



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

January 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:17pm by Keith Harvey.

Keith Harvey

President

Karen Bloom

Executive Vice President

Beth Prostick

Vice President for

Elementary Schools

Amy Powers

Vice President for Secondary Schools

Patricia Van Loon

Recording Secretary

Elleen Parks

Corresponding Secretary

James Fiola

Treasurer

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

2/8/21, 3/8/21, 3/22/21, 4/12/21*, 4/26/21,
5/10/21, 5/24/21, 6/14/21



B. COVID Update

1. NYS CARES Act Update - The Department of Labor issued a document on 1/20/21 with updated guidance on sick leaves as a result of COVID. Worth noting is that the NYS COVID leave can be used a maximum of 3 times, and that the 2nd and 3rd time can only be used for a positive COVID case and not close contact. Also clarified was if an employee takes it upon themselves to be retested at the end of their isolation period (after having COVID), and tests positive, they shall be deemed to be subject to a second mandatory order of isolation from the Department of Health. Please note that an employee is not recommended to be tested to discontinue isolation or quarantine.

2. Travel Related Quarantines - Travel requirements have not been changed for people that have been vaccinated. Travelers must;

- Obtain a test within three days of departure, prior to arrival in New York.
- Upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days.
- On day 4 of their quarantine, obtain another COVID test. If both tests come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.

3. COVID Quarantine - Can I return to work? Employees need to satisfy three conditions to return to work after recovering from COVID:

- 10 days after symptom onset; AND
- Symptoms are improving; AND
- Fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

4. Local Infection Rates - Since our last meeting 1/11/21, the Nassau County 7-day average infection rate has decreased from 8.7% to 6.6% and Long Island's has decreased from

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9.6% to a 6.9%. These numbers can be tracked on the *NYS Dashboard* - [VIEW PERCENTAGE POSITIVE RESULTS BY COUNTY](#)

School Infection Rates - Local School infection rates can be tracked on the [COVID-19 Schools Report Card](#)

C. LBCTA Sick Bank

Thank you to everyone that has donated since our last meeting. Since its inception, almost 400 days have been donated. Unfortunately, there are currently more requests than donations, leaving the bank at a negative balance. Please remember that the bank runs on the generosity of the membership. I hope each of you sees fit to donate at least one day to the bank to ensure its continuation. Donation form [link](#).

D. Election of Officers and Delegates

In anticipation of this year's election of officers and delegates we need three volunteers to serve as members of the Board of Elections with one member serving as chairperson. At least one member shall be from the elementary level and at least one member shall be from the secondary level. Please contact me if you are interested.

E. FLEX Spending

Reminder Flexible Benefits may be used for unreimbursed medical or dental expenses or dependent care. For this year only, employees can carry over 100% of unused funds remaining in the FSA. There has also been an increase in the maximum age for children from 13 to 14 in relation to dependent day care.

F. 2021 Scholarships

1. LBCTA Scholarships - The association will once again be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are children of CTA members. Pat Fallon has graciously volunteered to continue as the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. To be eligible for a CTA scholarship, the student must graduate from his/her high school in either January or June 2021. He/she may attend high school in any city or town. A parent must have been a dues-paying member of the CTA for at least three full years and currently paying dues unless on family or medical leave. Those interested and eligible may request an application from Pat, by email at pfallon@lbeach.org. The closing date for receipt of the completed application and all supporting documents, submitted in duplicate, is 2 PM on Friday, March 12. The evaluation of these applications will take place on Wednesday, March 17 immediately after school. Please contact Pat if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented.

2. AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program - This program offers four 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members, as well as 10 onetime \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education.

<https://www.aft.org/member-benefits/scholarships/robert-g-porter-scholars-program>

G. Second Chance Retirement Incentive

I am pleased to announce that the district is offering a "Second Chance" retirement incentive to all those who did not retire when first eligible (generally 55 years old with 30 years of service or members over 62). The district will pay those eligible a one-time payment of \$10,000 and lock-in your health insurance contribution rate for five years in return for an irrevocable letter of resignation. Your letter must be submitted to the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Administration, Dr. Natali, by Friday, January 29, 2021 with an effective retirement date of June 30, 2021. You would also receive 50% of the value of your accumulated sick days up to 200 days if you have at least 15 years of service in the District.

