



A. In Attendance

Thirty-six (36) 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.

B. Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order at about 6:35 p.m. ET by PTA President Paula Marisi.

C. Principal’s Report

Principal Sonita Ramkishun reported that Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) yellow school bus schedules have shifted slightly due to the volume of snow. Things should return to normal next week.

The Lower Division enrichment showcasing the Fall cycle of enrichments will be taking place on January 30. Please be mindful that parking is very limited. Webinar links have been provided if parents are not able to attend in-person. Thank you to the PTA for helping fund the enrichments.

On February 13, Q300 will be participating in No One Eats Alone Day, which is designed to help students recognize social isolation and build meaningful connections. Parent volunteers will be invited to lunch on that day to help provide support. On February 23, Q300 will be celebrating the 100th day of school. Parents are invited to volunteer at the Lower Division celebration, which will take place from 9:00-10:30, and at the Upper Division celebration, which will take place from 1:15-2:30. Finally, Career Day will be taking place on March 17; parents are invited to volunteer to speak to students about their careers.

Principal Sonita reported that last year, Q300 moved from Eureka Math to Desmos Amplify for math instruction in grades 3-8. Q300 is now piloting Demos Amplify for grades K-1. There are no textbooks. In response to parent concerns about how to support their children at home in the absence of a math textbook and no visibility into the strategies students are expected to use to solve math problems, Principal Sonita encouraged parents to speak with their children’s teachers and committed to also raising this issue with teachers.

No decision has yet been made as to whether the District 30 middle schools will switch from Desmos Amplify to Illustrative Math. Principal Sonita does not foresee having to pursue an opt-out strategy from Illustrative Math as the school is proficient in state test scores.

Scaffolding work is occurring on the exterior of the Lower Division campus. The work is anticipated to last two years. The playground will be impacted, but Principal Sonita and the PS 17 principal are working to get access to the park next door for recess.

In response to parents’ concerns about the amount of screentime at Q300, both in classrooms and during indoor recess, the administration surveyed parents and is discussing the issue at School Leadership Team (SLT meetings). Q300 strives for a balance between screen-based and paper-based learning. The curriculum is largely device-based, and state testing now occurs on devices. Movies are played during indoor recess because there are many students in both buildings who must eat and transition to recess within a limited amount of time, and with limited space and staffing capacity. Principal Sonita has surveyed teachers on the amount of screen-based learning that is taking place in their classrooms; those results will be shared with parents.

In response to a question about field trips, Principal Sonita encouraged parents to speak to their child's teacher.

D. President's Report

President Paula Marisi reported that at least one of the OPT yellow school buses was delayed in getting to school this morning because of an accident on the Van Wyck. The bus itself was not involved in the accident. Paula encouraged parents who are part of the informal WhatsApp bus chats (which are not organized by the PTA) to report if the bus is delayed in getting to their stop and to share other information on bus status, including where the bus stops. There are two ways to lodge complaints about the bus. One is by dialing 311. The other is by submitting a complaint online via <https://supporthub.schools.nyc/family-topics/Transportation/issues?facetId=ecd6651a-11d5-4cc9-9671-eb903d6df66a>.

Paula reported that she had a meeting with co-located school PS17's PTA President. In the past, the two schools hosted joint events, including a joint sneaker fundraiser last year. Both PTAs are looking to build their relationship so they can advocate effectively for students in the two schools.

Work on the One School initiative continues. The goal of One School is to have Q300's Upper and Lower Division campuses united in one building. The One School Committee is working with Principal Sonita and Community Education Council (CEC) District 30 President Whitney Toussaint to make sure strategies are aligned and will be having structured conversations with elected officials. There are several spaces in Queens that are currently in discussion for charter school use. The One School Committee is advocating that such spaces be prioritized for New York City Department of Education (DOE) public schools.

The PTAs of the other four citywide gifted and talented (G&T) schools have signed onto a letter to Mayor Zohran Mamdani expressing support for the continuance of G&T programs in New York City public schools. The Q300 PTA is currently reviewing the letter. If you are interested in seeing it, please contact Paula at president@pta.org. The citywide G&T PTA presidents have been working to build a loose coalition to have a seat at the table if the Mayor considers changes to G&T.

E. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report

Paula Marisi reported that the School Leadership Team (SLT) is reviewing the results of last year's NYC School Survey and determining how to improve the experience for Q300 students and engage with the parent body. The survey is available to families, teachers, and staff of students in grades 3K through 12, and to students in grades 6–12. The survey, which is anonymous, 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. Last year's survey results are available at <https://secure.panoramaed.com/nycdoe/understand>.

Parents have the option of attending SLT meetings as observers in-person at the Lower Division or via Zoom. Meeting details, including how to join remotely, are provided every month by Principal Sonita.

F. Treasurer's Report and Resolutions

Co-Treasurer Amy Wong delivered the Treasurer's Report. In December, the PTA collected approximately \$74,000 from the Direct Appeal, \$14,000 from the Giftcard Fundraiser, and \$4,600 from the Lower Division Book Fair (for which the PTA took a cash disbursement instead of Scholastic dollars). Total income was approximately \$93,000. In December, the PTA paid out approximately \$18,500 for the Giftcard Fundraiser (the expenses occurred in December but the income was split between November and December, for a profit of approximately \$1,000), \$500 for teacher wishlists, and \$3,000 for the Lower Division Book Fair. Total expenditures were approximately \$22,000. As of the end of December, the PTA had approximately \$237,000 in the bank. If you would like more details from the Treasurer's Report, please contact treasurer@q300pta.org.

A motion was made to add \$1,000 to the budget to pre-purchase Tier II tickets for New York City Football Club tickets, which the PTA re-sells at a profit. The motion was seconded. The members then present voted to approve the motion.

G. Committee Reports

1. Co Vice-President of Fundraising Lucy Han reported that the Winterfest online auction will be live on January 31.
 2. Co Vice-President of Membership Jennifer Holohan reported that Winterfest will take place on January 31 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Upper Division and will include a potluck where families are invited to bring foods representing their cultures. If you bring food, please ensure that it is labeled with a list of its ingredients so that families with allergies are aware. There will be crafts and Mr. José will DJ, and there will be an informal uniform swap. Please feel free to bring any Q300 uniform items you would like to exchange in the swap. After Winterfest a multicultural talent showcase will take place in the auditorium.
 3. Community Affairs Vice President Rachana Shah reported on behalf of the Fourth Grade, which is raising money for its Moving Up activities, that a bake sale will be taking place at the Lower Division Arts showcase on January 30. In addition, the Fourth Grade will be coordinating a chocolate rose sale for Valentine's Day.
 4. Paula Marisi reported that Fourth Grade and Eighth Grade will be fundraising at Winterfest for their Moving Up and Graduation activities, respectively.
 5. Co Vice-President of Communications Elizabeth Peterson-Minor invited families to join the WhatsApp community groups, PTA Facebook group, and PTA Instagram group. Please email communications@q300.org if you need help accessing any of these.
 6. Direct Appeal Co-Chair David Wang reported on the Direct Appeal, which launched in October. The Direct Appeal is the most efficient way to give money to provide enrichment, supports and other resources that help deepen your child's educational experience at Q300. The Direct Appeal funds approximately 83% of the PTA budget. This year, the Direct Appeal goal is \$200,000. The suggested donation for each Lower Division student is \$1,700, and the suggested donation for each Upper Division student is \$1,200. Please give an amount that makes sense for your family. Installment payments are possible. Please note that many employers offer corporate matching, which is a way to turbocharge your donation. Typically, the Direct Appeal brings in \$30,000-40,000 in matching donations. To date, the Direct Appeal has raised approximately \$152,000, roughly 75% of its goal. This year, parents have the option to donate online via Zeffy, which does not charge credit card fees. In March, the annual "March Madness" push will aim to raise the additional \$48,000 dollars and increase participation.
 7. Rachana Shah asked parents interested in forming a committee to address immigration enforcement efforts in the schools to contact her directly.
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H. Approval of PTA Minutes

A motion was made to approve the December 18, 2025 general membership minutes. The motion was seconded. The members then present approved the motion. The minutes are posted at <https://q300pta.org/>.

I. New Business

Dev Purkayastha reported that January 30 will be a National Day of Action concerning events that have been happening in the country.

Rachana Shah reported on a campaign to write letters to children in Minnesota who cannot leave their homes.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. ET. The next meeting will take place on February 26, 2026 at 6:30pm ET, in a virtual format.

Kate Swearngen & David William Wang, Co-Secretaries