



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • February 27, 2025

### A. In Attendance

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87 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 reported that on February 25, students, teachers and parents celebrated the 100th day of school.

Principal Sonita wished a new year full of health and good fortune to families celebrating Lunar New Year, and a good fast to families observing Ramadan.

There will be no school on March 6 because of parent-teacher conferences. If you were unable to sign up for a conference time, please email your child’s teacher and they will find a time on a different day to speak with you about your child’s academic progress.

Q300 will celebrate #SELday (Social-Emotional Learning Day) on March 3. #SELday is observed across the country. On that day, we focus on the importance of understanding our feelings, getting along with others, and learning how to handle challenges. Q300 teachers will lead students in activities and discussions. Thank you to Ms. Rachel and Mr. Khary for organizing resources for #SELday.

Please complete the NYC School Survey. Currently, only 11% of Q300 parents have submitted their surveys. Families received a paper version of the survey in their child’s backpack. The survey can also be completed online at [NYCSchoolSurvey.org](https://www.schoolsurvey.org). The NYC School survey is open until April 4. You will need your child’s OSIS number, which is printed on the paper survey you received, and which is also available on your child’s past report cards or on your child’s NYC Schools Account at <https://www.schoolsaccount.nyc/>. Please complete one survey for each child. Please contact Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando at [jennylando@q300.org](mailto:jennylando@q300.org) if you need support with the survey. Schools that achieve an overall response rate of 85% across respondent groups (teacher and family, or teacher, family, and students if schools serve students in any of the grades 6-12), will be eligible to receive the NYC School Survey Response Rate Award. Qualifying schools will receive a green ribbon on their 2024-25 School Quality Snapshot.

Several parents raised concerns with the quality of Spanish language instruction at the Upper and Lower Divisions, including whether sufficient attention is paid to learning to speak the language and the grading scale used at the Upper Division.

Several parents expressed interest in volunteering to support recess and lunch at the Lower Division and asked whether a background check was required by NYC Department of Education (DOE) policy or Q300 policy. In response to parents’ questions about recess equipment, Principal Sonita said there was adequate recess

equipment at the Lower and Upper Divisions and that the PTA was working with the Student Council to purchase additional recess equipment. In response to a parent question about whether there could be a non-movie option on indoor recess days, Principal Sonita said that at the Lower and Upper Divisions, there were spaces where students could read or draw instead of watching the movie.

Several parents raised questions about the school's handling of recent disciplinary issues.

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#### **D. President's Report**

Co-President Mauricio López Campero thanked Erica Soto Eng, who recently stepped down as Lower Division Co-Representative, for her extraordinary efforts on behalf of Q300 as a Board member over the past five years.

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#### **E. Treasurer's Report**

Co-Treasurer Sophia Peng delivered the Treasurer's Report. In January, the Direct Appeal collected just over \$39,000, bringing total Direct Appeal fundraising to date to \$150,000. In January, there was an additional \$33,000 in non-Direct Appeal cash inflows, including a check from the UNO Pizzeria & Grill event that took place in the Fall, merchandise sales and the Flower Power fundraiser. The Scholastic Book Fair, which does not generate cash profit, raised Scholastic Dollars that can be used to purchase books.

For cash outflows, the PTA paid out some expenses from teacher wish lists and the Math Club. Total outflows were just under \$2,000. The academic year-to-date spend is just over \$182,000, approximately \$151,000 of which has been for academic enrichment.

At the beginning of January 2025, the PTA had just under \$350,000 in the bank. It closed the month of January with a closing cash balance of just over \$390,000.

If you would like more details from the Treasurer's Report, please contact [treasurer@q300pta.org](mailto:treasurer@q300pta.org).

Sophia delivered the Mid-Year Report. She explained that the budgeted spend for the 2024-2025 academic year is one of the largest in Q300's history. Just over \$476,000 was budgeted for academic support, including \$238,000 for Teaching Assistants (TAs) and \$177,000 for vendor-led enrichments. The pandemic years gave the PTA a healthy reserve, which the PTA has been trying to spend down. The PTA intended to spend down \$295,000 during the 2023-2024 academic year, but did not achieve this, principally due to the administration's difficulty hiring TAs. Instead, the PTA only spent down \$82,000. Now, the PTA is budgeting to spend down its reserve. The targeted balance at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year is \$150,000. Even if the PTA raises the targeted \$230,000 in our current Direct Appeal fundraising, our 2024-2025 spend will exceed the amount of money that we are raising. We will be unable to budget for the same level of academic enrichments for 2025-2026 unless we dramatically increase our fundraising.

Taking into account feedback and priorities from parents, students and teachers as expressed on the Enrichment Survey, the Board proposes a budget which the PTA then votes to accept or reject. If you are interested in working on the Enrichment Committee and helping to finalize the Enrichment Surveys and research vendors, please contact [KateS@q300pta.org](mailto:KateS@q300pta.org).

