

**School Leadership Team Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Platform - Zoom**  
**Thursday, June 2, 2022**  
**4:00 pm – 6.00 pm**

**Members in Attendance:**

- o Sonita Ramkishun (Principal)
- o Jean Kim (Teacher + SLT Committee Chairperson)
- o Leanne Bolson (Teacher + SLT Committee Timekeeper)
- o Ali Lisberger (Teacher + UFT Rep)
- o Laura Parris (Teacher)
- o Maria Hantzopoulos (Parent + PTA Co-President)
- o Sue Sekar (Parent + SLT Committee Secretary)
- o Fiona Yung (Parent)
- o Dragos Bozdog (Parent)
- o Alisha Arthur (Parent)

**Apologies:**

- o Julia Leopando (Student Member)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was opened at 4.02pm.

Maria and Alisha each shared their “Story of Me”, going through their background, family, personal history and professional background.

**2. Review and approval of May 16, 2022 SLT meeting minutes**

The draft minutes from the May 16, 2022 SLT meeting had been shared in advance and were reviewed again in the meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. All were in favor; none abstained.

The approved minutes will be published on the school and PTA websites.

**3. Finalize CEP goals for 2022-23 school year**

The SLT divided into small groups to update the priority needs, data trends and root causes, and also create new SMART goals for the 2022-23 year:

ELA: Jean, Alisha

Math: Leanne, Fiona

Science: Ali, Dragos, Maria

SEL and Supportive Environment Framework (SEF): Laura, Sue

Summary of share-outs:

	Priority Needs	Data
ELA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing culturally responsive texts in the classroom libraries</li> <li>More differentiated learning and reading comprehension instructions</li> </ul>	iReady
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing the use of manipulatives and hands-on experience for math, to close the gaps for foundational skills</li> <li>Increasing strategic instruction based on small groups and gaps in learning</li> </ul>	iReady
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasize critical thinking, research, experimentation, questioning skills in the curriculum</li> </ul>	N/A (see Next Steps below)

SEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Optimistic thinking</li><li>• Relationship skills</li></ul>	DESSA results
Supportive Environment Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers noticing when students are upset or need help (student perspective)</li><li>• Active listening by students (teacher perspective)</li></ul>	School Survey responses 2020-21

The draft CEP goals developed will be shared with the DOE and then reviewed again early in the new school year.

#### 4. Reports

##### a. Principal's Report - Appendix 1

The Principal's Report is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

Regarding the Admissions process, the following questions were asked and answered:

Question: Are entries into 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade still done by Family Welcome Centre?

Answer: They haven't told us yet. More information will be provided when it's received.

Question: Have 6<sup>th</sup> grade families been registered yet?

Answer: We are aiming for K-3<sup>rd</sup> registration the week of August 29<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be done a little earlier.

##### a. UFT Report

The current proposal being discussed by the UFT is for parent-teacher conferences to be remote next year, and for the afternoon and evening conferences being on one day.

**b. PTA Report - Appendix 2**

The PTA Report is attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

**5. Upcoming Possible Dates: Budget Meeting (1 hour long)**

Once Sonita receives the school budget, she will send a note to the SLT Committee to find a suitable date to meet.

**6. Parking Lot: Questions and Comments**

A question was raised around picking up the idea of publishing the summarized Diversity Proposal on the Q300 school website.

It was noted that the SLT meetings might be held in person next year, likely at the Lower Division campus. More information to come.

**7. Next steps**

In the September 2022 SLT meeting, the Science curriculum materials will be shared with parents and the SLT Committee since there was no data available for the CEP goals development and priority needs assessment.

**8. Hopes and Wonders for 2022-23 school year**

Hopes:

- To have a more normal year compared to this one and a return to group activities and building relationships.
- That the SLT stays remote! But I truly hope we can have in-person community building events again.
- That things go back to how they used to be.

- Go back to UD teachers having their own classroom again, to help make lessons engaging, and that we can continue to see the kids every day and build community.
- That we become even stronger and be more involved and present for in-person events.
- That the world continues to open up so we can travel and explore the world again with our families and see friends and family and new places.
- A successful school year with energized teachers, engaged students, joyful parents and the whole community be on the same page in doing what is best for our students.

**Wonders:**

- What will next year look like? Will there be a new normal?
- How will we continue on with what we are doing in a safe way?
- Whether there is any long-term impact from the pandemic that we haven't even thought of, and how to look out for that and overcome?
- What I can do with my extra time and use everything I have learned from finishing Grad School.
- How will we continue to meet our kids' needs socially, emotionally and academically?
- When will things feel normal and when will we get back to 'smooth sailing' again?

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5.56pm.

**APPENDIX 1 – Principals Report (Sonita Ramkishun) – June 2, 2022 SLT**

## a. Staffing

Next year we will have 2 maternity leaves and 1 paternity leave within the school year. I have two long term substitutes ready to support those grades. The Vaccine Mandate is still in place. No updates have been shared with principals as of yet in terms of those teaching positions. We have started interviewing potential candidates.

