



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

November 30, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:15pm by Keith Harvey.

## I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

Welcome back. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful and there is much that we can be thankful for as an organization. I am thankful for the Executive Board and our membership for



all the hard work you do to advance the quality of education in the Long Beach Public Schools.

### A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

12/14/15, 1/11/16, 2/1/16, 2/29/16, 3/14/16, 4/11/16, 5/9/16 and 6/6/16

### B. 2015 Toy Drive

This year we will be working in partnership with our sisters and brothers in the LBSEA. Lynda D'Alessio, Stephanie Meyer and Barbara Hirsch will be coordinating the 2015 Toy Drive. You can drop off your donation of a new unwrapped toy in any school faculty room donation box. If you do not have time to shop, please consider making a cash donation and the committee will do the shopping for you. Cash and toy donations can also be given to your union reps.

### C. Little League

The Long Beach/Lido Little League presented us with a plaque to thank us for our support during the 2015 season.



### D. District Technology

The district is planning on implementing the one-to-one Chrome book initiative in grades 7-12 over the next three years. All teachers and one grade level will be given the books this year to start the implementation. The District Technology Committee is still reviewing different products, timelines and options for implementing at grades PreK-6.



### E. First Eligible Retirement Incentive

If you are considering retiring next June under the terms of our first eligible retirement incentive; you must notify the district of your intention by January 15, 2016. First eligible means that you are able to retire without an age or service reduction. You do not have to use time awarded under Article 19 to determine eligibility. If you are unsure if you are first eligible, or need more information, please contact me.

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*

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## F. Flex Plan 2016

The Affordable Care Act limits flexible spending account contributions for excess medical expenses to \$2,550 per year. Child/Elder care spending limits continue to be \$5,000 per year. Forms and more information were sent to you via an e-mail from Dr. Natali on November 5. In addition, paper copies should be available in all of the main offices. Keep in mind that your 2016 declarations must be received by the Human Resources Department on December 4, 2015. [Link to forms](#)

## G. Winter/Spring Study Money

There are two more opportunities to participate in the Study Program; Winter- Dec 11, 2015 Summer- May 13, 2016. 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.**

## H. Board of Education

I am sorry to report the passing of Ms. Karen Sofield on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Sofield served as a member of the Long Beach Public Schools Board of Education for twelve years from the late 1970s until the early 1990s.

## I. Long Beach Teacher Center

I am appointing Chrissy Bushing to the LBTC policy board at the recommendation of Teacher Center Director, Dr. Marr.

## J. Political Action Committee

I make the recommendation that Beth Prostick be appointed as the Political Action Coordinator. Any discussion? All in favor? Passed unanimously.

## K. Regents seeking a \$2.4 billion boost for education

The Board of Regents last week discussed a state aid recommendation calling for a \$2.4 billion increase for K-12 education 2016-17, including a \$2.1 billion boost in foundation aid and targeted funding for expanding universal pre-K, support for struggling schools and education of English language learners.



## L. NYSTRS Contribution Rate Declines Again

NYSTRS reported that the projected school district contribution rate for the 2016-17 school year will decrease to 11.75%. This is the third straight year of decreases coming off its 28 year high of 17.53% in 2014-15. The rate for the current school year, 2015-16, is 13.26%. This steady decline in the school district's contribution rate has resulted in a savings of several millions of dollars of NYSTRS contributions that the School District no longer has to make.

## M. Diploma Options for Students

There will be a forum on the lack of diploma options for our students in light of the recent elimination of the Regents Competency Test (RCT). Key education officials will be on hand from Albany to hear from parents and teachers about the problem this represents and what can be done about it. The forum will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Oceanside Public Library (30 Davison Avenue in Oceanside).

