



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

January 8, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report—Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Dates

1/22/24, 2/12/24, 3/11/24, 3/25/24, 4/8/24, 5/6/24, 6/10/24

B. Happy New Year

Cheers to health, happiness, and prosperity in 2024!

C. LBCTA Sick Bank

Thank you very much to all who have donated so far.

Unfortunately, the bank currently has more requests than days available, leaving the bank at zero. Please consider donating to help fill those requests. The bank runs on our members' generosity.

[Donation form.](#)

D. 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, 2024. 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 website - <https://nystrs.org/Retirement-Planning> NYSTRS Number - (800) 348-7298.

E. 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!

[Click here.](#) A login for NYSUT.org is required to access the online publication.

F. 2024 LBCTA Scholarship

I am pleased to announce that the association will once again be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are children of CTA members. Elena Frishman has graciously volunteered to continue as the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. To be eligible for a CTA scholarship, the student must



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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graduate from their high school in either January or June 2024. They 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 Elena, by emailing her at EFrushman@lbeach.org. The closing date for receipt of the completed application and all supporting documents, submitted in duplicate, is 2 PM on Friday, March 8th. The evaluation of these applications will take place during the week of 3/18-3/24. Please contact Elena if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented.

G. LBPTA—PTA Teacher Fellowship

The LBPTA wanted to make you aware of a grant funded fellowship for Long Beach teachers. The fellowship provides an opportunity for teachers to improve their skills, update their professional knowledge, and expand their professional perspectives. This grant can ONLY be used for course work completed after submission of the application and can be used anytime up to August of next year. Click [here](#) for more information.

H. IRS Mileage Rate 2024

The IRS has announced the official standard mileage rates for 2024. The standard business mileage rate for transportation expenses paid or incurred as of January 1st, 2024 is 67 cents per mile.

I. Empire Health Insurance 2024 Rates

Below are the 2024 monthly rates for health insurance. We contribute 18%. If you have any questions or concerns, you should email KCohen@lbeach.org.

Monthly	2023	2024
Individual	\$1,345.06	\$1,445.66
Family	\$3,175.87	\$3,367.09

Individual Policy

*26 paychecks – There was a slight withholding error on the first check of \$6.81, which will be fixed on the 1/19 check, for the 2/2 check and all remaining checks, the amount will be \$122.46 (Jan thru June); \$130.11 (Sept thru Dec)

*All others – \$173.48 (Jan thru June); \$130.11 (Sept thru Dec)

Family Policy

*26 paychecks – There was a slight withholding error on the first check of \$15.84, which will be fixed on the 1/19 check, for the 2/2 check and all remaining checks, the amount will be \$285.21 (Jan thru June); \$303.04 (Sept thru Dec)

*All others – \$404.05 (Jan thru June); \$303.04 (Sept thru Dec)

J. LBCTA Apparel

Thank you to everyone who requested an item. The apparel should be arriving in each building this week.

K. Study Money—Summer 5/10/24

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Program: Summer – Friday, May 10, 2024. 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](#).



L. Coaching Pay Dates

Below are the payroll dates for coaches for 2023-24 school year:

High School

Second Check: 2/16

Spring: First Check: 3/27, Second Check: 5/10

Middle School

Winter I: Second Check: 1/19

Winter II: First Check: 2/16, Second Check: 3/15

Spring: First Check: 4/26, Second Check: 6/7

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 Members—Alison Katulka

1. Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday break.
2. Please join us for our annual LBCTA bowling fundraiser on February 1st at Maple Lanes in RVC. This event is a lot of fun and all proceeds will go to the Bats Out for Lazar Foundation. Please register your team using this [link](#) (make sure you are signed into your lbeach account).
3. Please be on the lookout for a “Save the Date” email for our Spring New Member gathering.
4. Please contact me if there is someone in need of a union buddy at akatulka@lbeach.org.

