



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

March 27, 2023

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

I. President's Report—Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

4/24/23, 5/8/23, 5/22/23, 6/13/23

B. State of the Union

Good afternoon my fellow Executive Board members and distinguished LBCTA sisters and brothers. Today, it is my high privilege and distinct honor to deliver to you the State of the Union. The past few years have been full of challenges, but I am proud to say that the state of our union is strong. Before I begin, I would like to say thank you to the Executive Board and our membership, for all that you do, to make Long Beach Public Schools a great place for our children and its workers.



Firstly, I am proud to say that we have successfully negotiated several contracts with the Long Beach School District, securing better wages and benefits for our members. Our negotiation team worked tirelessly to ensure that our members receive the compensation and support they deserve, while incorporating new opportunities for our students to succeed.

As educators, we have faced unprecedented obstacles in the wake of the pandemic. We have had to quickly identify and adapt to gaps in learning, find new ways to connect with our students, and prioritize their safety and wellbeing above all else. We have implemented new technologies and innovative teaching methods to better engage our students and support their emotional and mental health needs. And we must continue to adapt and innovate as we face new challenges and opportunities. Despite these challenges, we have persevered, and I am grateful for the resilience and dedication of our members.

Besides these challenges we have so much to celebrate. We are among one of the few local districts with a teacher center. The Long Beach Teacher Center allows us to prioritize professional development for our members, offering a wide range of in-service

Keith Harvey

President

Karen Bloom

Executive Vice President

Beth Prostick

Vice President for

Elementary Schools

Amy Leder

Vice President for

Secondary Schools

Patricia Van Loon

Recording Secretary

Ellen Parks

Corresponding Secretary

Jonathan Bloom

Treasurer

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and graduate courses to help teachers stay up-to-date with the latest educational practices. Over the years we have partnered with local universities and education organizations to bring in expert trainers and educational leaders to allow our members to meet their professional goals.

In addition to those partnerships the Teacher Center has made, we also have a wide range of members that offer a variety of professional development through workshops, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, and collegial circles. Most recently a group of our teachers volunteered to be trained by the Happy Teacher Revolution to support the mental health and well-being of members. This unique format allows teachers a place to discuss the blame, guilt and difficulties of balancing an incredibly demanding profession with their own sense of self and happiness. This opportunity comes at a great time while we are sadly facing an ever-changing political and social landscape that unfortunately points their misguided anger towards public education.

The LBCTA is also in year two of our Take a look at Teaching Grant (TALAT). This three-year grant encourages and supports students looking to enter the field of education. Our multi-year plan engages students in activities involving educational pedagogy, lesson planning, leadership skills, and classroom visits. This too comes at a great time as the district created the Future Teachers of America club and is enhancing their CTE, and college and career readiness opportunities.

What we do for our students and our members professionally is only one small part of who we are an organization. Giving back to organizations that support our students and our communities also defines who we are. Once again, this year we kicked-off our fundraising efforts with our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event, raising over \$9,300 reinforcing the fact that in Long Beach no one fights alone. Then, we continued to support our local food pantry and were able to donate over \$700 to St. Mary's Food Pantry. Next, we turned our efforts to our annual Toy Drive and were able to contribute to The Little Saint Nick Foundation by sponsoring 100 gift bags which were distributed to local hospitals. Now as spring is upon us, we have focused our attention (and bowling skills) on the Annual Spring Fundraiser, the proceeds of which will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. These are just some of the many charitable events that we sponsored, not to mention all the individual and building Sunshine sponsored events so far this year.

As I have said in the past, the connections and partnerships that we make with our students, their families, and the stakeholders in the district, allow the community to see the commitment that we have made to Long Beach. It is those relationships and our commitment that gives the community the confidence to support Long Beach Public Schools, including the annual budget and our recent contract settlements.

We are fortunate to work in a district that time and time again comes out to support their public schools. The connections we make and the work we do in the community helps to define who we are as an organization. That is why I am so proud of the work that goes into our bimonthly newsletter to highlight all of our amazing achievements, and the work done by our Political Action Committee, to publish our biannual PAC Newsletter. Not only do our members receive copies, but for the spring addition we also send copies to the over 2,500 NYSUT members that live here in Long Beach. This distribution allows us to show all the educators living in Long Beach who we are, what we do, and why they should support their local public schools.