Join **Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky** and education officials for a forum on

**Tuesday, Dec. 8  
7 p.m.**

**Oceanside Public Library  
30 Davison Ave., Oceanside**

**DIPLOMA  
OPTIONS FOR  
STUDENTS**

**Panelists include:**  
NYS Regent Roger Tilles  
Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer  
Chair of the Assembly Subcommittee on Students with Special Needs  
James DeLorenzo  
Assistant Commissioner for Special Education for NYSED

For more information on this or any other community issue, please contact: **Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky** | 30 W. Park Ave., Suite 201, Long Beach, NY 11561 | 516-431-0200 | [KaminskyT@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:KaminskyT@assembly.state.ny.us)

## **N. A Message from Commissioner MaryEllen Elia**

As you may know, the State Education Department in October launched AIMHighNY, an online survey of the State's Common Core Learning Standards. To date, more than 5,000 individuals have provided feedback on individual standards. While more than half of those who have responded to the survey so far have been teachers, we would like to hear from more from you. Earlier this month, I asked, to the extent possible, that our principals help facilitate opportunities for grade-level teachers to gather with colleagues to discuss specific standards. Where possible, I would like teachers to be able to use time during the school day--perhaps during the time they usually have weekly faculty meetings--for this discussion and to enter feedback into the survey.

If you haven't yet participated in the survey, please go to <http://www.nysed.gov/aimhighny> before the survey closes on November 30<sup>th</sup>. You know these standards better than anyone, and your feedback is vital to strengthening the standards and improving teaching and learning for our students.

## **O. NYSUT Leadership Conference**

There will be a second NYSUT Leadership Conference on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending, please let me know ASAP.

## **P. NYSUT Leadership Presentation**

Thank you to those who attended the conference earlier this month for sharing out the information that was presented.

## **Q. Credit Swap**

Jackie Kupferman - 1.5 credits from LIU Post Dana Monti - 1.5 credits for Hofstra

Patty Van Loon - 1.5 credits for LIU

## **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. Negotiation Committee—Keith Harvey, Chief Negotiator**

Thank you very much to everyone who attended the Board of Education meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2015. The negotiation team and I are optimistic that we can change the district's practice of prolonging negotiations. The negotiations team and I have come to the table with an open mind to try to work with the district. I am hopeful that we will be able to get closer to a settlement through quiet diplomacy and acts of solidarity such as Thursday night. Thank you again to everyone who came to the meeting. Our next negotiation meeting with the district is on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **C. New Members—Jim Fiola**

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 do not have a buddy or mentor.

We will also be attending the mentor meetings to speak to the new members about various issues. In addition, we will be holding a meeting at the beginning of 2016 for all untenured teachers. Please read the December 14<sup>th</sup> minutes for the date, place and time. I hope your careers here at Long Beach are off to a great start. 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. I would like to form a Political Action committee to join me in the decision making. I firmly believe that together we can achieve anything. Please contact me at [bprostick@gmail.com](mailto:bprostick@gmail.com) if you would like to be on the committee.
2. The first thing we must do is get our PAC member email list updated. When I get last year's list, I will be asking each building rep. to check with their members to correct or add any

emails to the list. My goal is to have 100% participation. I would like to use personal emails rather than the lbeach.org email.

#### **E. Public Relations Committee—Amy Powers**

The Public Relations committee had our first meeting last month. Many great ideas were discussed about how we can continue to positively promote things occurring outside of the classrooms. Look for our holiday ad in the December 10<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup> issues of the LB Herald. Thank you to all our members for your wonderful and caring ideas. A special thank you to Ali Katulka for her time and dedication in creating this year's ad. Our next meeting will be after the holiday break.

#### **F. Teacher Center—John Marr**

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center has 10 iPads in a traveling case that any teacher in the district may borrow. If you are interested in borrowing the case for one week, please contact the director at lbtc@lbeach.org and arrange for a time to pick them up. Specific apps can be installed on the iPads if you require them. Please indicate which apps you may wish to use when setting up the appointment.
2. In cooperation with Stony Brook University, the Long Beach Teacher Center will be offering a three graduate class cluster on using Google Apps in the Classroom. If you are interested, please check the email sent to your district account or visit [www.lbeachtc.org](http://www.lbeachtc.org).