C. Political Action Committee—Jennifer Garrett

1. Happy New Year!
2. We are in the planning stages for the next edition of the LBCTA Newsletter. The second edition of each year reaches an expanded distribution list that includes our NYSUT brothers and sisters residing in the City of Long Beach, Lido Beach, Point Lookout and East Atlantic Beach to keep them informed of all the great happenings in our district. If you have any thoughts or ideas for content for the next newsletter please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com. All suggestions are greatly appreciated!
3. NYSUT is once again asking that all members please download the NYSUT MAC (Member Action Center) app to your phone. You can find it at the following link: <https://mac.nysut.org/> NYSUT will be utilizing this app to disseminate information to members.
4. Help Fix Tier 6! First, thank you to those that have responded. NYSUT has launched an initiative for Fix Tier 6. 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 Fix Tier 6 Team please email lbctapac@gmail.com. NYSUT is asking everyone to sign up (<https://fixtier6.org/get-involved>) to receive updates on how you can get involved to Fix Tier 6. Also, 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.

D. Public Relations Committee—Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. It's that time of year again. Get your bowling shirts out and start gathering your team together for our annual LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser. This year the event will be held on Thursday, February 1st at Maple Lanes in Rockville Centre. Please register your teams using this [link](#) ASAP. Each team can have up to six members. The cost will be \$40 per bowler. There will be food, drinks, and raffles at the event. Registration closes this week.
2. LBMS Theatre Department presents *The Spongebob Musical, Youth Edition*. Performances are on Friday, January 19th at 7pm and Saturday, January 20th at 4pm. Please consider attending.



3. Please consider joining any district committee. It is never too late. Please reach out to Dr. Ostroff if you are interested in attending one of the committees.

E. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. Happy New Year! We're looking forward to hearing the announcement of our 2024 retirees so we know who we will be honoring at our End of the year celebration at The Ocean Club on May 16th. Feel free to contact me if you would like to participate in our celebration.
2. We are still looking for vendors like DJ's who would keep the celebration lively. If you have any recommendations, please reach out to eparks@lbeach.org. Your suggestions would be greatly appreciated!
3. Looking forward to seeing you at our Bowling Event on 2/1!

F. Long Beach Teacher Center—John Marr

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center hopes that everyone had a happy and healthy New Year.
2. The Policy Board continues to work to provide high quality courses for our teachers. If you wish to run a PD class for the Teacher Center, please reach out to the director at lbtc@lbeach.org to discuss times and topics.
3. The Policy Board has just authorized the purchase of a professional level poster printer to allow teachers to easily print 17 inch wide posters. We will announce when the printer is ready to be used. We look forward to seeing how creative our teachers will be with its use.
4. The Teacher Center is currently looking for a representative from Lindell School. If you would like to support professional development and volunteer one hour per month, on the third Tuesday of each month, please contact the director at lbtc@lbeach.org.

G. Pre-K Committee—Molly Drake

1. Happy and healthy New Year!
2. Pre-K is looking forward to the elementary (PK-5) shared read aloud for Unity/Kindness Day this month.
3. Looking forward to the bowling fundraiser on Thursday, February 1st. Please support this wonderful event!
4. Please consider donating a sick day to the sick bank.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

- A. We are looking forward to continued discussions regarding the PLAN Pilot as well as the Alternative School at the High School. These are initiatives that will require much planning and attention in order to be successfully implemented.

B. APPR

1. You should have received something 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. 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. There are no new updates on the roof work or repairs at the high school or the boiler work that was being completed. We are still waiting to hear back about testing the air quality at the HS. Since we have had many leaks recently that have required ceiling tiles be removed as well as

walls being cut into, we would like to make sure that there is no mold growth in these areas. As far as we are aware, the heat is working and the boiler issue was addressed.