It is not only about the connections we make in the community it is also about the connections we make with each other. These charitable events and celebrations help us showcase the sense of pride we have in

being LBCTA members. That is why it is so important that we come out for events like the Bowling Fundraiser and End of the Year Celebration. This year's LBCTA End of the year Celebration is on May 18.

As we look towards the future, let us continue to stand together in our mission to educate, inspire, and empower the next generation. As I stated in my opening, and have shown through our members hard work, I stand before you today with confidence that the state of our union is strong. Our teachers continue to show extraordinary resilience, innovation, and dedication to our students and our profession. We are an association of dedicated and passionate educators who are committed to making a difference in the lives of our students. Together, we can continue to build a better future for ourselves, our students, and our profession. Thank you, and may God bless the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association.

C. 2023 LBCTA Scholarship

I am pleased to announce the following association members' children are this year's scholarship winners: Ariel Landa, daughter of Liza Landa, and Ray Adams, son of Ray Adams. Thank you to Elena Frishman for serving as the chair of the scholarship committee and to the committee volunteers: Frank Volpe, Jaclyn Mc Mahon, Scott Bretcher, and Keith Harvey.

D. Condolences

Condolences to the friends and family of former member Barbara Goldstein. Barbara had a long and rich career with Long Beach Schools working at Central School, Lindell, Lido, and ending her career at the Middle School. Barbara was also an LBCTA officer and instrumental in originally getting the LBCTA involved with the Making Strides Against Breast event back in the late 90's. The groundwork that she laid for Making Strides almost 25 years ago still carries on today.

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. Election Committee—Grace Parisi

1. The following members are running in this year's officer and delegate election;
President, NYSUT Delegate/AFT Delegate - Keith Harvey
Executive Vice President, NYSUT Delegate, AFT Delegate - Karen Bloom
Secondary Vice President - Amy Leder Elementary
Vice President - Beth Prostick
Recording Secretary - Patricia Van Loon
Corresponding Secretary - Elleen Parks
Treasurer - John Bloom
NYSUT Delegate (2) - Jennifer Garrett and Patricia Van Loon
AFT Delegate (3) - Amy Leder, Elleen Parks, and Patricia Van Loon

C. New Members—Alison Katulka

1. Please join us on Friday, April 21st at EGP Land and Sea for our Spring New Member party starting at 4:00 pm. All new members, executive board members, mentors, and union buddies are encouraged to attend! I hope to see you there.
2. I hope to see our new members joining us at the Bowling Fundraiser on March 30th. There are a lot of great raffles and prizes to win!
3. If you know of a new member who is in need of a buddy please email me at akatulka@lbeach.org

D. Political Action Committee—Jennifer Garrett

1. We are working on the next edition of the LBCTA Newsletter. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions for content for the next newsletter please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com. All suggestions are greatly appreciated!
2. As always, feel free to share your ideas on how LBCTA PAC can better serve your members. You can email your thoughts to LBCTAPAC@gmail.com.

E. Public Relations Committee—Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Congratulations to Eric Fox on a wonderful IB Art Show.
2. Great job coaching our Challenger Games Coach Devivo and Coach Ford.
3. It's a sweep! For the first time ever, every LB student that competed in the Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament, earned a 1st place finish. Congratulations to coaches Doug MacConnell, Jennifer Seychell, and Andie Techera.

F. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. Please SAVE the Date - Thursday, May 18, 2023 for our Spring CTA Celebration. Our next social committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 19th at 4:45 via Google Meet. Please reach out to me if you'd like to attend.

G. Long Beach Teacher Center—John Marr

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center is currently in the process of closing the grant for the 2022-2023 school year.
2. We are currently arranging to run three NYSUT Educational Learning Trust workshops with the remaining Grant funds. Please be on the lookout for the following classes: Academic Language for ELs (5 hours fully virtual, April 17 start), Self Awareness and Reflective Practices for Equitable Classrooms (5 hours fully virtual May 8 start) and for our SRP brothers and sisters, Dealing with Difficult Behaviors (3 hours, May 8).
3. The Teacher Center will be moving to the Middle School for next year. We thank Lindell School for hosting us for the last sixteen years and look forward to our new space, which has yet to be finalized.
4. If you are interested in running any courses over the summer, please contact the director at lbtcc@lbeach.org.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

A. APPR

1. You should have received your form stating who your evaluators are.
2. Please take an active role in the observation process. Keep in mind that the Danielson framework that we use is based on best practice and observable measures. You should not see opinions from your evaluation team. Be sure to address issues in your post observation conferences.
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.