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

#### **A. APPR**

1. According to Dr. Graham, 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.
2. Please be sure to remain actively engaged in the APPR process. Your SLOs should be completed or at least in the process of being completed. Be sure to discuss your targets with your lead evaluator. Remember, you should not see opinions from your evaluation team when classroom observations take place. Be sure to address issues in your post observation conferences.
3. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

#### **B. Health & Safety Committee**

1. We did get the mold report from the Chemistry Prep room. Although there was in fact mold found, it was not a toxic strain. This could, however, still be an irritant for people who are sensitive or have allergies to it. We are still awaiting a permanent solution for the problem that caused the mold to begin with. The acids cabinet is not vented properly, leading to moisture buildup, which then leads to mold growth.
2. In addition, we are still waiting for the Mold Protocol to be put in writing for all teachers and staff to see.
3. The next meeting is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am in the Lido Multipurpose room. 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. The next meeting is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am in the Lido Multipurpose room. 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. Thank you to all teachers who attended the BOE meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>. It was great to see so many of you there. Please attend meetings whenever possible!
2. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank, as we have little to none left. The form is available [here](#).

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

A. We had many issues preparing the grades for the new report cards this semester. I would like to thank Sean Murray for getting most of the problems corrected in a timely fashion. I hope that all the glitches are now cleaned up and the next trimester will run smoothly. Hopefully, next year when we switch yet again to another system, we do not have the same difficulties.

B. I am hoping for a speedy resolution to the late buses at West School from Mr. DeVito.

C. Elementary Council meeting will be held at Lido on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 3:45 in room 25.

D. Please consider donating one or more sick days to your colleagues in need.

E. Please bring an unwrapped toy in for our Toy Drive. If you do not have time to shop, please consider giving a cash donation to a building rep.

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 still great concern for the safety of students, staff and residents under the current traffic pattern. I spoke with Mr. Stroud about forming the Site-Based Committee to discuss an outcome as per Mr. DeVito. According to Mr. Stroud, he thought the issue was resolved last spring and that the traffic pattern would remain the same. Mr. Stroud stated that this was the opinion of the PTA executive board. However, at the last Health and Safety meeting this past spring, the traffic pattern at the HS was discussed. There seemed to be a consensus of all parties involved; parents, students, HS Staff and the transportation department; that the problem must be addressed. We were given the impression that the pattern may be changed for September and that Mr. DeVito would speak with Mr. Stroud. Mr. Stroud has promised me that he will reach out to the Site-Based team to have this discussion again, however there is concern that the Site-Based team is made up of the same PTA members who have disagreed with the Health and Safety Committee. Maybe we can invite the Site-Based Committee to our next HS meeting so that they can be better informed of the safety issues at hand and we can all be on the same page?

B. We are still disappointed to hear that the newly appointed Director of Humanities will no longer be working in Long Beach. We continue to have concerns about this position being vacant and again, we are eagerly awaiting to hear when the district will fill this position.

C. With the recent resignation of Joy D'Anca, Coordinator of Guidance, there is concern about this position also being vacant. She will be leaving the district on December 12<sup>th</sup> and to date the position has not been posted. We are hopeful that the job will be posted ASAP.

D. While we appreciate administration taking the time to hear our concerns, our frustration continues to exist regarding the state of classroom and department office computer work stations and copiers. We hope that a plan of action can be set into place in the future to avoid these issues.

E. Our next Secondary Meeting will be on December 7<sup>th</sup> in LBHS Guidance at 4 pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

F. It was great to see so many fellow members at the last BOE Meeting. Please continue to attend future meetings. Our presence is needed!

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. The November Financial results will be included in the minutes of our next meeting, December 14, 2015.

B. Thank you to those who attended the School Board Meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>. It was a nice show of support. We are certainly stronger when we stand together.

C. 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 possi-

ble while still meeting our local obligations and making charitable contributions to the Long Beach community.

**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).**

## **VII. Building Reports**

### **A. West School**

1. M.U.S.T. Night, a West School tradition, was again a great success. Teacher prepared activities to support and stimulate math and science skills were fun and engaging for both our students and their parents.
2. Thank you to students and staff for the generous contributions to our Thanksgiving Food Drive.
3. Thank you to Team 7-1 of the Middle School for organizing the Field of Honor flag display at West School. This is a great way for our students to recognize Veteran's Day!
4. Teachers, staff, and parents prepared delicious Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade feasts!
5. Congratulations to Maureen Clarke on the birth of her granddaughter, Fiona.
6. West School buses continue to arrive late for dismissal. We cannot dismiss children safely until all buses arrive.
7. Please bring an unwrapped toy in for our Toy Drive. If you do not have time to shop, please consider giving a cash donation to a building rep.

