weiss or guidance counsel Khary Chang. All protocols and interventions are listed in the Citywide Behavior Expectations to Support Student Learning, available at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/discipline-code-kindergarten-grade-5.pdf>.

On January 24, the Winter Showcase took place. Students, teachers and families had a blast. Thank you to the PTA for funding the Fall enrichments. Students will begin Spring enrichments tomorrow. Grades K-2 will have dance with Alvin Ailey. Third and Fourth Graders will have a choice between dance with Alvin Ailey, chorus with Togetherhood, book club with Ms. Emily, student government with Ms. Maria, and newspaper with Ms. Leanne. Third and Fourth Graders will also have art with Ms. Elan. Thank you to the PTA for funding the Spring enrichments. Alvin Ailey was not an option for Fall enrichments because of scheduling issues.

Winter i-Ready testing is wrapping up. Once the teachers have reviewed the reports, they will be sent home. If you have any questions about the reports, please contact your child’s teacher to set up a time to meet. Each teacher has 55 minutes per week of parent engagement time.

Simulation state testing took place last week for students in grades 3-8. Some student laptops did not work; Principal Sonita is ordering new laptops with funds she received for technology. The non-functional laptops will be recycled. Families can review the test format at home with their children via the following link: <https://ny.nextera.questarai.com/tds/#practice>. Students will also be practicing in school. After school test prep begins next week for Third and Fourth Grade students. Parents who signed up will receive more information from their child’s teacher. Fifth-Eighth grade students will have test prep integrated into their coursework. Teachers will be sharing more information about how to support your child.

Summer Rising applications will be opening March 4. Applications can be accessed via your child’s MyStudent account. If you have any questions, please contact parent coordinator Jenny Lando.

If you are the parent of a child in grades K-3, please consider activating your child's NYC Kids RISE scholarship and savings platform. If you would like to know more about NYC Kids RISE, please contact Ms. Jenny.

Kindergarten applications have just closed. Parents will receive notifications of their child's placements in April. Applications for students in grades 1-4 will open on April 19. There are a few seats available at Q300 in grades 1-4. If your student has a sibling and is interested in applying to Q300, please contact Ms. Jenny.

Norovirus, flu and other illnesses are on the rise. Please keep your child home if they are throwing up. They must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. The school keeps windows open, uses air purifiers and sanitizes surfaces.

Thank you to the PTA for organizing the Winterfest International Potluck, which will take place on February 1. Please consider attending Winterfest and the multicultural showcase that will follow.

Principal Sonita encouraged parents to let her know about potential sites for a single Q300 building, so she can advocate with the Chancellor.

Two parents thanked Principal Sonita for her attention to allegations of bullying in First Grade and her efforts to build a sense of community in the grade. Principal Sonita and Mauricio clarified that the PTA Board has no role in investigating or determining how to respond to allegations of student bullying.

In response to a question from a parent about the current reading curriculum, Principal Sonita explained that the school is in its second year of HMH Into Reading.

In response to a question from a parent about what Ms. Rachel and Mr. Khary are working on with students, Principal Sonita responded that she includes a blurb on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in her Friday message and will ask Ms. Rachel and Mr. Khary to add more resources. In February, Q300 will be supporting Respect for All, No One Eats Alone Day, and being an upstander.

In response to a parent question as to whether recent Presidential orders would affect programs at Q300, including any diversity initiatives, Principal Sonita responded that she had not yet received any guidance from the New York City Department of Education (DOE).

In response to parent concerns about recent immigration raids in the New York City area, Principal Sonita responded that Q300 is committed to ensuring that every student and family feels safe, supported, and valued regardless of immigration status. Q300 follows DOE guidance when it comes to any request by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents to access school facilities, students, or student records. If ICE or FBI agents were to show up tomorrow at Q300's front door asking for access to the building, the administration would stop them, ask what information they were looking for, and notify DOE lawyers immediately. Additional guidance is available at <https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/guidance-for-principals-on-non-local-law-enforcement-actions-at-nyc-doe-schools-including-immigration-enforcement-actions.pdf>.

