



A. In Attendance

Forty (40) 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 and Guest Speakers

The virtual meeting was called to order at about 6:35 p.m. ET by PTA President Paula Marisi. Paula introduced Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando and guest Subaita Tufayel from Urban Upbound, who spoke about the NYC Kids Rise Save for College Program. Beginning in 2017 within Community School District 30, the Program is a scholarship and savings program that supports the college and career training futures of NYC public school students, regardless of family income or immigration status. Through the Program, every kindergarten student in a participating NYC public school is automatically enrolled and receives an NYC Scholarship Account with an initial \$100 allocation, unless their parents/guardians choose to opt out of the program. Students in grades K-8 may participate.

Subaita explained that when students activate their accounts (Building Block 1), they receive an additional \$25 on top of the initial \$100 allocation. Building Block 2 is opening and connecting the account to a NY State 529 college savings account, which triggers another \$25 reward. Building Block 3 is depositing at least \$5 in the savings account, which triggers another \$25 reward. When the student starts first grade, a one-time match of up to \$100 becomes available. Currently, 74% of Q300 students have activated their scholarship accounts, which is the first step. Students may take two additional steps to earn more money

Urban Upbound is a non-profit organization located in Long Island City that provides many support services needed to achieve economic prosperity and self-sufficiency. Urban Upbound can assist parents with creating and linking accounts.

C. Principal’s Report

Principal Sonita Ramkishun provided details on the administration’s request to use money remaining in the PTA enrichment budget line item of the 2025-2026 budget to cover the cost of Spanish language materials (*Reporteros* workbooks and textbooks) for Grades 5-8. This is not anticipated to be a recurring fee for the PTA. 15 workbooks per grade would initially be purchased. In subsequent years, the school itself will purchase additional workbooks. The Upper Division Spanish language teacher, Ms. Susana, recommended the *Reporteros* curriculum. Ms. Susana would use portions of the workbooks this year in her teaching; the workbooks themselves would not be given to students until the Fall.

Principal Sonita thanked the parents who spoke at Career Day, attended the Science Showcase at the Upper Division, and/or have supported various celebrations at the Upper and Lower Divisions. Report cards were sent home last week; if you have not seen your child’s report card, please ask to see it. Report cards can also be accessed via the student’s NYC Schools Account (NYSCA). Please ask Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando for assistance if you have difficulty accessing your child’s NYSCA account. Principal Sonita will send an email tomorrow reminding families of the New York State Test dates. If you have questions about state testing, please contact Sonita at principal@q300.org. Thank you to the One School Committee for their efforts, time and attention in their advocacy in consolidating Q300 into one building.

D. President's Report

President Paula Marisi reported that she is reaching out to Anderson, TAG and NEST+m to build relationships and talk about how best to advocate for citywide gifted and talented (G&T) schools. If you would like to be part of this conversation, or if you have thoughts as to how the PTA can best advocate for the Q300 community, please contact Paula at president@q300pta.org. The PTA Board will not sign on to any letter on behalf of citywide G&T schools without the approval of the PTA.

Paula reported on the One School Committee, which has been trying for years to secure a single site to house its Upper and Lower Divisions. Yesterday the One School Committee met with elected officials, District 30 Deputy Superintendent William Fahey, and Community Education Council (CEC) District 30 President Whitney Toussaint to discuss the need for a single site and to gain more insight into how the DOE determines priority for available sites.

E. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report

Marisa Nagano and Paula Marisi reported that the School Leadership Team (SLT) had reviewed the One School Committee slide deck that was presented at the meeting yesterday with elected officials. The SLT also discussed this year's NYC School Survey, which 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. The SLT uses the survey data to inform its Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) goals. This year's survey is open until April 17, 2026. Please complete the survey so your voice can be heard.

The SLT also discussed iReady results. For both math and reading, the percentage of students who are at or above grade level increased from the beginning of the year to the middle of the year. In First Grade, reading results are not as strong as the SLT would have liked, so there was a conversation about how to help raise those scores in future assessments, including by making physical books available to the lower grades. Schoolwide, the iReady math results were slightly lower than the reading results. Approximately 60% of Q300 students are mid- or above-grade level in iReady math, and approximately 20% are on grade level. The Department of Education math curriculum for elementary students recently changed to Desmos, which could have an impact on scores. The SLT will look at the math iReady results at the end of the year to see if there are any changes.

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 in an email from Principal Sonita.