2. There are no new updates for the boiler work at the MS. We hope that the work will be done this spring and summer.
3. The next meeting date is January 29th. The spring meeting will be May 6th.
4. 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. Sign up for our Bowling Fundraiser on February 1st! Don't miss out!!
2. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible.
3. 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. Don't forget to sign up for our annual Bowling event which will be held on February 1st. The registration deadline is January 12.
- B. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on January 29 at 4:00 in Lido room L25.
- C. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- D. 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. It's that time of year again. Get your bowling shirts out and start gathering your team together for our annual LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser. This year the event will be held on Thursday, February 1st at Maple Lanes in Rockville Centre. Please register your teams using this [link](#) ASAP. Each team can have up to six members. The cost will be \$40 per bowler. There will be food, drinks, and raffles at the event. Registration closes this week.
- B. LBMS Theatre Department presents *The Spongebob Musical, Youth Edition*. Performances are on Friday, January 19th at 7pm and Saturday, January 20th at 4pm. Please consider attending.
- C. Please consider joining any district committee. It is never too late. Please reach out to Dr. Ostroff if you are interested in attending one of the committees.
- D. Please continue to keep all lines of communication open and reach out to your building reps when needed.



VI. Treasurer's Report—Jonathan Bloom

A. December Financial Results

<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	
Officer Reps and Stipends	\$27,518.78	Union Dues	\$42,463.97
Taxes and Fees	\$8,960.37	Paychex Refund	\$175.63
NYSUT Dues	\$16,404.35	TOTAL	\$42,846.22
AFT Dues	\$10,049.99		
Meeting Expenses	\$2,042.54		
Toy Drive Donation	\$150.00		
Training	\$957.50		
Future Teachers Club	\$523.56		
Workers Comp	\$129.00		
TOTAL	\$66,736.09		

- B. Save the date for our Bowling fundraiser event on February 1st, 2024.
- 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 you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!
- E. **For Tax purposes, the 2023 Dues were \$1026.92**

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

- 1. Congratulations to Noelle Bach, Craig West and Vanessa Krywe along with our orchestra, band and chorus students for an outstanding winter concert.
- 2. Thanks to the PTA for a wonderful holiday boutique.
- 3. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Bank.
- 4. Save the date for our annual bowling event. This year it will be held on Thursday, February 1st at Maple Lanes in RVC. This year we will be donating to the Bats Out for Lazar Foundation. Please register your teams using this [link](#).
- 5. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Bank.

B. Lindell School

- 1. Thank you to the Lindell PTA for the Laser Light Show and the wonderful Holiday Boutique.
- 2. Thank you to all the H.S. students representing the “athletes helping athletes” program for our upper grades.
- 3. The Lindell faculty was grateful once again this year to have the opportunity to purchase original cards, gift tags and ornaments from the students in the H.S. Life Skills Program.
- 4. Thank you Mrs. Bach, Ms. Marmol, Mr. Scheinson, Ms. Farrell, and Ms. Notar-Francesco for working with students in grades 3-5 and performing a very musical winter concert.
- 5. Congratulations to Amanda Betz on her recent engagement.
- 6. Congratulations to Danielle Kaplowitz on her recent engagement.
- 7. Virtual parent teacher conferences were a success.
- 8. Thank you to Dr. Radice for the daily “Gift of Reading” books. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the student recommendations and listening to these wonderful read alouds.
- 9. Grade 2 celebrated the new year in each classroom with our parent volunteers and teachers working together for varied classroom center rotations- cheers to 2024!.
- 10. The lack of available printers is creating more technology problems throughout our building. Teachers being asked to share printers is causing more problems than a solution. Every teacher needs their own working printer in his/her classroom.
- 11. Condolences to Lynn Gergen’s family.
- 12. Save the date: Thursday, February 1st is our annual bowling event. Get your teams together. The deadline is Friday, January 12th. Don't miss out on this fun event.
- 13. Thank you to those members who have donated to the sick bank. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank if you haven't already done so.

C. East School

- 1. Welcome back. Wishing everyone a bright and happy New Year.
- 2. Thank you to Sofia Notar-Francesco, Craig West, and their students for a festive and enjoyable winter concert.
- 3. Join us on February 1st for our annual bowling fundraiser. It’s an afternoon of fun and comradery.

