



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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Executive Board Minutes

December 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:15pm by Karen Bloom.

I. President's Report - Karen Bloom

A. Happy Holidays

All of our efforts within the Association are focused on enhancing the standard of education in our schools. This is accomplished by bringing our members together and ensuring that the conditions required to support teaching as a profession are maintained and reinforced. Your dedication to the children and families of the Long Beach community is greatly appreciated. Wishing you and your family peace and joy during this holiday season and throughout the upcoming year. Thank you for all that you do.



B. Toy Drive 2024

This Holiday season, we will once again be collecting money and/or toys for the Little Saint Nick Foundation. In addition, we will be partnering with LBSEA in order to maximize our collection efforts. Let's come together and make a positive impact on the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your support! We will collect until December 18th and then we will make the donation. Cash, checks or toy donations can be given to your building reps, sent directly to me at the High School, or you can use our Venmo – @LBCTA (Last 4 digits: 2510).



little saint nick foundation
"Kids inspiring and helping kids"

C. Regionalization Plan

Recently the SED released a new letter updating a few key items. The first being Clarification on Monitoring and Amendments Section; this will be revised to note that suggested amendments to regionalization plans will remain advisory rather than mandatory. This ensures that districts maintain full control over the plans they develop. The second is Voluntary Participation Acknowledgment. To address concerns about mandatory participation, a new provision will be added, which allows districts in consultation with their school boards, to elect not to participate in the regionalization planning process by submitting written notification by January 15, 2025.

D. Foundation Aid

The following is a brief summary of NYSUT's response to the Rockefeller Recommendations: The statement discusses the need for reforming outdated school funding models that leave high-need districts underfunded. The Rockefeller Institute's report provides a framework for addressing these disparities, and while the statement supports some of the recommendations, it raises concerns about proposals that would reduce Foundation Aid without considering the

evolving needs of students. It emphasizes that any changes to the funding formula must ensure stability and predictability for school districts. Additionally, it calls for addressing broader systemic issues like mental health support, child poverty, and infrastructure, which impact students and educators. The statement urges policymakers to prioritize the voices of students, parents, and educators in shaping future decisions on school funding. The full press release may be found [here](#).

The NY Post reported that Governor Hochul will no longer support cuts to Foundation Aid in her upcoming budget proposal. The Post writes:

“As we craft the upcoming Executive Budget, the Governor believes we should avoid proposals that would negatively impact school budgets, such as eliminating the hold-harmless provision of the Foundation Aid formula” covering such reductions, the statement from Hochul’s office said.

This is good news for our schools and our members, and speaks to the impact NYSUT’s advocacy has had on the discussions around school aid. The full article is available online [here](#). The story was also reported in the Watertown Daily Times [here](#).

E. First Eligible Retirement Incentive

If you are considering retiring in June, under the terms of our first eligible retirement incentive, you must notify the district of your intention by January 15, 2025. First eligible means that you are able to retire without an age or service reduction. If you are unsure if you are first eligible, or need more information, you can look at your NYSTRS Benefit Profile or contact NYSTRS directly at: [NYSTRS](#)

F. 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.



G. Health Insurance Option Transfer Period

Option Transfer for health insurance coverage runs through December 17, 2024, and is your once-a-year opportunity to evaluate and make necessary changes to your health insurance enrollment elections (if you are already eligible for health insurance). If you are satisfied with your current health coverage elections, you are not required to make any changes and your coverage will automatically be carried forward for the next plan year. Rate increases and premium costs can be found in the attached memo. The attached open enrollment letter is self-explanatory, but should you have any questions, please call Susannah Familetti at 2095. You can reference Dr. Natali’s email from 12/2, which has all of the forms necessary to make changes.

H. Sellback of Health Insurance

If you elect to “sell-back” your health insurance you should have received your first half payment as part of your December 6th paycheck. If you did not receive your payment; call the payroll office at x2088 to verify your election. Please keep in mind that even if you “sell-back” your medical insurance you are still entitled to family dental insurance.

I. Coaching Pay Dates - 2024-2025 school year

High School

Winter: First check: 12/20, Second check: 2/14

Spring: First check: 4/11, Second check: 5/9

Middle School:

Winter I: First check: 12/20, Second check: 1/17

Winter II: First check: 2/14, Second check: 3/14

Spring: First check: 4/25, Second check: 6/6

J. Mandated Reporting: GCN

All GCN Training Modules are due by **December 13, 2024**. Dr. Natali sent an email on 9/3 with all of the instructions on how to access and what modules need to be completed. This can be done during your professional periods while at work.