B. Health & Safety

1. We have been in discussions with Mr, DeVito to try to address the fire alarm system in the high school. We have had a multitude of sensor issues, and faulty heads that have led to evacuations throughout the year. We are hoping to get some more clarification on this issue. As of now, it seems that there is a major overhaul needed, and that will not be happening any time soon. There are some similar concerns at the middle school as well.

2. I have no new updates about the Shades in the HS, other than we are still waiting for the delivery of supplies to complete the installation.
3. The next meeting date is April 20, 2023. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

C. Other

1. Have a great spring break! Enjoy the time off with your family and friends!
2. Can't wait to see everyone at the Bowling Event on March 30th!
3. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible.
4. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank. The form is on our website at www.lbcta.com.

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

- A. We are looking forward to our annual Bowling event which will be held on March 30th.
- B. Our next Elementary Council meeting is TBD.
- C. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- D. Wishing everyone a restful and happy spring break!
- E. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org.

V. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report—Amy Leder

- A. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the bowling event this Thursday.
- B. Wishing everyone a restful spring recess.

VI. Treasurer's Report—Jonathan Bloom

- A. As the month of the March has not ended yet, the March financial results will be reported in the minutes of our April 24 Executive Board meeting.
- B. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank.
- C. Please consider attending a few School Board meetings. Your presence is always noted.
- D. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and relaxing spring recess.

For tax purposes, the 2022 union dues are \$1,023.

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Condolences to Bonnie Scholfield on the loss of her mother.
2. Please consider donating at least one sick day to our sick bank this year.
3. Looking forward to our annual Bowling Fundraiser on March 30th! Thank you to all our staff who donated money to our basket.
4. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy spring break!

B. Lindell School

1. We are looking forward to the CTA Annual Bowling Event at RVC Lanes on March 30th.
2. Welcome back Lauren Muscarella!
3. K-5 had a blast attending the Mad Science-Spin Boom PARP assembly.
4. Please consider donating a day to the CTA sick bank.
5. Wishing you all a happy and healthy Spring break!

C. East School

1. Congratulations to Kristin Higgins and her husband Kyle on the birth of their son, Jordan Joseph.
2. We are so proud of our Odyssey of the Mind students! Every student who competed in Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament in Freeport earned a 1st place finish. They will be heading to Syracuse on April 14th/15th to compete against other New York State students. Thank you to

- Doug MacConnell, Andie Techera, and Jennifer Seychell for their direction and coaching.
3. Condolences to Evelyn Daza on the passing of her mother.
 4. Thank you to all who donated to our 50/50 raffle. Proceeds from the LBCTA Bowling event will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Big Climb Metro New York."
 5. Join us on May 18th for our Spring Celebration.
 6. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.
 7. Happy Easter and Happy Passover.
 8. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy spring break.

D. Lido School

1. Congratulations to Dr. Ivelisse Hernandez on receiving tenure as our principal at Lido Elementary School. We appreciate your continued support and leadership.
2. Congratulations to Denise Callahan and Joan Kavarsky on their official announcement of retirement at the end of the school year. You will be missed!
3. Condolences to Dr. Evelyn Daza on the loss of her mother.
4. We look forward to the LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser this Thursday, 3/30/2023.
5. Please consider joining us at the LBCTA End of Year Celebration at Temple Avodah in Oceanside on Thursday, May 18th.
6. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
7. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and restful Spring Break!

E. Pre-K

1. Congratulations to Dr. Hernandez on receiving tenure as the principal of Lido Elementary! We appreciate your support and leadership in our building.
2. Thank you to the Lido and the Pre-K PTA's for coordinating the PARP reading minutes log, tallying the minutes read, declaring winners and for the bookmark design competition!
3. Thank you to Beth Prostick and Amy Leder for coordinating the LBCTA bowling event! Thank you to the bowlers and to those who donated towards the raffle baskets.
4. Save the date for the 22/23 retirement party, Thursday, May 18th at Temple Avodah.
5. Please consider donating a [sick day](#) to the LBCTA sick bank.
6. Have a wonderful and restful April break!