4. Thank you to the PTA for the staff appreciation holiday breakfast. It was enjoyed by all.
5. Our students enjoyed exploring and shopping at the book fair and holiday boutique. Thank you to the PTA for making it happen.
6. Condolences to Monica Martin on the loss of her mother, Vivian Monaco.
7. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

D. Lido School

1. Welcome back and Happy New Year 2024!
2. Welcome back to our Assistant Principal, Chris Webel, and thank you to Christine LaMarca for filling in during his absence!
3. Welcome back to Victoria Stanishia-Ferrara!
4. Condolences to former Long Beach Board of Education President Lynn Gergen's family on her loss.
5. Condolences to Monica Martin on the loss of her mother.
6. Students enjoyed listening to the members of the Long Beach High School Chamber Orchestra perform.
7. Thank you to Dr. Hernandez for the holiday luncheon prior to the break and for teachers/staff bringing in the sweet treats! It was all delicious!
8. Congratulations to Noelle Bach, Scott Scheinson, and Naomi Marmol along with the 4th and 5th grade Orchestra/Band/Chorus for an outstanding Winter Concert! The students sounded great!
9. Save the date for our LBCTA Annual Bowling Fundraiser at RVC Maple Lanes on Thursday, February 1, 2024. Please register your teams ASAP using this link.
10. Save the date for our LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
11. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

E. LBMS

1. Happy New Year!
2. Problems with the heat are ongoing. Many rooms still have little or intermittent heat. We hope these issues will be resolved in a timely fashion.
3. There is an increase of mouse sightings throughout the building. Thank you for all previous attempts to rectify this situation. We look forward to additional measures to resolve this issue in a timely fashion.
4. Kudos to our PE Dept. and all those that participated in the Teachers vs. Students Volleyball Tournaments. Everyone had a great time!
5. A special thank you to our Music Department for greeting students, faculty and staff as they entered the building on December 22nd to wonderful holiday music.
6. Kudos to Glenn Gartung for organizing a successful Holiday Drive for our students. Thank you to our very generous Middle School Staff for supporting the many holiday fundraisers. Thank you for all you do!
7. Thankful to our wonderful PTA members for holding a holiday boutique for our students. Students enjoyed shopping for family and friends.
8. A very special thank you to our Sunshine Committee for a great holiday celebration.
9. Special thanks to Mr. Bajit, Dr. Darkeh, and Mrs. McDonnell for their very informative presentations to students as they begin to prepare for next year.
10. Congratulations to Justin Marks on his recent marriage to Kate.

11. Condolences to Dena Hopper on the loss of her sister, Tara Ann Chmurzynski.
12. Save the date for our Annual Bowling Fundraiser at RVC Maple Lanes on Thursday, February 1, 2024. Please register your teams using this [link](#).
13. 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.

F. LBHS

1. Welcome back and Happy New Year!
2. Condolences to all her friends and family on the loss of former teacher/dean/union rep. Cynthia Palmer.
3. Condolences to the Gergen family on the loss of former Long Beach Board of Education President and trustee Lynn Gergen.
4. Condolences to math director Monica Martin on the passing of her mother, Vivian Monaco.
5. Congratulations to Christine Graham on the success of Student of the Quarter. This is a great way to recognize students' achievements throughout the building.
6. Thank you to the Sunshine Committee for all of the holiday festivities, contests, and gatherings.
7. Congratulations to the Music Department for a wonderful winter concert performance and for spreading holiday cheer by playing holiday music in the commons before the winter recess.
8. Thank you to the school counseling department for hosting our annual alumni day. It was wonderful to see our former students.
9. Temperature of classrooms continues to be an issue. They vary greatly throughout the building. We are hopeful that this issue will be resolved soon.
10. Save the date for the LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser at Maple Lanes on Thursday, February 1st.
11. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.

At 4:58pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by John Marr.

In Attendance:

West:

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Cathy Barone, Susan Simons

East: Jennifer Diamond, Melissa Canner, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Dana Monti, Lori Parenti

LBMS: Alison Katulka, John Marr, Sean Miller, Grace Parisi

LBHS: Lisa Casey, Camila Gamboa, Loren Lang, Brian Petschauer

Pre-K Committee: Molly Drake

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC): John Marr

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

Guests:

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

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Jan/Feb. 2024