H. NYSUT Offers Online Guide for a Successful Retirement

NYSUT has a publication for future retirees. "[Your Blueprint for a Successful Retirement: An online planning guide](#)" is posted as a resource for planning the next chapter in your life -- retirement! A login for NYSUT.org is required to access the online publication.

I. 2021-2022 Calendar

The 2021-2022 District draft school calendar was discussed and approved by the Executive Board. You will be notified once the School Board has acted on it.

J. Study Money Dates

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Money Program: Summer – May 14, 2021. Members with permanent or professional certification may apply for up to \$1,750 in study money per semester. The application is available online at [Request for Participation in Study Program— Group A](#).



K. Credit Swap

1.5 credits for Hofstra University – Contact Greg Milone at 516-445-9823 if interested.

II. Committees

A. Grievance Committee – Karen Bloom

1. There are no grievances to report at this time.
2. Please contact me if you have any issues that you feel are a violation of our contract.

B. New Member Committee – Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka

1. We are still hopeful to meet in person in some format (either several small ones or a big one) this year. Keep reading the minutes and look out for emails.
2. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Jim Fiola at jfiola@lbeach.org or Alison Katulka at akatulka@lbeach.org. **Please contact us if you do not have a buddy or mentor.** Do not be afraid to ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you.

C. Political Action Committee – Jennifer Garrett

1. On January 20, 2021, President Biden and Vice President Harris were sworn in to begin their term. In other news, Former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recently resigned, paving the way for the presumed incoming Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona. President Biden and VP Harris selected Miguel Cardona, Connecticut's Commissioner of Education, as their nominee to be the next secretary of education.
2. Thank you to everyone that joined the PR/PAC discussion on January 20th. We discussed many possible virtual fundraising ideas for the future.
3. NYSUT is offering an upcoming training, **How to Run for Office**. This training is intended for NYSUT members interested in running for office or assisting on a campaign for school board, local or state office. The training will be a Statewide training using Zoom. Please note this is a series of 6 trainings that run through February and March, not stand-alone seminars. Anyone interested can reach out to me at LBCTAPAC@gmail.com for additional information.

D. Public Relations – Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Below is the link for our district's Winter E-News. You can subscribe to Syntax to receive these E-Newsletters directly to your email. It is a great way to hear about all of the wonderful things our LBCTA members are doing with our students.
<https://mailchi.mp/198abd71fe45/winter-2021-e-newsletter>
2. Sadly, due to Covid and social distancing guidelines, we will not be doing our annual bowling event. The PR Committee has been discussing ways we can continue to fundraise for a local cause this spring. We have decided that for this year we will focus on our amazing building themed basket raffles and add a 50/50 raffle. We will be using an online app that will allow us to sell, promote and conduct the raffles all online. ☺
3. It has been decided that all proceeds this spring will be donated to local food banks.



4. We understand everyone's time is limited these days, so we appreciate all efforts made to create a building themed basket. We are also trying to avoid buildings from duplicating each other. Senior building reps, please email or text Amy when you have decided on your theme. If the theme has already been taken, we are asking that you choose a new one but if it is not possible, we completely understand. For anyone who would like to create their own basket or have items that can be raffled off in addition to the building baskets, we will happily take them. ☺

We hope to do all the raffles on Thursday, March 25th before spring break.

E. Social Committee – Elleen Parks

1. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we currently are unable to plan any social gatherings. We are hopeful to celebrate our retirees at some point in the future.

F. Teacher Center – John Marr

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center has received its 2020-2021 grant confirmation. The Center is currently looking for individuals who are interested in running 10 hour professional development classes. If you are interested, please fill out a request on MLP or contact the Director directly at lbtc@lbeach.org.

III. Vice President – Karen Bloom

- A.** We will continue to work together to make sure that the health and safety of both students and staff are of the utmost importance. Hopefully, we will start to see an improvement in our numbers as the spring approaches, so that we can revisit our current hybrid model.

