



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

239 Lido Blvd., Long Beach, NY 11561 • 516-897-2175 • www.lbcta.com

Executive Board Minutes

April 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm by Keith Harvey.

## I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

### A. Executive Board Meeting Dates—MS Library

5/9/16 & 6/6/16

### B. Long Beach Board of Education

The school board adopted the draft 2016-17 School Budget on April 7. The budget maintains all programs with minor faculty changes. The changes proposed are due to student enrollment and course selection.



### C. LBCTA 2016 Scholarship Winners

I am pleased to announce the following association members' children are this year's scholarship winners: Kaitlyn Virgona, daughter of Kathryn Virgona (Lindell School) and Evan Davis, son of Gail Davis (LBHS). Thank you to Pat Fallon for serving as the chair of the scholarship committee and to those members who volunteered their time to review the applications.

### D. AFT and NYSUT Delegate Appointment

On February 22, there was a posting for the position of AFT and NYSUT Delegate, due to a resignation. Following the Landrum-Griffin Act and Roberts Rules of order I will be appointing Patricia Van Loon to full those positions.

### E. Opt Out 2016

In March, the Executive Board unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the I Refuse movement to oppose the state's overreliance on high-stakes testing. This year 626 students out of 1519 refused to take the 3-8 grade ELA test resulting in 41.2% opting out in Long Beach. This is a dramatic increase from the 27.7% that opted out last year.

### F. New SED Certification Requirements

Beginning July 1, 2016, all permanently or professionally certified teachers or educational leaders and Level III teaching assistant certificate holders will be required to register with SED in the month of his/her birth. This registration process will be done using the State Education Department's TEACH system. These certificate holders will be required to register every five (5) years thereafter. There is no fee for registration unless the certificate holder fails to complete the process by his/her deadline.

Keith Harvey

*President*

Karen Bloom

*Executive Vice-President*

Amy Powers

*Vice-President for Secondary Schools*

Beth Prostick

*Vice-President for*

*Elementary Schools*

Patricia Van Loon

*Recording Secretary*

Elleen Parks

*Corresponding Secretary*

James Fiola

*Treasurer*

## Table of Contents

I. President's Report

II. Committees

III. Executive Vice President

IV. VP for Elementary Schools

V. VP for Secondary Schools

VI. Treasurer's Report

VII. Building Reports

A. West

B. Lindell

C. East

D. Lido

E. Pre-K

F. Middle School

G. High School

VIII. New Business

A late fee of \$10.00/month will be charged if the deadline is missed. Details on the actual registration process are still to be determined by SED. The Long Beach Human Resource department will be shortly to help assist in this process. For more information go to NYSUT's website:

<http://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/2016/april/teacher-registration-regulations>

**G. Member Benefits Pre-Retirement Workshop-**

If you are retiring or considering retirement in the next three years, you are invited to attend the NYSUT Member Benefits Pre-Retirement Workshop on 4/20/16, from 4:30-6:45 or 4/21/16, from 4:30-6:45.

This no-cost workshop held exclusively for NYSUT members is designed to highlight many of the subjects you will face in retirement. Please note that this is NOT a TRS or ERS-sponsored presentation, and neither retirement system will be in attendance at this workshop.

Topics include: 403(b)/IRA Options, Social Security Basics, Tax-Related Tips, Asset Preservation, Maintaining your NYSUT Membership in Retirement, Popular Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services for retirees

Where:

NYSUT Nassau Regional Office

1000 Woodbury Road -Suite 214

Woodbury, NY 11797

Link <http://www.cvent.com/d/sfqxp>

**H. Summer Study Money**

Applications to participate in the Summer 2016 Study Money program must be received by the HR department by May 13<sup>th</sup>. Members with permanent or professional certification may apply for up to \$1,750 in study money per semester. [Request for Participation in Study Program - Group A.](#)

**I. Coaching Pay Dates**

High School

Spring: First check: 4/15/16

Spring: Second check: 5/13/16

Middle School

Spring: First check: 4/29/16

Spring: Second check: 5/27/16

**J. NYSHIP Empire Plan Eligibility Audit**

Once again the state Department of Civil Service is conducting an eligibility audit of those enrollees with Empire Plan family coverage. Empire Plan participants who are enrolled through school districts and local governments should begin to receive letters at the end of February. It is very important that you follow the instructions and provide the requested information on time. If you do not respond, your unverified dependents will be deleted. If you are not enrolled in the NYSHIP Empire Plan, this does not affect you.