## b. Curriculum

**Math** - Eureka Math; **Science** - Amplify Science; **Social Studies** - Passport to Social Studies and Civics for all; **ELA** - Teacher's College (revamped units and possible coaches for K-5 teachers to norm practices and support pedagogy). Conference institutes for teachers in 6-8

Parent workshop: Thank you to Alisha for working with her grad students to offer these workshops for families. We are looking at the week of June 13 or week of June 20th. Please encourage families to join these workshops.

## c. Enrichment (SEM Model)

We are hoping to return to a regular school wide enrichment model for grade 3rd – 8th where students will be given the opportunity to choose enrichment classes they would like to take based on their interest. Teachers usually lead most of these classes by teaching what they are interested in and partner with different Community Based Organizations such as Arts Connection, NY Chess Kids, Center for Architecture, Alvin Ailey, CUNY CAT- Shakespeare festival, and Astoria film festival. Our PTA does a wonderful job helping us fund these enrichments.

## d. Admissions K, 1, 2, 3

The G&T applications are open for students to apply for a G&T seat in K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. Students in Kindergarten need to be nominated by a pre-kindergarten teacher in order to be eligible to apply. Students who are applying for 1st – 3rd grade seats need to apply and their eligibility will be checked by the office of enrollment using previous report cards.

Q300 has approximately the following seats available: 50 seats in K, 15 1st grade seats, 10-12 2nd grade seats and 2-3 3rd grade seats.

---

# The 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue School (Q300)



Lower Division: 28-37 29th Street, Astoria 11102: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
M: (718) 626-8502 F: (718) 626-8508

K-8 Citywide Gifted and Talented School

Upper Division: 31-51 21st Street, LIC 11106: 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
M: (718) 726-0501 F: (718) 726-0949

Principal | Sonita Ramkishun  
Assistant Principal | Anna Milonakis

e. Remuneration forms

Please complete the remuneration forms as soon as you can so it can be submitted for payment.

**APPENDIX 2 – PTA report (Maria Hantzopoulos) – June 2, 2022 SLT**

**New PTA and Executive Board positions.** Congratulations to our new SLT and Board Members for the 2022-23 school year! We are so grateful for your service. The latest results are in, and there are still a few vacancies:

**A. PTA Board.**

- a. Co-Presidents (one or two positions): Yvette Choy
- b. Executive Vice President (one position): Takila Oku
- c. Co-Secretaries: David William Wang
- d. Co-Treasurers: vacant
- e. VP-Membership: Erica Soto Eng and Amy Wong
- f. VP-Fundraising: Lisa Christopher
- g. VP-Communications: Sonia Martins and Dana Holmes
- h. VP-Community Affairs: Janet Perez-Garcia and Christine Serdjenian-Yearwood
- i. VP -Lower Division: Nick Skolnick (one position held for September election)
- j. VP -Upper Division: Ellie Rabinovich (one position held for September election)

The Co-President, Co-Secretary and VP-Fundraising are open to having another person join them. The election for these positions, as well as Co-Treasurer, will be held in June. **If you are interested in running for any positions, please email Kevin Gallagher, who is chairing the Elections Committee, at [keving@q300pta.org](mailto:keving@q300pta.org) with your name and position by Wed. June 10.** The only qualification for all positions is that the candidate be a current parent or guardian of a child in the school. Please visit the following for more info on each position and see below for open positions: <https://tinyurl.com/Q300PTA-2022-5-Elections>

We would love to acknowledge our outgoing Board Members: Maria Hantzopoulos, Lynn Kennedy, Susan Stewart, Rachana Shah, Meghan Cirrito, Suni Caraballo, and Hayoung Kim. We are grateful for your service, your dedication and your hard work!

**B. SLT Parent Members.** Our new SLT members are Maria Hantzopoulos and Fiona Yung, elected at the last meeting, and Yvette Choy (who joins as PTA President). Fiona has been re-elected for two more years, and Maria steps in after being elected for the position (previously on as co-President of PTA). They join current elected parent members Alisha Arthur and Dragos Bozdog. Congrats. We thank outgoing parent SLT member Sue Sekar, who still has one month left. Thank you!

**C. Class Parents. Special thanks to the class parents who stepped up this year!**  
We couldn't do it without you!

- o Kindergarten: (K1) Christina Lee & Ying Song (K2) Shatavia White & Ella Drummond
- o 1st Grade: (101) Kate Swearngen (102) Grace Chen & Douglas Eisert



- o 2nd Grade: (201) Helena Liljeblad (202) Christine Serdjenian-Yearwood
- o 3rd Grade: (301/302) Jaqueline Debien & Lauren Baker
- o 4th Grade: (401) Patrick Nau & Nicole Mandel (402) Barbara Monroe & Vivian Sicherman
- o 5th Grade: (501/502) Esmee Einerson
- o 6th Grade: (601) Nicole Mandel (602) Saswat Pattanayak
- o 7th Grade: (701) Leslie Peith (702) Sae Makino-Siller
- o 8th Grade: (801) Ryoko Mathes (802) Suzannah Hill and (803) Hayoung Kim

