



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • March 27, 2025

### A. In Attendance

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32 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 6:40 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 61% of Q300 parents have completed the NYC School Survey. 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 11. 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. Classes that achieve at least an 85% participation rate will receive an extra recess. Class 402 was the first class at Q300 to achieve an 85% participation rate.

The March School Leadership Team (SLT) meeting has been rescheduled for April 7, and the April SLT meeting has been rescheduled for April 28. These meetings occur in-person, but there will be a webinar link for members of the Q300 community to watch and listen.

Kindergarten offers will come out on April 2. On April 21, applications for students in Grades 1-4 will open. Applications will close May 9.

Respiratory viruses are spreading. If your child tests positive for Covid-19 or the flu, please notify the school for guidance. Students are not allowed to return to school unless they are fever-free and symptom-free for 24 hours.

Tomorrow is Sports Day; students are invited to wear their favorite team jersey to school. Shout out to Student Council and student representatives for planning the monthly Spirit Days.

In response to a parent question, Principal Sonita clarified that she cannot share her personal NYC Department of Education (DOE) Zoom account with webinar function with the PTA.

At the February PTA meeting, several parents had 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. Principal Sonita reported that since that meeting, the Eighth Graders took a Spanish language simulation test in preparation for the Checkpoint A (formerly Second Language Proficiency) exam. After the administration reviews the scores, it will determine whether additional test prep is needed. Principal Sonita also met with an external vendor that offers Spanish language test prep support, and may partner with the vendor this year, or speak with the PTA's Enrichment Committee about partnering with the vendor next year. In response to a parent question as to whether the results of last year's Checkpoint A exam were available, Principal Sonita reported that the scores last year had increased and have

been increasing every year. Last year was the final year Checkpoint A was administered on paper; this year, the exam will be taken on computer.

In response to a parent question as to how many families had filled out a DOE survey about family income, Principal Sonita said she did not have access to the data and would check.

Happy Eid to those families who are celebrating. There is no school on Monday, March 31.

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## D. President's Report

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Co-President Mauricio López Campero reported that Q300 has submitted several ballot proposals for participatory budgeting. 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 (District 22) includes the Upper and Lower Divisions, participates in participatory budgeting. The Q300 proposals include a computer lab for the Lower Division, a library for the Lower Division, and air conditioning for the Upper Division. Voting will take place online and in-person from March 29 through April 6. Anyone age 11 years or older who lives, works or has children attending school in District 22 can vote.

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## E. Treasurer's Report

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Co-Treasurer Amy Wong delivered the Treasurer's Report. In February, the Direct Appeal collected approximately \$5,500, bringing total Direct Appeal fundraising to date to approximately \$156,000. In February, there was an additional \$9,700 in non-Direct Appeal cash inflows, including from the UNO Pizzeria & Grill event that took place in the Fall, Winter Fest, and merchandise sales.

Total cash outflows for the month of February were approximately \$143,000 and included pay for Teaching Assistants (TAs), Spring enrichments, teachers' wish lists, and the monthly speakers.

As of the end of February, the PTA had just under \$261,000 in the bank.

As explained at the February PTA meeting, the PTA built up significant cash reserves during the Covid-19 pandemic due to school closures and restrictions on who could enter school buildings. As a result, money that parents had donated for TAs and enrichment vendors was not used. Since the return to school, the PTA has endeavored to spend down its reserves in accordance with the principle that money that is donated by Q300 families is intended to be used relatively soon after it is donated, not sit in a bank account for years. 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.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with the budget planning process, please contact [treasurer@q300pta.org](mailto:treasurer@q300pta.org).

If you are interested in volunteering to help the PTA with its end-of-year tax filings, please contact [treasurer@q300pta.org](mailto:treasurer@q300pta.org). Special thanks to Sue Sekar and her husband, Ramesh, for doing this work for the past 10 years.

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

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## F. Committee Reports

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1. Direct Appeal Co-Chair thanked those who have donated to the Direct Appeal, which funds TAs, enrichments, electives teacher wish lists, and much more. To date, the Direct Appeal has raised approximately \$175,000 of donations and pledges, 76% of the way to our goal of \$230,000. Please give whatever amount you can. This will allow us to hit the ground running when school starts in September. The current participation rate is about

30%; in the past, the participation rate has been as high as 78%. Your support is important and the money you donate enriches your child's education; please consider asking your child about their experiences with electives, enrichments and TAs to get a sense of the important work the PTA funds.

2. Mauricio Campero-López reported on behalf of the Fundraising Co-Vice Presidents that there will be a Chuck E. Cheese fundraiser on April 4. More information is available at <https://q300pta.org/2025/03/03/chuck-e-cheese-fundraising-4-4-2025/>.
3. David Wang reported on behalf of the Enrichment Committee that those who are interested in volunteering to help survey for and research potential enrichment opportunities for the 2025-2026 academic year should email [KateS@q300pta.org](mailto:KateS@q300pta.org).

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

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A motion was made to approve the February 27, 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 7:25 p.m. ET. The next meeting will take place on April 24, 2025, in a virtual format.

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Kate Swearngen & David William Wang, Co-Secretaries