**Anthem**, the parent company of Empire Health Insurance, has continues to offer a free enrollment in an Identity Theft Repair and Credit Recovery service.

Go to <https://www.anthemfacts.com/> to enroll.

**K. Credit Swap**

Jackie Kupferman - 1.5 credits from LIU Post

Heather Puckhaber - 1 credit Molloy College

Dana Monti - 1.5 credits for Hofstra

Patty Van Loon - 1.5 credits for LIU

Migdalia Schneider - 1 credit Molloy College

**II. Committees**

**A. Grievance Committee—Karen Bloom**

1. As you are aware, we have filed a grievance regarding the non-payment of our Health Insurance Reimbursement in June. We were denied at Stage 2. We have moved forward with the

grievance and I filed Stage 3 last week. We are currently waiting for a response from the Board of Education. We should know more in the next few days. We will keep you posted.

Feel free to contact me regarding any violations of our contract.

**B. Negotiation Committee—Chief Negotiator’s Report—Keith Harvey**

The district has canceled the last three negotiation meetings. Failure to come to the negotiation table is the definition of “negotiating in bad faith.” The district has offered no new dates for negotiations, but we have. At the Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting the district stated they had received our dates and would get back to us. We are looking forward to receiving a response from them shortly. There have been some concerns from our membership regarding the lack of response from the District, and rightfully so. However, at this time, we are trying to give the district the time and space they requested to prepare a proposal that will help advance negotiations. We could have accused them of negotiating in bad faith to force them back to the table, but I’m optimistic that they will use the time as they requested.

**C. New Members—Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka**

We would like to thank everyone who was able to join us for the NewMember/Buddy party on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you enjoyed the company of your colleagues, building reps and union officers. From what we heard, you are off to a nice start in your Long Beach career. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Jim Fiola at [jfiola@lbeach.org](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org) or Alison Katulka at [akatulka@lbeach.org](mailto:akatulka@lbeach.org). **Please contact us if you don’t have a buddy or mentor.**

We will also be attending the mentor meetings to speak to the new members about various issues. The next meeting is at 4 pm on April 19<sup>th</sup> in the Middle School Library. We hope your observations are going well and that you are getting the help and support you need. Please do not be afraid to ask for help if you need it. We (and many others) are here for you.

**D. Political Action Committee—Beth Prostick**

1. Political Action meeting was held on Wed. April 6. We discussed how well our Facebook page is working out and would like to discuss the possibility of starting an additional page.
2. We held our interview for the upcoming School Board election on March 21. After a very lengthy interview with Perry and serious conversation with the committee, we believe Perry Bodnar is an excellent candidate to support and endorse for this year’s School Board election.
3. A motion was made by Amy Powers and 2nd by Beth Prostick to endorse Perry Bodnar for School Board. The vote was approved.
4. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Amy Powers, Elleen Parks, Patty VanLoon, Alison Katulka and Jennifer Garrett for serving on the PAC interview committee.
5. I think the NYSUT Member Action Center or MAC app is great way for all members to be involved in the protection and support of public education. If you do not have it already, please sign up at [mac.nysut.org](http://mac.nysut.org). You can use the app or sign up for text alerts. It is an easy and convenient way to make our voices heard loud and clear in Albany.
6. Thank you very much for gathering and returning the personal emails from the teachers in your buildings. All were added as they were received.
7. The LBCTA sweatshirt order has been placed! They should be arriving early next week. I will be in need of some helping hands to sort, label and box the sweatshirts so they can be delivered to each building.

Please contact me at [bprostick@gmail.com](mailto:bprostick@gmail.com) if you would like to join the committee.