David Wang, Co-Chair of the Direct Appeal, reported that we are lagging in fundraising as compared to last year's Direct Appeal. Last year at this time, we were at \$170,000; this year, we are at \$155,000. Currently, there is a 30% participation rate. Meeting the \$230,000 goal will allow the PTA to hit the ground running in September.

In response to a question about the PTA potentially covering a request by the administration to pay approximately \$60,000 to replace air conditioners at the Lower and Upper Division, Co-President Dana Holmes reported that the PTA has been trying to exhaust all potential sources of funding, including from elected leaders, prior to asking parents to support this request. Co-Vice President of Fundraising Lucy Han, who has reached out to a number of elected leaders in connection with the administration's request, reported that State Senator Jessica González-Rojas will be visiting the school soon. The PTA Board has been in contact with Whitney Toussaint, the Community Education Council (CEC) District 30 President, for assistance in getting funds for this request. Whitney reported

that the New York City School Construction Authority (NYC SCA) was unable to make funds available for the air conditioning replacement.

Co-Vice President of Fundraising Nicole Friedman reported on three potential fundraising initiatives that require a PTA vote. The first is a no-risk soccer fundraiser from the New York City Football Club (NYCFC). The PTA pre-purchases the NYCFC tickets and sells them, with any profits going to the PTA. The tickets can be distributed across any two games of the season, with some limits on popular games. Local games are played at Citi Field and Yankee Stadium. If there are leftover tickets, they can be sold on the secondary market. Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando has organized Q300 NYCFC events in the past and there has been significant interest by the school community. The PTA would spend \$2,000 to purchase 100 tickets, which it would then sell at a profit of \$5 per ticket. A motion was made to approve the resolution to spend \$2,000 to purchase 100 tickets. The motion was seconded. The members in attendance then voted to approve the motion.

The second fundraising initiative is a collection of worn sneakers, with PS 17, to raise money for uniforms and equipment for the Q300/PS 17 combined sports teams (basketball and soccer). The collection company, GotSneakers, will provide bags for gathering the sneakers and will provide instructions for sending the sneakers via FedEx. There are three tiers of sneakers that will raise money for the PTA: lightly worn sneakers that can be resold will receive \$7, sneakers that are more worn will receive \$3, and sneakers that are heavily worn will receive \$1. Sneakers that are in a condition where they cannot be resold will receive no money and will be recycled to make children's playground equipment. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. The members in attendance then voted to approve the motion.

The third fundraising initiative is related to an offer to provide a donation for those who place catering orders from two restaurants in Midtown Manhattan. The restaurants are owned by a Kindergarten parent. The Fundraising Committee will advertise to the Q300 community the opportunity to participate by placing individual or group catering orders. The PTA will receive a percentage of the profit from orders placed by members of the Q300 community. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. The members in attendance then voted to approve the motion.

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## **F. Committee Reports**

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1. Co-Vice President of Upper Division Yvette Choy reported that Q300 spirit wear orders will be available the first or second week of March.
2. Co-Vice President of Communications Betty Ruan reminded parents that they can find information about Q300 PTA events on several different channels, including the PTA website at [q300pta.org](https://q300pta.org), the PTA Instagram page, and the monthly PTA email bulletin. If you are interested in receiving this email bulletin, please email [communications@q300pta.org](mailto:communications@q300pta.org). Thank you to Tomonori Nagano and the web team for their help keeping the website up to date.
3. Co-Vice President of Membership Afrosa Amin reported that on February 1, Winter Fest took place. It was a very successful event with approximately 400 attendees and 40 dishes, and was followed by a Multicultural Show where many students performed. Please consider submitting a recipe for the Q300 cookbook. The deadline for submission is April 18. Please send submissions to [cookbook@q300pta.org](mailto:cookbook@q300pta.org).
4. Vice President of Community Affairs Dev Purkayastha reported that he and Co-President Dana Holmes attended a participatory budgeting/civic assembly session. Participatory budgeting is a process whereby residents of some City Council districts vote on how to spend \$1 million in capital funding. City Council Member Tiffany Cabán, whose district includes the Upper and Lower Divisions, has participated in participatory budgeting. Last year, Q300 had a ballot proposal for auditorium upgrades at the Upper and Lower Divisions. Unfortunately, the proposal did not win. If you are interested in helping Q300 with this year's participatory budgeting process or being a co-Vice President with Dev, please email [communityaffairs@q300pta.org](mailto:communityaffairs@q300pta.org).
5. Co-Representative of Lower Division Piotr Drys encouraged parents with ideas, questions or concerns to contact him at [ldrep@q300pta.org](mailto:ldrep@q300pta.org). Representative of Upper Division Nick Skolnick thanked Erica Soto Eng

for her efforts as Co-Representative of Lower Division and encouraged anyone interested in running for the vacant position to email [ldrep@q300pta.org](mailto:ldrep@q300pta.org).

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### **G. Approval of PTA Minutes**

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A motion was made to approve the January 30, 2025 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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### **H. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m. ET. The next meeting will take place on March 27, 2025, in a virtual format.

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Kate Swearengen & David William Wang, Co-Secretaries