K. Mandated Reporting: Child Abuse Training

The NYS Department of Education (per NYS Social Services Law § 413) now requires updated training to assist in recognizing signs of child abuse or maltreatment. Accordingly, all mandated reporters, including those who have previously undergone training, must complete updated training by April 1, 2025. Training is free, on-line, self-directed, and can be completed using the instructions sent by Dr. Natali. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is offering the 9-module (2-hour) training through the Human Services Learning Center (HSLC) website (<https://www.hslcnys.org/hslc/>). It is not required that the entire training is completed at one time. Therefore, you can pace yourself and resume as you see fit prior to the April 1st deadline. (See memo provided for more details on submitting documentation.) This can be done during your professional periods while at work. In addition, the Nassau Regional Office is hosting two virtual training sessions per month, free of charge, for NYSUT members. You may use the links below to register for the date of your choice:

[December 16, 2024, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)

[January 7, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)

[January 21, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)

[February 3, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)

[February 24, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)

[March 3, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)

[March 25, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)

[April 1, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)

(two sessions have been booked for last minute needs)

L. NYS Paid Sick Leave – *It is still in effect, until December 31, 2025*

Should you need to quarantine for a positive COVID case you still have access to the NYS Paid Sick Leave. You can only access this benefit three times, and if you used it in years past it does not reset. Once someone uses Paid Covid Leave three times, that person is no longer eligible. Please remember this can only be used for lab confirmed positive cases, and that you should notify HR once positive. The State benefit is not for your child's quarantine or positive case. The COVID Leave Form is located in your main office and can be completed once you return to work.

M. Study Money Dates - *Reminder*

There are two more opportunities to participate in the Study Program: **Winter – Friday, December 13, 2024** and **Summer – Friday, May 16, 2025**. 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](#).



N. Annual Turn-In of Sick Days

If you have accumulated at least 75 sick days and wish to exercise your option of selling back unused sick days earned this year (up to 12 or 14 if you worked at Summer School or Extended School Year) you must submit a “[Request for Payment in Exchange for Accumulated Unused Sick Days](#)” form to the HR Department. The teacher must not have been absent more than 6 days during the school year for which he/she shall claim eligibility for this payment.

II. Committee Reports

A. Grievance Committee - Amy Leder

1. There are currently no grievances to report. If you encounter any issues that may violate our contract, please reach out to me at aleder@lbeach.org.

B. New Members - Alison Katulka

1. Thank you to all who have stepped up to be a union buddy for a new member! I am very grateful to our building reps for helping me pair our new members with a buddy.
2. Save the Date! March 6, 2025, for our Bowling Fundraiser.
3. If you know of a new member who needs a buddy, please contact me at akatulka@lbeach.org.

C. Political Action Committee - Jennifer Garrett

1. Help Fix Tier 6! We are asking all members to join NYSUT's Tier 6 Fix-It Team by simply scanning the QR code. Fixing Tier 6 is about justice and dignity in retirement. It's about solidarity and fairness. It's about keeping talented educators in the classroom and recruiting new educators into the profession. We have work to do to make public service retirement fair for everyone and we can't do it without you. If you are interested in joining our LBCTA Fix Tier 6 team please email lbctapac@gmail.com. We will be in touch with updates and actions you can take.
2. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.



D. Public Relations Committee - Jennifer Garrett and Jennifer Maggio

1. A heartfelt thank you to everyone for the generous donations to our LBCTA Toy Drive benefiting The Little Saint Nick's Foundation. If you have not donated already, there is still time! You can see one of your building reps with cash donations or Venmo Karen Bloom @LBCTA (Last 4 digits: 2510).
2. Please follow us on Instagram @LongBeachClassroomTeachers.
3. Save the Date! Our LBCTA 8th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. This year we will be donating to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen. More information will be available soon. As in the past, we hope each building can donate a basket for the raffle. So start thinking of those basket themes!
4. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.



E. Social Committee - Elleen Parks

1. I want to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season! Enjoy your family, friends and work celebrations! May 2025 bring you joy, success, and all the good health you deserve. Cheers to new beginnings and exciting opportunities ahead!
2. Please consider donating to our Little Saint Nick's fundraiser and save the date for our March 6th Bowling event!

F. Long Beach Teacher Center - John Marr

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center will be releasing a district wide needs assessment for the 2025-2026 school year in January in collaboration with the district. Please make every effort to fill it out as your input is critical to the development of the grant application for next year.
2. Have a wonderful December break, holiday, and happy New Year!

III. Executive Vice President's Report - Amy Leder

A. APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review)

1. You should have received a document stating who your evaluators will be for this school year. If you did not, please contact your immediate supervisor and let them know.
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. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

B. Health & Safety Meeting

1. We are eagerly anticipating the air quality testing results from Lindell in the near future.
2. We are eagerly anticipating a swift resolution to the whiteboard issue at the high school.
3. The next Health & Safety meetings are scheduled for January 27th and May 5th. Staff members are encouraged to report any unresolved Health & Safety issues at the building level.
4. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at aleder@lbeach.org.