**E. Public Relations**

1. Our PR committee has been working very hard. I am proud to announce that our Paint Night will be this Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 4:30 pm at the Knights of Columbus. All proceeds will go towards Pediatrics Cancer. A special thank you to Ali Katulka for volunteering to be our in-

structor of the evening.

Look out for our Spring Ad in the April 14<sup>th</sup> issue of the Herald. We would like to use this Ad to remind community members to be safe. Another special thank you to Ali Katulka for taking the time to create our Ad.

**F. Social Committee**

The CTA retirement flyer has been distributed. The party will take place at Bridgeview on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. The cost is \$70.00 and payment should be sent to Elleen Parks, West School, 91 Maryland Avenue, Long Beach by May 11<sup>th</sup>. Please note that some retirees requested to not have their name listed on the flyer. This is why you may not see the name of a retiree.

Please make sure the bios are sent to [PVanloon@lbeach.org](mailto:PVanloon@lbeach.org) by April 30, 2016.

**G. Teacher Center**

The Long Beach Teacher Center sent one individual to an ENL Workshop this past Saturday. Materials and the results of this grant-funded program will be emailed to all district teachers when it becomes available. We are currently working on the grant for next year where we will focus on integrating technology as the district one-to-one chromebook initiative begins. We currently have 10 ipads that are available to be loaned out to any teacher who would like.

Please contact the center at [lbtc@Lbeach.org](mailto:lbtc@Lbeach.org) or call us at 516-897-2083 to set up an appointment to pick them up.

**III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom**

**A. APPR**

1. We are very close to finishing our new APPR plan. Keith and I have met with Dr. Graham and Dr. Natali multiple times to discuss the details that can be negotiated. Many of the items are non-negotiable and therefore don't require much discussion. I have two more meetings set for this week to attempt to finalize the plan.

2. All lead evaluators have been assigned and you should contact your immediate supervisor or building principal if you are not sure who your lead evaluator is.

3. If you have not yet received information about your SLO's and/or targets, please contact your immediate supervisor. If you have no director, you can speak to your building principal.

4. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

**B. Health & Safety Committee**

1. We are finally scheduled to have a Health & Safety meeting next Tuesday, April 19, at 4 pm in the Chrome Book Lab at the High School. This will be the first meeting since October. I have quite a few agenda items for discussion. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at [kbloom@lbeach.org](mailto:kbloom@lbeach.org).

**C. District Safety Team**

1. We are finally scheduled to have a District Safety Team meeting next Tuesday, April 19, at 4 pm in the Chrome Book Lab at the High School. This will be the first meeting since October. If you have any Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at [kbloom@lbeach.org](mailto:kbloom@lbeach.org).

**D. Other**

1. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank, as we have little to none left.

[Sick Bank Donation Form](#)

2. Please continue to attend Board of Education meetings whenever possible.

**IV. Vice President for Elementary Schools' Report—Beth Prostick**

A. Elementary Council met on April 4. We discussed the variety of issues we had with the report

cards this year. Although we understand the corrections will not be made this year, we hope the new program will start off next year with no errors or glitches.

- B. I look forward to seeing many of you at our very first Paint Night fundraiser on April 15.
- C. Please consider donating one or more sick days to your colleagues in need.
- D. If you have any questions I can be reached at [bprostick@gmail.com](mailto:bprostick@gmail.com).

**V. Vice President for Secondary Schools’ Report—Amy Powers**

- A. There is a big concern about the air quality of the HS building. Recently there has been major health issue concerns amongst our faculty. Concerns are being addressed through Health and Safety.
- B. Sadly I do not have any new information on when a Site Based meeting will take place to discuss our safety concerns with the current HS traffic pattern. It has been made clear through conversations with parents and listening to their voices at board meetings that they are also not happy with the new traffic pattern. Repair work will begin soon on the bulkhead at the HS. This increases our already concerns with the traffic pattern. We continue to be extremely worried and concerned about our student and faculty’s safety. The fact that it was difficult for an ambulance to make its way onto Blackheath when needed a few weeks ago after an accident, we are surprised that the safety of our students has not addressed immediately.
- C. Our next Secondary meeting will be Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> in the LBHS Guidance Suite at 3:45 pm. As always, please continue to attend future board meetings. Let’s use the power of our IM to remind all members the important of getting out to vote this April and May!
- D. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank. We currently have a member in need of days.
- E. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at [amylo609@aol.com](mailto:amylo609@aol.com).