In response to a parent question about the Lower Division Spanish curriculum, Principal Sonita responded that students are doing a lot of work around vocabulary and speaking. Principal Sonita said that she would ask Ms. Yvette to share more information with parents about what students are learning in class.

In response to a parent question about whether the telephone numbers of afterschool vendors (Serious Fun and New York Chess Academy) may be included on a sheet on the school's door so that parents may contact them at pick-up time, Principal Sonita responded that she would have to check with the vendors.

In response to a parent question about recent issues involving Fifth and Sixth graders, Principal Sonita responded that Vice Principal Anna Milonakis and Mr. Khary had addressed the issues. Principal Sonita cannot share any interventions or consequences that resulted. Next week, Ms. Sonita and Mr. Khary will be working to implement SEL for the Fifth and Sixth graders pertaining to the specific issues. Additional details will be shared with Fifth and Sixth grade families. In addition, a new lunch routine has been implemented so that students do not physically bump into each other.

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

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Co-Treasurer Sophia Peng delivered the Treasurer's Report. In December, the Direct Appeal collected just over \$50,000, bringing the 2024 year-to-date total to \$111,000. In December, there was an additional \$20,000 in non-Direct Appeal cash inflows, most of it from gift cards. The net from the gift cards sale was \$1,000. The Scholastic book fair, which does not generate cash profit, raised Scholastic Dollars that can be used to purchase books. The PTA received a large check for Barclays Center ticket sales. The PTA received \$300 in interest. Net proceeds from non-Direct Appeal fundraising was just under \$12,000.

For cash outflows, the PTA paid out some expenses from the Fall Costume Party. The PTA incurred \$600 in credit card transaction fees, mostly from the Direct Appeal. The PTA made payments for Teaching Assistants (TAs), bringing 2024 year-to-date TA payments to just under \$70,000. The PTA also made payments for teacher wish lists, New York Chess Academy enrichment, and the Math Club.

At the beginning of December 2024, the PTA had just over \$340,000 in the bank. It closed the month of December with a closing cash balance of just under \$350,000. If you would like more details from the Treasurer's Report, please contact [treasurer@q300pta.org](mailto:treasurer@q300pta.org).

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#### **E. Committee Reports**

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1. Co-President Mauricio López Campero reported that Winterfest will be taking place at the Upper Division on February 1. Winterfest is an annual Q300 PTA potluck where families are invited to bring a food that represents their culture. Winterfest will also feature arts and crafts activities and a summer camp auction. Immediately after Winterfest, there will be a multicultural talent show hosted by Q300. There will be an opportunity at Winterfest to drop off unwanted clothing and shoes. Proceeds from the clothing recycling drive will benefit the Fourth Grade stepping up ceremony and Eighth Grade graduation. Mauricio also reported that the Q300 and PS 17 PTAs are working together on plans for joint fundraising efforts.
  2. Co-Vice-President of Fundraising Lucy Han reported that information will be sent out soon about the Summer Camp Auction. The Summer Camp Auction provides an opportunity for Q300 families to bid on donated summer camp opportunities and to achieve substantial savings while supporting the PTA. Lucy also reported on the NY Martial Arts Academy fundraiser. NY Martial Arts Academy is offering a four-week program that includes two classes per week and a uniform; tuition is donated to the Q300 PTA.
  3. David Wang reported on the Direct Appeal, where over 80% of PTA funds are raised. The Direct Appeal funds enrichments, TAs and other resources that benefit Q300 students. The suggested donation amount is \$1,500 per Lower Division student and \$1,000 per Upper Division student. Many corporate employers offer matching; please check with your employer to see if they do so. Families should give an amount that makes sense for their budget; all donations are meaningful, irrespective of the amount. This year, the PTA's goal is to raise \$230,000 from the Direct Appeal. To date, the PTA has raised approximately \$155,000, less than last year's total at this time which was \$170,000.
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#### **F. Approval of PTA Minutes**

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A motion was made to approve the December 19, 2024 general membership minutes. The motion was seconded. The members then present approved the motion. The minutes are posted at <https://q300pta.org/>.

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#### **G. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m. ET. The next meeting will take place on February 27, 2025, in a virtual format.

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Kate Swearngen & David William Wang, Co-Secretaries