B. APPR

1. While we are in person and in the hybrid model, there will be no virtual observations, unless both parties agree! All procedures will remain in place for our APPR. Virtual observations will be conducted during the 2020-21 school year utilizing the Danielson Rubric for fully virtual classes. Once the administrator visits the virtual classroom for an observation, the administrator will alert the teacher of their presence in the classroom.
2. If we go fully virtual, we will follow the guidelines for the fully virtual classes that are happening now.
3. Our APPR handbook is on our website. You can find all timelines, conversion charts and percentages here.
4. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

C. Health & Safety Committee

1. We are still waiting for the latest air quality results from the high school. Mr. DeVito said he would have Brendan Scully follow up with a copy of the report.
2. We still have no new updates on School ID's at the high school, but supposedly they are in the works.
3. The traffic work is still in progress! There was an onsite meeting last week between our architect, engineers and the counterpart for the County. They are still working through some issues about what part of the scope of work that the County and Town will do and what we will do. They are hoping to start this spring and finish over the summer!
4. The Screening App has been updated to reflect the newest changes in COVID requirements.
5. Please continue to keep your building reps aware of any health and safety issues in your buildings so that we can address them as needed.
6. Our next Health and Safety meeting has still not been scheduled.
7. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

D. Other

1. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible. They are virtual! So it's easy!

2. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank. The form is on our website at www.lbcta.com.

IV. Elementary Vice President – Beth Prostick

- A. Thank you to the Technology Department for recognizing the importance of 1:1 devices for grades 3-5.
- B. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on March 15, at 4:15 on Zoom. I will send you the link that morning.
- C. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.
- D. Send me any issues you were unable to work out at your building. I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org.

V. Secondary Vice President – Amy Leder

- A. Please continue to communicate with your Building Leaders and Building Reps about items that need to be addressed or looked into.
- B. Please continue to maintain social distancing and wear your mask.
- C. Happy Birthday to Spitz. Thank you to Mike Corrigan for finding the perfect way for the high school to remember and celebrate him.

VI. Treasurer’s Report – James Fiola

- A. As the month has not ended yet, the January financial results will be reported in the minutes of our Feb. 8th executive board meeting.
- B. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank and try to attend an upcoming School Board Meeting. Thank you for reading the minutes and please encourage your fellow members to do the same.
- C. **If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please email them to me at jfiola@lbeach.org.**
- D. Union dues for 2020/2021 for full-time members will be \$1,017.96. The break-out is \$397 local, \$378 NYSUT, \$234.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$101.80 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.
2020 union dues for tax purposes for full time members was \$1,018.

VII. Building Reports

A. LBVE

1. Thank you to Dr. Romanelli for the first ever LBVE Passion Project Night about one of his favorite topics.....PIZZA! There was fun had by all and now the LBVE students know the BEST pizza spots in all 5 Boroughs of New York.
2. We are concerned that as virtual students take the second round of NWEA assessment from home, that some are performing better than would be expected.
3. Congratulations to Deb Cupani, whose son made all county, all state, all eastern, and all national, singing bass.
4. Congratulations to Heather Puckhaber on the birth of her grandson, Cameron John India.
5. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

B. West School

1. Get well wishes to Chris Johnson Jr.
2. Welcome back to Colleen Iaboni.
3. Congratulations to Cheryle Fontenot on the announcement of her retirement.
4. Congratulations to Randi Simon on the birth of her son, Zachary.
5. Congratulations to Arlyne Skolnik on the announcement of her retirement.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.

C. Lindell School

1. Thank you to the staff and students for the many classroom activities celebrating MLK Day on January 18th.
2. Congratulations to Penny and Anthony India on the birth of their son Cameron John. Congratulations to Heather Puckhaber on becoming a Grandma!
3. Please consider donating a sick day to our district sick bank.