F. LBMS

1. Many rooms and even full corridors suffered with intermittent heat this winter. We look forward to a plan that permanently addresses the heating issues at the MS.
2. We are concerned with the lack of supervision in the back hall of the building after school. We appreciate the security guard at the back door until 4:00 although this post seems intermittent and to have changed to 3:30. We look forward to a prompt return of a security guard after school at the back of the building.
3. Shout out to our LBMS Math Team and Mr. Papetti on a successful Pi Day 2023 - Reciting the Numbers of π Contest. Kudos to Mr. Papetti for inspiring our students to recite as many digits of π as possible. Also, special thanks to all that participated, wore your π attire and showed your mathematical spirit.
4. Congratulations to our Odyssey of the Mind teams (advisors Ms. Seychell and Mr. MacConnell) for their recent win. All 6 teams won 1st place and will move on to the states in Syracuse this April!
5. Welcome back to Jessica Hemmerdinger.

6. Condolences to the Goldstein family on the loss of Barbara Goldstein-O'Halleran.
7. Special thanks to Lindsay Pichichero, Nicole Vasheo, Raquel Lopez, and Barbara Vahey for organizing our Sunshine Social event on March 24th. A great time was had by all.
8. Special thanks to all who donated for our MS basket for the upcoming LBCTA Bowling Event. MS generosity never ceases to amaze! We created a fabulous "Getting Yeti for Summer " basket for the event.
9. The Spring New Member party will take place on April 21st at EGP Land and Sea.
10. Please join us at the LBCTA End of the Year Celebration on Thursday, May 18th at 5:00 at Temple Avodah.
11. Thank you to the many members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating if you have not done so already.

G. LBHS

1. Congratulations to Jeanne O'Shea-Saroka on the birth of her son, Teddy James.
2. Congratulations to Serena Whitefield on receiving tenure.
3. Congratulations to the Math Department on a successful Pi day.
4. Congratulations to Ray Adams & Liza Landau's children, Raymond & Ariel, for earning the LBCTA scholarship.
5. Condolences to Evelyn Daza on the passing of her mother, Bertha Perez.
6. Congratulations Jim Johnsen, Dan Lerner and the Robotics Club for competing at the First Robotics Competition.
7. Congratulations to Eric Fox and the IB students for all of their amazing artwork in the IB Visual Arts Showcase.
8. Thank you to all staff who donated to the creation of our High School Basket which will be raffled off at the Annual LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser March 30th.
9. The staff is looking forward to the reopening of the newly remodeled library after the Spring break.
10. The staff would like to see the implementation of prerequisites for advanced classes like AP, SUPA and IB for HS students.
11. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.
12. Wishing everyone a restful and happy spring break!

At 5:25pm, a motion was made by John Marr to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jennifer Garrett.

In Attendance:

West: Julie de Bruin

Lindell: Susan Simons, Heather Puckhaber

East: Jennifer Diamond

Lido: Dana Monti

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, John Marr, Grace Parisi

LBHS: Lisa Casey, Anthony Balsamo, Lauren Wolfen

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC): John Marr

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

Executive Officers: Keith Harvey, Karen Bloom, Patricia Van Loon, Elleen Parks, Jonathan Bloom

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

CHECK OUT ALL YOUR UNION MEMBERSHIP HAS TO OFFER!

When you're planning for the future, what's at the top of your list?

- A comfortable nest egg for retirement
- Providing for your family
- Purchasing a new home
- Home improvement
- Purchasing a new vehicle
- Travel and entertainment

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs to help turn those dreams into reality.



When it comes to saving you money, protecting your family and helping you plan for the future, NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of programs and services to help with your goals. Whether you are just starting out on your journey, well into your career or enjoying a well-deserved retirement, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org. There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics. Member Benefits also endorses important **legal and financial services** along with an **online savings program** featuring some of today's most competitive interest rates.

Next up would be looking in the “Shopping, Travel & Personal” section of our site for **MB Discounts & Deals**. This program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to provide NYSUT members with exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurant dine-in or take out, groceries and food delivery, clothing and shoes, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, vehicle maintenance, and much more.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or calling 800-626-8101.



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

Mar-Apr 2023



*It's OUR time
to celebrate!*



Join us on Thursday, May 18th, 5pm
at Temple Avodah

Save the Date!