## **Q300 PTA Fundraisers, Events, and Other Happenings**

1. **Fun Run. May 21 to June 5.** Fun Run is off to a great start. Registration has closed and t-shirt sales have ended, but you can still join in the fun by meeting up with Q300 families in your area, or with anyone who motivates you. Check with class parents for any grade band meet ups too. Walk, roll or run! Take pics! And share your enthusiasm!
2. **Summer Read-a-Thon.** Stay tuned for info on Read-a-Thon, coming in June! If you would consider being part of the planning committee for the online Read-a-Thon please email [Fundraising@Q300PTA.org](mailto:Fundraising@Q300PTA.org).
3. **Aigner's Chocolates. June 6 to 10.** Stop by Aigner's in Forest Hills for a discount for you and a kickback to support enrichment programs. Option to order online as well. Any questions reach out to [LisaC@q300PTA.org](mailto:LisaC@q300PTA.org)
4. **Q300 Green Team.**
  - o **Food Scrap Drop-Off** for Composting! PS17's Wellness Committee has partnered with the Queens Botanical Garden and Q300 Green Parent Team to host a Food Scrap Drop-off site at the Lower Division on Mondays, 1:30- 3:30pm. To sign up to volunteer in June, simply go to our [FSDO Volunteer Calendar](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/2?cid=cXAwdW1kZGQ1NWw2MHQwdHJuNzViNGVtNGtAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xILmNvbQ) (<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/2?cid=cXAwdW1kZGQ1NWw2MHQwdHJuNzViNGVtNGtAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xILmNvbQ>). Just an hour or two of being at the green bin on 30th Ave would be so helpful! Meet fellow school families – and if you're doing pick-up afterschool, your child can help too! When you have a moment, please review our [Orientation Video](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nUlnxLTIO1kiFopITv6ecnsa41rIM5qz/view?usp=sharing) (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nUlnxLTIO1kiFopITv6ecnsa41rIM5qz/view?usp=sharing>) with Queens Botanical Gardens. Any questions, please email [SusanS@Q300PTA.org](mailto:SusanS@Q300PTA.org)
  - o **Join the Cause.** Visit the Green Team webpage or reach out to [rachanas@Q300pta.org](mailto:rachanas@Q300pta.org) for more info.

**5. PTA Budget and Enrichment Surveys.** Thank you to all who completed the enrichment surveys that went out in late April. The enrichment committee is in the process of meeting with the administration and will review the results to help plan for the 22-23 school year. Reach out to [enrichment@q300pta.org](mailto:enrichment@q300pta.org) if you have questions.

**6. Chat & Chill. Monday, June 13 at 10 am.** Join us for our last informal virtual meet up hosted by the PTA. Q300 parents, guardians and caregivers are welcome. [Zoom link:](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84002372784?pwd=cHR3TGh5ZTNkR0ZzRXBIN01NWWhEdz09) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84002372784?pwd=cHR3TGh5ZTNkR0ZzRXBIN01NWWhEdz09>

**7. SLT Report.** Approved meeting minutes are on the Q300 school and PTA websites.

**8. Fall Welcome Picnic. Date and Time TBA.** Stay tuned for info on our Annual Fall Welcome Picnic at Rainey Park - a great chance to meet our community in person.

### **Q300 Shout Outs and Appreciations**

**1. Teacher Appreciation Lunch.** Thank you to Ellie Rabinovich and Erica Soto Eng for organizing the Panera box lunches for our teachers in early May.

**2. K/1 Athens Square Meetup.** Thank you to Ellie Rabinovich, David Wang, Maria Hantzopoulos, Rachana Shah, Sonia Martins, Takila Oku, Yvette Choy and others for organizing this meetup. It was wonderful to meet our newer families.

**3. Enrichment Committee.** Thank you for working alongside the Admin for months in advance on the Enrichment and Budget Survey. The main committee members are Maura McDermott, Maria Hantzopoulos, Abby Rubenstein, and Takila Oku.

**4. Membership Committee.** Thank you for organizing informal parent meet ups. It's been a pleasure to meet folks in person when possible.

**5. Fun Run.** Big shout outs to Marco Newberry, Tomonori Nagano, Nick Skolnick, Susan Stewart, Yvette Choy, Lynn Kennedy, Christine Serdjian, Barbara Monroe, Maria Hantzopoulos, and many others for helping to organize the fun run this year. Special thanks to Kazumi Naimoli & family for their work on the t-shirts! Thank you again to our local sponsors: Jackson Heights Orthodontics, Art House Astoria and NYChessKids, and to Q300 families' support!

**6. 8th Grade Graduation Committee.** Big shout out to the group of parents who are helping students plan fundraisers, events and activities for graduation and beyond. Thanks to Hayoung Kim, Suzannah Hill, Ryoko Mathes, Maria Hantzopoulos, Margarita Soto, Rosana Gati, Sarah Clough, and Jenny Lando for forming the committee! Thanks to all of the parents who are helping out from the side. And much appreciation to all of our 8th graders teachers for their support - Elijah Cho, Kan Chou, Chidi Amasiani, and especially Laura Parris and Anna Hauser who are spearheading the efforts with the kids.