D. East School

1. Congratulations to Katie Duguay on the birth of her son Damien Lincoln.
2. Congratulations Sharon Weiss on your upcoming retirement. We are thankful for your years of service to the children of Long Beach, in particularly East School students. We wish you the same happiness that you have brought so many families.
3. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

E. Lido School

1. Congratulations to Sharon Weiss on the announcement of her retirement!
2. Welcome back, Dana Monti!
3. Lido staff send our sincerest condolences to Catherine Karp on the passing of her husband. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Cathy.
4. Lido teachers are grateful for the desk dividers that have been distributed for one-to-one conference and assessment purposes.
5. Congratulations to Penny and Anthony India on the birth of their son Cameron! Congratulations to Heather Puckhaber on the birth of her grandson Cameron!
6. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

F. Pre-K

1. Welcome back to Dana Monti! You were missed at Lido.
2. Congratulations to Sharon Weiss on her upcoming retirement!
3. Our condolences to Catherine Karp on the loss of her husband.
4. Thank you to the Pre-K PTA for the Long Beach Pre-K shirts to wear on spirit day! They are great!
5. Thank you to Dr. Hernandez, Ms. Weiss and the SEL committee for the Unity Day activities.
6. We appreciate the partitions that were provided to use to provide 1:1 instruction and assessment. Thank you!
7. A BIG thank you to the Pre-K teachers for donating to LB Aware for their weekend food bank!
8. Please consider donating a day to our LBCTA sick bank.

G. Middle School

1. Continued appreciation and thanks to Building Administration, Mary King, Liz McMahon, and Melissa Hartman for their continued handling of the contact tracing. We appreciate all of your time and effort going into this.
2. Again, thank you to EVERYONE for all continued efforts to follow health and safety protocols. Please remember these protocols are keeping us safe.
3. A special congratulations to Michael Glasstein on the finalization of the adoption of his sons Kevin Michael, Kaylan Lionel, Eliot Spencer Glasstein! Congratulations to the Glasstein family!
4. Welcome back to Rob Gallopini.
5. Condolences to Dana Stuono on the loss of her grandfather.
6. Get well wishes to Lorie Beard.

7. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating if you have not done so already.

H. High School

1. Condolences to Ray Adams on the loss of his mother-in-law.
2. Congratulations to John Skudin, Adriane Glassberg and Michelle Duggan on their upcoming retirement.
3. Thank you to Michael Corrigan, Jim Fiola, Stephanie Bragino, and Lee Krinsky for setting up the *Suspenders for Spitz* days of remembrance and kindness in honor of our friend Jay Spitz.
4. Thank you to Building administration and student government for conducting the Senior Spirit Week.
5. Thank you to the Building Administration for accommodating teachers who have needed to work from home due to quarantine-related issues.
6. Thank you to the Building Administration for handling the contact tracing that goes along with suspected cases.
7. Cleaning logs for each classroom are displayed in each classroom. Cleaners should be signing the log to indicate that the room has been cleaned and disinfected pursuant to the cleaning checklist. Staff members whose log is not being signed should notify the head custodian and CC Mr. Myers.
8. COVID testing and quarantine rules are constantly changing. Each situation will be handled on a case by case basis. If you should have any questions regarding your need to get tested or whether you need to quarantine, please contact Dr. Natali. If you prefer to have a building representative contact Dr. Natali, please let one know.
9. Staff would like to see the district require students to wear student ID cards during the school day.
10. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.
11. Thank you to EVERYONE for all of your efforts to follow health and safety protocols. Please remember these protocols are keeping us safe.

At 5:36 pm, a motion was made by Jonathan Bloom to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Karen Bloom.

In Attendance:

Long Beach Virtual Elementary (LBVE): Heather Puckhaber

West: Claudine Clark, Cheryleann Fontenot, Anne La Penna

Lindell: Susan Simons, Cathleen Barone, Lisa Rundo

East: Jennifer Diamond, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Dana Monti

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Lauren Behan, Alison Katulka, Stacey Mason, Kaitlin Smith

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Anthony Balsamo, Neil Campbell, Lisa Casey, Matthew Hartmann, Greg Milone

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC):

Retiree: Frank Volpe

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

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DINING &
SHOPPING
DISCOUNTS



TRAVEL
&
TOURS



CAR &
TRUCK
RENTALS

Come back for our Legal Service Plan



ESTATE
PLANNING



HOUSE
CLOSINGS



LEGAL LETTERS
WRITTEN

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

**MEMBER
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Working to Benefit You

Jan./Feb.'21