### **B. Lindell School**

1. Kudos to SEL Committee and SELF Families for a meaningful day focusing on empathy.
2. Thank you to the Lindell staff members who attended the board meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your support.
3. Thank you to the Lindell staff members for your generosity in contributing to the Thanksgiving gift baskets.
4. We are disappointed with the roll-out, documentation process and printing of the new report cards. We recognize that the many issues are software related. We hope when the new software is implemented next year, the many problems are resolved in a more timely fashion.
5. Our deepest sympathy to Lindsey Smith on the passing of her beloved, Lee Hirsch.
6. Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family of Karen Sofield on her passing.
7. Please bring an unwrapped toy in for our Toy Drive. If you do not have time to shop, please consider giving a cash donation to a building rep.

### **C. East School**

1. Kudos to our staff members for another successful Third Grade Thanksgiving Feast .
2. We would like to extend our condolences to the Sofield family for the recent passing of Karen Sofield.
3. Thank you to Team 7-1 of the Middle School who organized the Field of Honor. It was a wonderful way to honor our veterans.
4. Please bring an unwrapped toy in for our Toy Drive. If you do not have time to shop, please consider giving a cash donation to a building rep.

### **D. Lido School**

1. Third grade students and parents enjoyed participating in the "Flat Stanley Incognito" activity.
2. In celebration of friendship, the kindergarten students joined together and enthusiastically took part in the annual Lido Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast. Thank you to the kindergarten teachers and music teacher, Mr. Frey, for leading the students in song and dance.
3. Thank you to the students and staff for donating food to the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

4. Thank you to the students who contributed to the Veteran's Wall of Honor.
5. Please bring an unwrapped toy in for our Toy Drive. If you do not have time to shop, please consider giving a cash donation to a building rep.

#### **E. Pre-K**

1. Please bring an unwrapped toy in for our Toy Drive. If you do not have time to shop, please consider giving a cash donation to a building rep.

#### **F. HALB**

1. Please bring an unwrapped toy in for our Toy Drive. If you do not have time to shop, please consider giving a cash donation to a building rep.

#### **G. Middle School**

1. Congratulations to Christina Camacho on her recent marriage to Rafael Bryan.
2. Construction on the 100 hallway is still on schedule and the timeline for completion remains to be over holiday break.
3. There was initial concern from several members about the role of Mr. Cronk as a Humanities observer. Some of these concerns were alleviated after meeting him at a recent MS Humanities Department meeting.
4. Condolences to the family of Karen Sofield on her recent passing.
5. Please bring an unwrapped toy in for our Toy Drive. If you do not have time to shop, please consider giving a cash donation to a building rep. A toy collection box is in Café 7.

#### **H. High School**

1. Congratulations and bravo to the teachers, cast and crew of the school drama, *Play On*.
2. Thank you to the HS PTA for the recent fashion show fundraiser for Morning Madness.
3. Frustration exists regarding the state of classroom and department office computer work stations and copiers. Many of these workstations are outdated and slow.
4. There is still great concern for the safety of students, staff and residents under the current traffic pattern. We look forward to the HS Site-Based Committee evaluating the situation and making a formal recommendation to the building administration.
5. We are still greatly concerned about the state of access to technology in the building. While the district has created a new computer lab in the library, this year they removed one of our two existing computer labs. There needs to be even greater access to technology in the building.
6. Concern exists regarding the level of security in the building. With a building of this size it seems as if there should be more than one security guard on patrol per floor. Additional security is needed after school hours as well.
7. The temperature in the building continues to be an issue. Some areas are extremely cold while others are extremely warm
8. Please bring an unwrapped toy in for our Toy Drive. If you do not have time to shop, please consider giving a cash donation to a building rep.

At 6:20pm, a motion was made by Jill Cherlin to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Amy Powers.

**In Attendance:**

West: Mary Ann Colucci

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Jane Quinton, Migdalia Schneider

East: Barbara Lewy

Lido: Cheryl Carroll, Marilyn Pilo

Pre-K:

HALB: GariAnn Harris

LBMS: Jill Cherlin, Camila Gamboa, Jennifer Garrett, Stacey Rice

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

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

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.