C. Other

1. Save the date for our annual bowling event. This year the event will be held on Thursday, March 6th.
2. Save the date for our end of the year celebration, Thursday, May 15, 2025.
3. Please make an effort to attend School Board meetings whenever you can. All meetings are posted on the district calendar.
4. Looking ahead to the new year, I'm filled with optimism and excitement for what we can achieve together. May the coming year bring you new opportunities for growth both personally and professionally. Let's continue to support and inspire one another as we enter another year together.

IV. Vice President for Elementary Schools' Report - Jennifer Maggio

- A. Thank you to all who donated to our annual toy drive. We are still collecting. Please give money to one of your building reps or Venmo Karen Bloom @LBCTA (Last 4 digits: 2510).
- B. Save the date for Our annual Bowling Fundraiser. It will be held on Thursday, March 6th.
- C. Please send me any issues that you were unable to work out at your building.
- D. I wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season. See you all in 2025!

V. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report - Jennifer Garrett

- A. Special shout out to Marino Bragino, Leigh Yazak and our LBHS Jazz Ensemble for their wonderful performance at Kennedy Plaza during the annual City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting.
- B. A heartfelt thank you to everyone for the generous donations to our LBCTA Toy Drive benefiting The Little Saint Nick's Foundation. If you have not donated already, there is still time! You can see one of your building reps with cash donations or Venmo Karen Bloom @LBCTA (Last 4 digits: 2510).
- C. NYS Dept. of Ed. requires updated training to assist in recognizing signs of child abuse or maltreatment. All mandated reporters must complete this training by April 1, 2025. Please see Dr. Natali's email from September 17th for instructions.
- D. Welcome to Greg Milone as a newly appointed HS building rep. We look forward to working with you.

- E. Save the Date! Our LBCTA 8th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. This year we will be donating to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen. More information will be available soon. As in the past, we hope each building can donate a basket for the raffle. So start thinking of those basket themes!
- F. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a very happy new year!

VI. Treasurer’s Report - Jonathan Bloom

A. November’s Financial Report

<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	
NYSUT Dues	\$16,178.85	Union Dues	\$42,101.65
AFT Dues	\$9,742.33	Venmo - Food Pantry Coll.	\$1,090.00
PTA Membership Fees	\$3,622.00	Retirees	\$153.00
Fall Buddy Party	\$2,074.00	TOTAL	<u>\$42,344.65</u>
LB Food Pantry Donation	\$1,240.00		
Training	\$878.38		
End of Year Party DJ deposit	\$100.00		
Greeting/Birthday Cards	\$50.56		
Meeting Expenses	\$571.70		
Workers Comp Insurance	\$22.50		
Paychex Reporting	\$18.00		
TOTAL	<u>\$34,498.32</u>		

- B. Union dues for 2024/2025 for full-time members will be \$1,051.16 The break-out is \$407 local, \$394 NYSUT, \$242.16 AFT dues and \$8 for PTA membership. \$105.11 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column “Dues-Teachers”. 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.
- C. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank. I would encourage you to attend a few School Board meetings during the year. Your presence is always noted.
- D. Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and New Year!

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Many thanks to the West PTA for organizing the Holiday Boutique. Students enjoyed shopping for gifts for their families.
2. Please consider making a donation to the Little St.Nick 2024 Toy Drive. You can give cash to a union rep or Venmo @LBCTA (Last 4 digits: 2510).
3. Save the date for the annual Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, March 6th.
4. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Bank.
5. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, relaxing holiday season. And happiness and peace in the new year!

B. Lindell School

1. Many thanks to the PTA for offering a Holiday Boutique for all students to shop.
2. Kudos to Naomi Marmol, Noelle Bach, Scott Scheinson and the talented 4th and 5th grade members of chorus, band and orchestra for an outstanding winter concert presentation.
3. Congratulations to Sonique Graham on being selected to light the Kennedy Plaza Christmas Tree in the City of Long Beach.

4. Please consider donating towards the LBCTA Toy Drive benefiting The Little Saint Nick's Foundation. You can give cash to a Building Rep. or Venmo Karen Bloom @LBCTA (Last 4 digits: 2510).
5. Please save the date for our LBCTA 8th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. This year we will be donating to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen.
6. There is a need for additional PPS staff to support social emotional needs in our building.
7. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.
8. Please consider attending school board meetings.
9. Wishing everyone good health and happiness during this holiday season and in the New Year!

