



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES • NOVEMBER 17, 2016

A. In Attendance

It was noted that (a) parents and other “persons in a parental relation” as defined by the regulations of the New York City Chancellor and designated persons having a relationship 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 29.

B. Call to Order

Co-PTA President Maria Hantzopoulos and Andrea Tappert called the meeting of the General Membership of the Q300 Parent-Teacher Association (the “**PTA**”) to order at 6:35 pm in the auditorium at the upper division campus at 31-51 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11106

C. President’s Report

Maria and Andrea gave the President’s report. The following are highlights:

1. Thanks to sixth grade parent Dan Viderman and child for organizing the origami presentation for students at tonight’s meeting.
2. The Middle School received a new set of class chromebooks this week.
3. Gallery Night will occur on Friday, November 18 at an art gallery in the Lower East Side. The event is a chance for parents and other adults in the Q300 community to socialize over wine and light food.
4. The PTA is partnering with La Guli Bakery of Astoria to bring you delicious pies for Thanksgiving. Pies are \$15.75 each and all proceeds go to support the PTA. For lower division orders, pies must be picked up at the school. For upper division orders, the pies will be given to the students to bring home.
5. The PTA and Public School 17 will jointly organize a free Movie Night in the lower division campus on December 9, 2016 at 5:30 pm. The movie is the Secret Lives of Pets. Pizza, beverage, and snacks will be sold. Proceeds will be split between the two schools.
6. The PTA is organizing a coat and sock drive in November and December. The PTA is encouraging the Q300 community to contribute what they can and help New Yorkers in need.
7. The middle school is accepting donations of old keyboard, computer mouse, or graphing calculator (Texas Instrument-84 Plus or earlier model).
8. On November 23, 2016, the PTA is organizing a pre-Thanksgiving luncheon for teachers and staff. Special thanks to third grade parent Rami Motyir, owner of Flavors Café, for providing the delicious luncheon.

Thanks also to first grade parent Adele Brice for coordinating a special tote of gifts for the teacher and staff. also will have special gift totes for teachers that day, coordinated by Adele Brice.

9. Middle school open house will occur on November 22, 2016 at 5:30 pm.
10. Parents are organizing a voluntary holiday group collection to show our appreciation to the entire Q300 team who has dedicated themselves tirelessly to our children's education. This is not an official PTA collection. Once the money is collected, it will be distributed (via gift cards) among all the classroom teachers, specials teachers, administration, school aides, security guards, and main custodians. The suggested donation is \$50, but any amount you are able to contribute will be greatly appreciated.
11. An Arts showcase may be held just before the December General Membership meeting. The school will confirm the event.
12. The PTA will be organizing a holiday breakfast in both the lower and upper division in December. More information will follow.
13. Class parents are still needed for class 601, 702, and 801.
14. Congratulations to Kazumi Naimoli and Gina Reis for their election as Co-Treasurer; Thomas Mangan and Amanda Spielman for their election as Co-VP of Communications; Lynn Kennedy Margarita Soto for the election as Co-VP of Community Affairs; Siobhan Watson for her election as VP of Elementary Division; and Jenny Lando for her election as VP of Middle School Division.

D. Treasurer's Report

Co-treasurer Gina Reis circulated the attached Treasurer's Report, which summarizes the PTA's finances as of October 31, 2016. The following are highlights:

1. The PTA raised approximately \$19,000 from the Direct Appeal, and \$4,191 from the Costume Party. The PTA made payments for a class set of Chromebooks for the middle school, visual art for the lower division and seventh grade, and 3rd grade recorder instruments.
2. The PTA has an adjusted cash balance of \$93,138.24. The largest expenses was payment of the Alvin Ailey Dance

E. School Leadership Team ("SLT") Report

Maria gave highlights from the SLT meeting, held on November 7, 2016. The SLT discussed a change in format for the lower division report cards. For the lower division, Q300 will issue the standard Department of Education report card via the web-based Stars Classroom platform, rather than the Q300-customized version that used in previous years.

