



**A. In Attendance**

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Twenty-nine (29) 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 about 6:40 p.m. ET by PTA President Paula Marisi.

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**C. Principal’s Report**

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Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando delivered the Principal’s Report on behalf of Principal Sonita Ramkishun.

Tomorrow Q300 will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School. The celebration was delayed because of the blizzard on Monday that resulted in the cancellation of school. At the Lower Division, families will join from 9-10 a.m. and at the Upper Division, families will join from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The times are staggered at the request of parents who have students at both campuses. If you did not RSVP for the event but now want to attend, you can come and add your name to the school safety agent’s list. Celebrations will take place in your child’s classroom.

Summer Rising applications will open on March 3. It is not first-come, first-served; parents have until March 27 to submit their applications. Certain students will have priority at certain locations, for various reasons. The administration will be sending out more information about the Summer Rising program, which is for current kindergarteners through current 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

On March 5, 8<sup>th</sup> graders will receive their high school offers at the end of the day. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Khary.

March 5 will be a half-day of school for Q300 students because of parent-teacher conferences. All parent-teacher conferences are virtual. Links to sign up for parent teacher conferences were emailed by Principal Sonita earlier today. If you could not secure a time slot, please email your student’s teacher and they will find another time on a different day to speak with you. Dismissal forms for the half-day of school have been backpacked home; please ensure they are filled out and returned to the school so the administration is aware of students’ dismissal plans.

NYC School Surveys have opened. 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?auth\\_token=NeMqBRG7xyKtyeqmK\\_Nd](https://secure.panoramaed.com/nycdoe/understand?auth_token=NeMqBRG7xyKtyeqmK_Nd).

You may complete the survey on the paper form that will be backpacked home with your student next week or online via your student’s NYC Schools Account (NYSCA).

There are still PTA fundraiser New York City Football Club (NYCFC) tickets available to the May 3 game at Citifield at 3:00 p.m. If you would like to purchase a ticket for \$30, the deadline is March 9. Jenny will send an email with a Google form link to order tickets.

Thank you to those families who have signed up for the NYC Kids RISE Save for College Program, in particular the kindergarten families who have a high participation rate. If you have questions about this program, please contact [jennylando@q300.org](mailto:jennylando@q300.org).

If you have questions on any other topics, please contact Principal Sonita at [principal@q300.org](mailto:principal@q300.org).

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

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President Paula Marisi asked for volunteers to join the PTA's Enrichment Committee. The Enrichment Committee works with the administration to plan enrichments by reviewing current enrichment offerings and surveying the Q300 community about current enrichments and enrichments they would like to see in the future. If you are interested in helping, please email [enrichment@q300pta.org](mailto:enrichment@q300pta.org).

A parent reported that she was pleased with the Architecture enrichment offered in Second Grade and expressed hope that Architecture through the Center for Architecture would be offered to Third Grade. Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando explained that historically, Architecture is only offered in Second Grade and that Third and Fourth Grade technically follow a school-wide enrichment model (SEM) whereby students pick their top three enrichment choices and are placed in one of them. Jenny explained that it is technically possible for Architecture to be one of those offerings, but there are lots of moving parts and ultimately, the decision is up to the administration.

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#### **E. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report**

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Marisa Nagano reported that at its last meeting, the School Leadership Team (SLT) reviewed the results of last year's NYC School Survey to determine 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. Data from the survey will be used to fine tune the school's annual Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP).

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.

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#### **F. Treasurer's Report and Resolutions**

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Co-Treasurer Amy Wong delivered the Treasurer's Report. Amy reported that in January, the PTA filed its mid-year financial report and filed for an extension on its tax filing deadline. Now the deadline is in May.

In January, the PTA collected approximately \$23,000 from the Direct Appeal, \$230 from the Winterfest auction, and \$60 from the Flower Power fundraiser. In addition, the PTA had \$35,000 in income from its partnership with the Barclays Center. Total income was approximately \$60,000. In January, the PTA paid out approximately \$12,000 for Upper Division enrichments (music, chorus and the Astoria Film Festival), \$2,000 for teacher wishlists, \$1,200 for the Math and Debate Teams and \$600 for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation fund. Total expenditures were approximately \$16,000. As of the end of January, the PTA had approximately \$280,000 in the bank. If you would like more details from the Treasurer's Report, please contact [treasurer@q300pta.org](mailto:treasurer@q300pta.org).

The Fall Carnival raised approximately \$8,000, the Costume Party raised approximately \$3,000, the Teacher Experience raffle raised approximately \$1,100, Spirit Wear raised approximately \$2,500 and gift cards raised approximately \$900. The Book Fair raised approximately \$1,700 due to the PTA cashing out some of the Scholastic dollars (credit). The PTA is working with the administration to spend down the remaining Scholastic dollars.

Note to teachers - the PTA has budgeted \$3,200 for Upper Division field trips. Please contact [treasurer@q300pta.org](mailto:treasurer@q300pta.org) if you would like to take advantage of this fund or have any questions about it.

A motion was made to conduct an Upper Division Book Fair with Astoria Bookshop. No PTA funds are needed. The PTA will receive a portion of total sales. The motion was seconded. The members then present voted to approve the motion.

A motion was made to increase the Math Team budget by \$1,000 (from \$3,000 to \$4,000) to cover competition expenses. The motion was seconded. The members then present voted to approve the motion.

Barbara Monroe spoke about an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation fundraiser that does not require PTA funds. It involves the purchase of movie tickets through Regal Cinema; income from the fundraiser would flow into the PTA and out of the PTA into the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation fund. A motion was made to approve the pass-through of funds. The motion was seconded. The members then present voted to approve the motion.

If you are willing to serve on the PTA's Audit Committee for this year, please contact [treasurer@q300pta.org](mailto:treasurer@q300pta.org).

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## **G. Committee Reports**

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1. Co Vice-President of Fundraising Nicole Friedman reported that the Summer Camps online auction recently closed. A number of auction items received no bids. The PTA may re-open the auction so the Q300 community has another opportunity to bid on those items.

2. Co Vice-President of Membership Jennifer Holohan reported that Winterfest was successful and thanked families for participating in the event.

3. 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. The current participation rate is 33%. So far, Fifth Grade has the highest participation rate, followed by Kindergarten and Second Grade. 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.

4. Co Vice-President of Upper Division Afrosa Amin encouraged families to send a favorite home recipe plus photos for inclusion in the Q300 cookbook. Recipes can be emailed to [cookbook@q300pta.org](mailto:cookbook@q300pta.org). Please include your student's name and grade and a short story about the dish (how it became a family favorite, memories around it, or why it matters to you).

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## **H. Approval of PTA Minutes**

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A motion was made to approve the January 29, 2026 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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## **I. New Business**

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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.

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## **J. Adjournment**

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

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Kate Swearngen & David William Wang, Co-Secretaries