



## PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

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11/21/2014 6:00 PM | IN PERSON | *Meeting called to order by* David Wang

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### In Attendance

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It was noted that (a) parents and other “persons in a parental relation” as defined by the regulations of the New York City Chancellor to a child or children currently attending Q300 (the “**Parents**”) and (b) eligible Q300 teachers and instructional staff members who are currently employed on a full-time basis (the “**Staff**”) at Q300 were present. The total number of Parents and Staff present was at least 81.

### Call to Order

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David called the General Membership Meeting of the Q300 Parent-Teacher Association (the “**PTA**”) to order at 6:00pm.

### 1. President's Report

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PTA President David Wang gave his report. The following are highlights:

- a. David noted that the agenda will be shortened today, given that the International Potluck would occur directly after the meeting.
- b. He noted that so much has happened since the August gathering at Rainey Park. First, the PTA website is online, thanks to parent Amy He. Second, two issues of the PTA newsletter have already been published, thanks to the leadership of Co-VP of Communications Jamie Trish and parent Ingrid Bromberg Kennedy.
- c. David expressed appreciation for the work of Co-VP of Community Affairs Maria Hantzopoulos for outreaching to parents about proposed plans for a new playground at IS 126, which will be the new home of Q300’s middle school. He also thanked Co-VPs of Fundraising Sonal Ross and Sarah Willet Chang, Maria H., Co-VP of Community Affairs Maria Cruz and others for organizing recent fundraisers, including bake sale and Thanksgiving pie sale.
- d. David explained that last month, the PTA approved a budget, based on a budget priorities survey that 80% of Q300 families completed, as well as discussions with the Administration. The budget focuses on (i) hiring certified teaching assistants; (ii) introducing music education and sports; and (iii) other programs that will deepen and enrich the education of Q300 education.

- e. David explained that the PTA is launching its inaugural Direct Appeal Campaign, in which the PTA would fund the budget not only for the Spring semester but also fall 2015. While the suggested voluntary contribution is \$1,500 per student, he noted that families should give or raise an amount that makes sense to them. The PTA's aim is 100% family participation, regardless of amount. Every gift will make a difference.
- f. David announced that 100% of the PTA Board members have pledged to the Direct Appeal. He asked the Membership to do the same.
- g. In response to a question, David explained that the PTA is applying for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Once the application is approved, any donations made from the date of the PTA's incorporation (which occurred on Oct. 31, 2014) would be tax-deductible. Donors should consult a tax advisor regarding the tax deductibility of any donation at this time.

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## 2. Principal's Report

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Principal Matt Willard gave his report. The following are highlights:

- a. Principal Willard stated that he is working with the PTA in developing a program in which parents would volunteer during breakfast and lunch/recess. The PTA and Q300 are drafting volunteer guidelines. He also noted that Q300 and Public School 17 have reached out to the organization Learning Leaders to hold a training workshop for parents who are interested in volunteering during the reading blocks for kindergarten and first graders. He anticipated that the workshop would occur early next year.
- b. Principal Willard invited parents to schedule classroom visits to observe their student's class. Interested parents should contact Q300 social worker Jill Kaufman (jill[at]q300.org).
- c. Principal Willard noted that in its first year, Q300 received about USD \$58,000 in federal Title I funds. A portion of such funds was spent on professional development. He noted that once the School Leadership Team ("SLT") has been formed, it will determine how 1% of such funds will be spent.

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## 4. Treasurers' Report

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Co-Treasurers Maria Duda and Jasmine Rosner presented the Treasurers' Report. They noted that the PTA has opened a bank account earlier this month. In each subsequent Treasurers' Report, they will provide updated PTA financials for the previous month. Maria asked for volunteers to serve on the PTA's Audit Committee.

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## 5. School Leadership Team ("SLT") Elections

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David explained that the School Leadership Team is responsible for developing school-based educational policies and ensuring that the school budget is aligned to implement those policies. It also assists in the evaluation and assessment of Q300's educational programs. David noted

that in the SLT's initial year, Q300 parents will elect four non-mandatory parent members (the "**Parent Members**"). (The PTA President serves as a mandatory parent member of the SLT.)

The proposed SLT bylaws stagger the Parent Member terms, to avoid a situation in the future where all Parent Members are up for election.

Two Parent Members (the "**One-Year Term Parent Members**") will serve a one-year term. In subsequent years, they are eligible to serve two-year terms; however, they may not serve more than a total of three consecutive terms or five consecutive years.

The remaining two Parent Members (the "**Two-Year Term Parent Members**") will serve two-year terms; however they may not serve more than a total of two consecutive terms or four years.

David turned the meeting over to SLT Nominating Committee Chairperson Paula Marisi to run the SLT election.

Paula noted that five candidates had submitted biographies, which were available in hard copy at the meeting.

Paula announced that two candidates, parents Maria Hantzopolous and Elizabeth Seales Yarmy, are running for the two positions for the Two-Year Term Parent Members. A motion was made to nominate Maria and Elizabeth for the position of Two-Year Term Parent Members. The motion was seconded. Maria and Elizabeth accepted the nomination. Both were elected by acclamation.

Paula announced that three candidates, parents Shirley Moy, Karen Babich, and Catherine Leopando, are running for the two positions for the One-Year Parent Members. Each candidate gave a statement to those assembled.

The Membership held a secret ballot for the election of the One-Year Parent Members. Paula and PTA Executive Vice President Serena Chew collected and counted the ballots. After the ballots were counted, Paula announced that Shirley and Catherine had been elected as One-Year Parent Members.

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## 6. Announcements

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There were no further announcements.

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## 7. Adjournment / Next Meeting

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David noted that the next Association General Membership meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

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David William Wang, President