The SLT met in core value action teams. The "inquiry" team discussed updating Q300's outreach and recruitment materials. The "inclusion" team talked about developing guidelines for volunteers serving at the school. The "responsibility" team developed a plan to apply for grant opportunities.

F. Fundraising Committee

Co-Vice President of Fundraising Blain Kennedy announced that the Direct Appeal has raised thus far raised over \$44,500. He noted that hard-copy, grade-specific flyers explaining the Direct Appeal have been to families. He asked Members to go to www.q300pta.org for more information.

G. Community Affairs Committee

Co-VP of Community Affairs Margarita Soto noted that the committee has been researching potential government grants to Q300. A meeting has been scheduled with the local New York State Assembly Member. She also stated that the committee is seeking volunteer neighborhood liaisons to coordinate community events with Q300 families.

H. Mindfulness Presentation

Kindergarten teacher Brooke Goldfeder and Colin Lieu of Multitasking Yogi Balance conducted a short session of meditation and mindfulness. The session included focusing on active listening exercises, breathing exercises, and self-massage. Brooke expressed interest in applying for a grant to bring mindfulness activities to complement the school's curriculum.

I. Principal's Report

Principal Bill Biniaris gave the Principal's Report. The following are highlights:

1. Lower Division

- a. Kindergarten students are writing about small moments and about significant objects.
- b. In science, first graders are learning about states of matter. First grade teacher Cristina made a presentation with liquid nitrogen. In math, first graders are making inventories of items and are bundling items in groups of five and ten.
- c. Second graders are learning about the Astoria neighborhood and creating a small scale model in the PTA-funded architecture class.
- d. Third graders are learning about giving peer feedback.

2. Upper Division

- a. The seventh graders had a great overnight trip to the Taconic Outdoor Education Center.
- b. The guidance counselor is working with eighth graders on high school admissions.
- c. Trees New York Director of Youth Programs Cheryl Blaylock visited the middle school to discuss the importance of tree stewardship in the City. She led our students in a daffodil planting project.
- d. A sixth grade student won the School District 30's "Respect for All" poster contest. The goal of the contest is to raise awareness around bullying issues.
- e. The school is organizing an Arts Showcase to highlight our students' work in December.

3. General Issues and Questions

- a. Bill noted that on November 15, 2016, Dr. Philip Composto, School District 30 Superintendent, conducted a quality review of Q300. Several parents met with Dr. Composto in connection with the review.
- b. Bill stated that report cards would be distributed on Monday afternoon at both of our campuses. For the lower division, Q300 will issue the standard Department of Education report card via the web-based Stars Classroom platform, rather than the Q300-customized version that used in previous years. He noted that the Department of Education standard report card is already used in the upper division. He noted that there is some ability for teachers to add more personal comments in the standard report card. The school's long-term goal is to improve the quality of student information that is being captured and retained. The school will continue its conversation with families and staff to assess the efficacy of this report card.
- c. Bill noted that the report cards were not distributed before the November parent-teacher conferences because teachers may not have had enough data to evaluate student performance so early in the semester. (Rescheduling the parent-teacher conference would have required a vote of the teachers in the Spring.)
- d. A third grade parent expressed concern that at the beginning of the school year, the third grade class library needed more books. Since then books that the school has ordered have been delivered. Also, books have been donated by the Q300 community.
- e. Bill noted that a number of lower division teachers are registered to attend a responsive classroom training program.

J. Resolution

Support for Social-Emotional Curriculum. A request has been made for \$500 in the Staff Wish List to support the social-emotional curriculum through the social work office. A motion was made to allocate an additional \$500 to the Staff Wish List budget item to support the social-emotional curriculum through the social work office. The motion was seconded. A majority of Members present approved the motion.

L. New Business

There was no new business.

M. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The December General Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the **Upper Division campus**.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

/S/

David William Wang, Secretary