**VI. Treasurer’s Report—Jim Fiola**

**A. March’s Results**

<u>Ex-</u> <u>penditures</u>	NYSUT	\$14,445	Union dues	\$39,716
	AFT	8,679	Mediation	3,050
	Taxes and Ins.	6,182	Reimbursements	
	Meeting Expenses	54	Vending Machines	142
	Donations	490	Retiree dues	18
	Phone	50		
<u>Revenues</u>	Stipends	21,165	Total	\$42,926
	Total	\$24,298		

- B. Enjoy the upcoming Spring Recess # 2 for Passover. Please try to attend one of the remaining School Board meetings this year. Also please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank.

**If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please email them to me at [jfiola@lbeach.org](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org).**

Union dues for 2015/2016 for full-time members will be \$985.36. The break-out is \$384 local, \$368 NYSUT, \$225.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$98.54 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column "MDED-03." We are determined to keep your dues as low as possible while still meeting our local obligations and making charitable contributions to the Long Beach community.

**The union dues for 2015 tax purposes were \$967.04.**

## VII. Building Reports

### A. West School

1. Parent Conferences were well attended thanks in part to our faculty's significant reach out efforts. We value parent input and participation.
2. Thank you to our PTA for the delicious Staff Appreciation Luncheon, the generous raffles, and the wonderful Book Fair!
3. Congratulations to our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students that participated in the 2016 NYSSMA Festival!
4. Our Kindness Challenge to "Whip Out" childhood cancer set up weeklong activities highlighting character education and the spirit of giving. Look for the video!
5. The year-long *Denim for Dollars* fund raiser for West School families in need continues. Each staff member contributes \$2 to wear denim on Fridays.
6. Get well wishes to Janine DeBernardi.
7. The shortage of substitute teachers is of great concern. Academic services are cancelled to provide coverage for teacher absences.
8. We encourage all staff to continue to donate to our sick bank.

### B. Lindell School

1. The lack of available substitute teachers continues to be of great concern. Permanent Substitute teachers would offer more consistency for our students.
2. Thanks to the PTA for the lovely luncheon provided for all Lindell Staff. Scrumptious food and lucky raffles were offered as treats.

### C. East School

1. Congratulations to Donna Strasser on the birth of her twin grandchildren, Dakota and Jackson.
2. Kudos to the Fashion Show Committee and to the East School staff for a very successful evening. We raised close to \$3,000 for students in need.
3. We want to welcome Rebecca Carroll to our staff. We are so excited that she was appointed as a probationary elementary school teacher at the last Board of Education meeting.

4. We are still concerned about the shortage of substitute teachers.
5. Thanks to Dr. Agresta for organizing a successful Autism Awareness Day. Children and staff wore blue and brought dollars in to raise autism awareness.
6. Thank you to the PTA for the lovely Staff Appreciation Luncheon.
7. Get well wishes to Andrea Crow.

#### **D. Lido School**

1. Many thanks to Lido PTA for their delicious and much appreciated Staff Luncheon during Parent Teacher Conferences.
2. Students in Grades 3-5 enjoyed the exceptional Long Beach Middle School performance of
3. James and the Giant Peach.
4. Kudos to Lido PTA for a successful PARP Program in the month of March.
5. Congratulations to all students and their music teachers (Andrew Frey, Noelle Policastro, and Christina Tomek) for their recent participation at the NYSSMA Competition!
6. Condolences to Kathleen McQuade on the loss of her mother.
7. The lack of available substitute teachers is of great concern. Permanent substitute teachers would offer more consistency for our students.
8. To meet the social emotional needs of our students in Pre K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we would greatly benefit from having a full time psychologist and social worker at Lido. It is difficult to manage the demands of Pre K – 5<sup>th</sup> with the additional responsibility of the Pre K students.
9. Many thanks to members who donated sick days to the LBCTA-District Sick Bank. Please consider donating if you haven't done so yet.