C. East School

1. Good luck to the students performing in the winter concert this week. Thank you to Ms. Notar and Mr. West for all their hard work helping them prepare for their performance.
2. Thank you to the PTA for organizing the Holiday Boutique. The children enjoyed shopping for their families.
3. Please consider contributing to the Little St. Nick Toy Drive.
4. Save the date for the annual Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, March 6th.
5. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.
6. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and well-deserved holiday break!

D. Lido School

1. Thank you to those members who have already donated to the LBCTA Toy Drive with all donations going directly to the Little Saint Nick Foundation. We'll be collecting until 12/18. You can still give cash to a Building Rep or Venmo Karen Bloom @LBCTA.
2. We are in need of additional PPS personnel to support the increasing needs of our student population.
3. Save the date for our LBCTA Annual Bowling Fundraiser at RVC Maple Lanes on Thursday, March 6, 2025. This year we will be donating to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen.
4. Save the date for our LBCTA End of Year Celebration on Thursday, May 15, 2025.
5. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
6. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, restful, and safe holiday break! Happy New Year!

E. LBMS

1. Congratulations to Mr. Kramme, Mr. Papetti, and the members of the Student Organization for their success in organizing the Heavenly Hats fundraiser. Students and staff donated \$1.00 to wear a hat during the school day. The Heavenly Hats Foundation collects and distributes brand-new hats to people of all ages who lose their hair due to cancer treatment or other medical conditions that may cause hair loss.
2. Congratulations to Dayna Griffin on the birth of her daughter, Teagan Reese.
3. Kudos to Mr. Kramme, Mr. Papetti, and the members of the Student Organization for putting together a pre-Thanksgiving Spirit Week and a festive countdown to the holiday break.
4. Thank you to the LBMS PTA for a wonderful holiday boutique.

5. The LBMS Sunshine Holiday/Retirement party will be on December 19th. Please RSVP by December 13th.
6. Please consider donating to the LBCTA/LBSEA holiday toy drive for Little Saint Nick Foundation. Funds will be used to purchase toys for local children in our community. Please send donations to a building rep or Venmo @lbcta.
7. Save the Date! Our LBCTA 8th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. This year we will donate to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen. More information will be available soon.
8. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA Sick Bank. Please consider donating using the form found on lbcta.com under “Helpful Links”.
9. We hope everyone has a happy and healthy holiday.

F. LBHS

1. As per ARTICLE VIII, section 4, parts A and B of the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association Constitution and By-Laws, I am appointing Gregory Milone as a building representative for the 2024-2025 school year to fill a vacancy at the High School.
2. Save the Date! Our LBCTA 8th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, March 6th at Maple Lanes in Rockville Centre. This year we will donate to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen. More information will be available soon.
3. Thank you to those who have contributed to LBCTA’s Toy Drive. If you would like to donate, please give cash to a building rep or Venmo- @LBCTA (Last 4 Digits: 2510).
4. Our sincere condolences to Patricia Barrett on the loss of her sister in law and to Leo Palacio on the loss of his mother in law.
5. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday break!

At 4:45pm, a motion was made by Ali Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Matthew Hartmann.

In attendance:

West: Claudine Clark, Julie de Bruin, Anne LaPenna, Chelsea Way

Lindell: Susan Simons, Cathleen Barone, Heather Puckhaber, Melissa Canner

East: Jeanne Richards, Tamara Sommers, Melissa Zimmerman

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Molly Drake, Dana Monti

LBMS: Alison Katulka, Dan D’Ottavio, Sean Miller, Grace Parisi

LBHS: Stephanie Mena, Matthew Hartmann, Calie Yousha

Long Beach Teacher Center:

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

Guests: Greg Milone, Lloyd Berko

Executive Officers: Karen Bloom, Amy Leder, Jennifer Maggio, Jennifer Garrett, Patricia Van Loon
Elleen Parks, Jonathan Bloom

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

Member Benefits can help you save during the holidays

Another holiday season full of anticipation and joy is upon us, and NYSUT Member Benefits is ready to help with gift giving. Before purchasing any items on your list, make sure to check out all that Member Benefits has to offer.



Whether you're looking for savings on gift baskets, flowers or chocolates, Bose products, clothing or shoes, movie tickets, sporting events and concerts, theme parks and attractions, restaurants, or thousands of other deals, you'll want to check out MB Discounts & Deals.

While you're on our website, take some time to explore the Buyer's Edge, Inc., ODP Business Solutions, and Purchasing Power programs for new and used vehicles; appliances, televisions, furniture, and mattresses; school and office supplies; electronics; and more.

Don't forget about making sure your family is protected during the holidays and beyond. Going back over 40 years, NYSUT members have historically counted on Member Benefits for crucial

insurance, legal, and financial offerings. Member Benefits endorses quality life, disability, auto/home/renter's, dental and vision, and pet insurance offerings – along with unbiased legal services and financial counseling options.

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