F. Treasurer's Report and Resolutions

Co-Treasurer Yang Yang delivered the Treasurer's Report. In February, the PTA collected approximately \$4,000 from the Direct Appeal, \$3,000 from Winterfest, \$6,000 from school supply rebates, \$300 from the New York City Football Club (NYCFC) fundraiser, and \$40 from Spirit Wear. Total income was approximately \$13,000. In February, the PTA paid out approximately \$500 in professional development and supplies (maintenance for the Upper Division grow lab), \$900 in teacher wishlist items, \$100 in teacher-led electives, \$700 in the Upper Division field trip fund, and \$5,000 in NYCFC fundraiser up-front costs. Total expenditures were approximately \$7,500. As of the end of February, the PTA had approximately \$286,000 in the bank. If you would like more details from the Treasurer's Report, please contact treasurer@q300pta.org.

Co-Treasurer Amy Wong reported that an Audit Committee has been formed and is currently performing a financial audit. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to serve on the Audit Committee and to Diana Kim and Alison Lam, who were selected. In late April, the PTA will be kicking off the budget planning process for the next academic year. If you would like to get involved, please email treasurer@q300pta.org.

G. Committee Reports

1. Kate Swearengen reported on behalf of the Enrichment Committee. Every year, the Enrichment Committee prepares surveys with the assistance of Principal Sonita and Parent Coordinator Jenny Lando. The surveys are sent to parents, teachers, and students in grades 4 and up. The surveys are an opportunity for the Q300 community to provide feedback about enrichments they or their children have participated in or led, or would like to see. The Enrichment Committee is preparing the survey for review by the administration and a final version will be sent to the Q300 community in April. Feedback will inform enrichment choices for next year. It's not too late to join the Enrichment Committee and help review survey results, or even just sit in on meetings to see what it's about. If you would like to get involved, please email enrichment@q300pta.org. Thank you to Afrosa Amin and Yvette Choy for their work on the Enrichment Committee this year.
2. Co Vice-President of Fundraising Lucy Han reported that the Upper Division Book Fair will take place the first week of May. The Book Fair will be in partnership with Astoria Bookshop. The Spring Auction will launch in April. If you have items that might be appropriate for the auction, please contact fundraising@q300pta.org.
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. To date, the Direct Appeal has raised approximately \$175,000. There are only a few days left of the annual "March Madness" push, which aims to raise dollars and increase participation.
4. Membership Co-Chair Jennifer Holohan reported that the School Supply Committee is working with 1st Day School Supplies to order supplies for next year, with an emphasis on ordering in bulk to be more environmentally friendly. Thank you to Paula Marisi, Rachana Shah and Ella Drummond for their work on the School Supply Committee.
5. Communications Co-Chair Elizabeth Peterson-Minor reported that the PTA has been working to increase its presence on Facebook and Instagram feeds. Please consider following the PTA on social media.
6. Community Affairs Vice President Rachana Shah reported that the One School Committee met yesterday with elected officials. Representatives from the offices of Senator Jessica Ramos, Assemblymember Deanna Moreno, and Councilmember Tiffany Cabán were present. The Green Team and Wellness Team will be co-hosting an event on May 9. Stay tuned for more information.
7. Upper Division Representative Alyssa Duvall thanked the Upper Division class parents for their hard work getting out PTA communications to the WhatsApp grade band chats.

H. Approval of PTA Minutes

A motion was made to approve the February 26, 2026 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

Co-Treasurer Amy Wong relayed a request from Principal Sonita to reallocate money remaining in the enrichment line item of the 2025-2026 budget to the supply line to cover the cost of Spanish language materials (*Reporteros* workbooks and textbooks) for Grades 5-8. The estimated cost of the materials is \$6,000. The materials will be used for the spring semester of the 2025-2026 academic year. A motion was initially made, seconded and approved to table the discussion to the next meeting. However, following Principal Sonita's report, a motion was made, seconded and approved to reallocate \$6,000 from the enrichment line of the 2025-2026 budget to the supply line to cover the cost of Spanish language materials (*Reporteros* workbooks and textbooks) for Grades 5-8.

David Wang reported on efforts to re-start a Diversity Committee for the PTA. The PTA has had a Diversity Committee in the past but in recent years, the Diversity Committee has operated as part of the School Leadership Team (SLT). A notice will go out in the next PTA bulletin to encourage members of the Q300 community to join the Diversity Committee.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m. ET. The next meeting will take place on April 23, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. ET, in a virtual format.

Kate Swearngen & David William Wang, Co-Secretaries