#### **F. Middle School**

1. Get well wishes to Cristina Camacho.
2. Get well wishes to Elissa Probeyahn.
3. Congratulations to Christina Dillard and family on the birth of her twins, Eloise and James.
4. Congratulations to Leah Kalfin on her recent engagement.
5. Kudos and congratulations to Lauren Diesu and the cast and crew of “James and the Giant Peach.” The show was a tremendous success!
6. Kudos to Brian Pross and the Wood Club along with Laura Swan and the Art club for creating the scenery for “James and the Giant Peach.”
7. On our first day of ELA testing the proctors assigned to monitor the students that refused the test were not given a relief/break. The issue was resolved before the next day of testing.
8. The Deans' offices inside of suite 117 have been between 90 and 101 degrees first thing in the morning. The windows in each office have to be opened and the doors left open while the rooms cool down. These oppressive conditions create a difficult working environment for staff and students.
9. Please remember to vote on April 19<sup>th</sup> in the special election for NY State Senator.
10. Save the Date! Our next Sunshine Social will be Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at Cabo in RVC. Details to follow.
11. Please consider donating a sick day to our CTA Sick Bank.
12. A special thank you to everyone that volunteered, promoted, and/or registered at the bone marrow donor drive this past weekend in Long Beach. We were able to collect almost 400 samples at the event alone. On behalf of the family of Kaitlyn Peters, Ali Katulka says “thank you”! If you would like to join the registry, you can sign up at Bethematch.org and a kit can be mailed to your home. Donors need to be between the ages of 18 and 44.

#### **G. High School**

1. Condolences to Donna O'Neill on the loss of her mother.

2. Speedy recovery to Justin Marks.
3. Speedy recovery to Marino Bragino III.
4. Congratulations to Raymond Adams on being named the 2015 New York State Wrestling Coach of the Year.
5. Congratulations to Anthony Balsamo, Student Government, Class Advisors and students on a successful Class Olympics.
6. We are waiting to hear from the district regarding questions about air quality testing in the building.
7. There is still great concern for the safety of students, staff and residents under the current traffic pattern. We believe that more than enough time has been provided for the issue to be studied at the site based committee.
8. Several science classrooms (Rooms 301, 335, 337) have been experiencing ceiling leaks. The leaks have been an ongoing issue and continue to leak in areas over student lab stations and classroom desks. We are hopeful that the roof of the building will be addressed.
9. We are hopeful that administration will take steps in order to make the library a more academic space.
10. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.  
[Sick Bank Donation Form](#)
11. Please consider attending the LBCTA sponsored Paint Night fundraiser on Friday, April 15th 4:30-7pm at the Long Beach Knights of Columbus to benefit families facing childhood cancer.
12. Please join us at the end of the year LBCTA celebration on Wednesday, May 25th from 5pm-9pm. honoring LBHS Staff: Rosemary Amorini, Perry Bodnar, Anna Carfagno, Angela Casey, Carol Henck, Ellen McElroy, and Denise Menelao.

## VIII. New Business

- A. Condolences to the friends and family of Hannah Wolff on her passing. Hannah taught at East and West schools.
- B. Condolences to the friends and family of Mary Larkin Lemrow on her passing.

At 6:00pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Cheryleann Fontenot.

### In Attendance:

West: Maryann Colucci, Cheryleann Fontenot

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Jane Quinton, Migdalia Schneider

East: Barbara Lewy, Mary Jane Rochford

Lido: Cheryl Carroll, Dorothy Lopez

Pre-K:

HALB: Gari Ann Harris

LBMS: Alison Katulka, Jill Cherlin, Jennifer Garrett, Stacey Rice

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Anthony Balsamo, Elena Frishman, Erik Heck, Jay Spitz

Retiree: Frank Volpe

Officers: Keith Harvey, Karen Bloom, Beth Prostick, Amy Powers, Jim Fiola, Elleen Parks, Patricia Van Loon