



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

October 24, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm by Karen Bloom.

I. President's Report—Keith Harvey

A. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

LBCTA membership has generated support, awareness, and tens of thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in recent years. A very special thank you to the PR committee led by Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for organizing all this year's events. Please see the PR Committee report for this year's totals. If you would still like to make a donation, please use the following link.

[Team LBCTA 11561- Donation Link](#)



B. Long Beach PTA

Once again, I am proud to announce the LBCTA has 100% teacher participation in the LBPTA. While all our teachers are members, it is also important that we actively participate in the PTA. It is extremely important that the CTA and PTA have an open and working relationship. On behalf of the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association, I want to thank the PTA for all they do to help support and advance the quality of education in the Long Beach Public Schools.

C. School Board Recognition Week

In honor of School Board Recognition Week (10/17-10/21), I would like to say thank you to the past and present Long Beach Board of Education members for the countless hours they have volunteered to help formulate goals consistent with the needs of children.

D. District Committees

The Association and its members look forward to working with Dr. Gallagher and our Administrative team to establish goals and to help meet the needs of our students. It is important that our voices are heard on these committees. Please consider joining one. The committees for this year are: Equity, Curriculum and Technology, RTI/AIS- School District Improvement, PDP and SCD, Mental Health & Wellness, and Health & Safety.

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

Table of Contents

- I. President's Report
- II. Committees
- III. Exec. Vice President's Report
- IV. Vice President of Elementary Schools' Report
- V. Vice President of Secondary Schools' Report
- VI. Treasurer's Report
- VII. Building Reports
 - A. West
 - B. Lindell
 - C. East
 - D. Lido
 - E. Pre-K
 - F. LBMS
 - G. LBHS
- VIII. NYSUT Benefits

E. Health Care Workers Bonus Program

The adopted 2023 state budget created a healthcare and mental hygiene workers bonus program to recruit and retain existing employees. On 10/10/22, the DOH opened the portal for school district to apply for their eligible employees. *This bonus is not for teachers.*

School Nurses, Speech-Language Pathologists and Speech Therapists of the LBCTA have been contacted by HR to sign an employee attestation form. It is unclear, and there is little guidance if our speech teachers will actually be approved.

In order to be eligible employees must sign the attestation form, be continuously employed throughout the vesting period, have an eligible worker title, and cannot have an annualized base salary in excess of \$125,000 (\$62,500 per vesting period).

F. FLEX Spending

If you wish to participate, you need to complete and submit the forms by November 14th. Just as a reminder, for the 2022 year, you may incur expenses for an additional 2 ½ months and have 90 days to submit your claims. Please keep this in mind as you complete the application as this is a “use it or lose it” plan. Please reference Dr. Natali’s email from 10/24/22 for additional information regarding the benefit debit card, increase in medical total and retirement options.

G. Study Money Dates

Those who applied were approved for Fall Study Money on the October 11th Board of Education agenda. There are two more opportunities to participate in the Study Program. Winter – Friday, December 9, 2022 and Summer – Friday, May 12, 2023. 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](#).

H. 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.

I. Summer School Sick Days

You should have seen the addition of your sick days in your 10/14/22 pay stub.

J. Coaching Pay Dates

Below are the payroll dates for coaches for 2022-23 school year:

High School

Fall: Second Check: 10/28

Winter: First Check: 12/23, Second Check: 2/17

Spring: First Check: 4/14, Second Check: 5/12

Middle School

Fall: Second Check: 10/28

Winter I: First Check: 12/9, Second Check: 1/20

Winter II: First Check: 2/17, Second Check: 3/17

Spring: First Check: 4/28, Second Check: 6/9

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. I am looking forward to seeing everyone this Friday at our Fall New Member party. All new members, buddies, mentors, and executive board members are encouraged to attend. We will be gathering at EGP Land and Sea in Island Park starting at 4:00 pm. There will be passed hors d'oeuvres courtesy of the LBCTA.

2. Thank you to the building representatives and executive officers who helped me match up our new members with buddies. If anyone is still in need of a buddy please email me at akatulka@lbeach.org ASAP.

C. Political Action Committee—Jennifer Garrett

1. It is important that PAC has a way to contact members to disseminate information in a timely fashion. If you changed email or are new to the district, please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com with an **active personal** email address so our contact list can be updated.
2. PAC is working in conjunction with the New Member Committee to create a newsletter for our members. If you have any ideas for topics/highlights for future publications please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com with your personal email if you are interested in att
3. As always, please feel free to share your ideas on how LBCTA PAC can better serve our members. You can email your thoughts to LBCTAPAC@gmail.com.

D. Public Relations Committee—Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. The outpouring of love and support we have received from our union members, community members, administrators, Group C and our field hockey team towards raising money for breast cancer has been incredible. To date, Team LBCTA 11561 has raised over \$8400; our highest yet! Thank you to everyone who donated, bought a shirt, wore pink, and/or walked. Your commitment and dedication to this cause has been truly heartwarming. It means the world to us!
2. For the 2nd year, to help raise more money towards the LBCTA Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Fundraiser, LBHS will be hosting a Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Out Football Game. Please come and show your support by attending the LBHS Varsity Football Game against Calhoun HS at 2:00 pm on October 29th. T-shirts will be sold at the game for \$20 each. There will also be raffle baskets to choose from at the game. The winners will be picked at half time.
3. Save the date for our 6th Annual Bowling Fundraiser at RVC Maple Lanes on Thursday, March 30, 2023.



E. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. Greetings to all! On Monday, November 7th, I will be conducting our first social committee meeting to discuss the planning of the LBCTA's end of the year party. We will need at least 2 representatives from every building to assist with creating a celebration that will bring our members together. Please email me at eparks@lbeach.org if you are interested in planning an outstanding event for our group to gather at.

F. Long Beach Teacher Center—John Marr

1. Professional Development classes have begun to appear on [Frontline Education](#) with additional courses about to be posted. Study money for Winter is due December 9. Next month the Teacher Center will be releasing a district-wide Needs Assessment to determine the PD offerings for the remainder of this year as well as next. Please take some time in answering the survey as the PD offered by the district is directly related to your answers. Your input is critical.
2. The Center is currently repairing our poster maker, and we hope to get it up and running within the next month to provide a poster-making service to district teachers.
3. Finally, if you are interested in running a 10 hour class for the Teacher Center please contact the Director at lbtc@lbeach.org. The Center pays \$800 for a 10-hour class.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

- A. A huge thank you to Amy and Beth for another amazing year of fundraising for Making Strides!
- B. Thank you to our School Board Trustees! We all appreciate the endless hours that you put into making LB Public Schools the best we can be!
- C. Please take a few minutes to complete the questions that Dr. Gallagher has been sending out for the Strategic Planning committee. This information will be used to drive the direction of our district! We need your input!

D. 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.

E. Health & Safety

- 1. We are extremely concerned about the situation that has been ongoing in the high school pool and girls locker room. For years, there have been major temperature issues; either it is freezing or extremely hot. When 2nd grade students get out of the pool, the locker room is in the 60's, and there is no hot water. It is really unbearable. Unfortunately, when the problem was reported again last week, there was an explosion, which led to people getting hurt. In addition, we questioned why the alarm did not go off from the explosion or smoke that followed. We are hoping that this is the last straw, and that the problem can be fixed permanently.
- 2. The following items were discussed at our first H & S meeting:
 - a) **“Virtual” Hostage:** The district sent a letter to parents regarding this situation. However, it has not seemed to make its way to Nassau yet, but has gotten as close as Suffolk.
 - b) **Alyssa's Law:** This was Spring of 2022, however, we already have panic buttons in each building.
 - c) **RAVE app:** The District is looking into using this app for a variety of purposes. Building admin could potentially have the ability to enact the panic button from their phones. It could also be used as a notification system for teachers and staff to alert us in emergency situations
 - d) **Safety Drills:** Discussed the mandatory drills that must be conducted in both fall and spring. It was also determined that it is allowable to conduct multiple drills in the same day as long as there is a debrief after each one. There was also a discussion about many of the high school classrooms. Ideas were brainstormed and a decision as to how to deal with this will be determined in the near future.
- 3. **Update on Capital Projects**
 - a) **Lindell:** Asbestos abatement took place in the music room and all new walls and floors were installed.
 - b) **HS:** The breezeway was waterproofed on the floor level to prevent water from entering. The inflow/outflow pipe was repaired; sidewalks, walkways and drain covers were replaced; the entrance and exit was repaved and 2 new security booths were added.

- c) **MS:** A guard booth and mechanical gate were installed; they are working on the signage for the new entrance and Nassau County still needs to do the line striping and lights.
- d) **Transportation:** Portions of the building were removed and replaced and new signage is coming.
- e) **Public Library:** Two new HVAC units were installed.
- f) **Future Projects:** The MS will be getting hot water heaters to replace the steam heat and they will have some asbestos removal and radiator work: waiting on SED approval. The HS will be getting some new bathrooms between the library and cafeteria as well as replacing the doors on the south side of the gym. They are replacing 5 ceilings at Lido and a rooftop AC unit at West. Nike will get a new gazebo and circular turnaround. The transportation building will be replaced with a new prefab building. The 3 remaining HVAC units at the library will be replaced as well.

4. **HS ID Cards**

- a) All students should have them taken in the next few weeks; as most have already been done. The discussion was concerning our next steps. It was discussed that we would like students to wear them, really in grades 6-12. Mr. Myers is going to put together a plan that will be shared at the next meeting regarding implementation at the high school. In addition, our BOCES rep was going to see what other districts are doing.

5. **AEDs**

- a) The district is thinking of changing the policy to increase the amount of people who can access them. This could include having more people get trained to expand what we already have in place.
6. The next meeting date has not been announced. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

F. **Other**

- 1. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible.
- 2. 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. Thank you to all who donated and/or walked for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. It was a beautiful day to come out for an important cause.
- B. Please join us for our New Member Party on Friday, October 28 at EGP Land and Sea.
- C. If you have any questions or concerns that you were unable to work out at your building, I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org.

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

- A. Please consider joining our New Member Party this Friday, October 28th at EGP Land and Sea.
- B. Please consider joining a district committee meeting. Many decisions are made through these committees. It is crucial that we have member representation there. All meetings will take place from 4:00 PM-5:00 PM. Some will be via Zoom, others in person. Please refer to Dr. Ostroff's email from 9/15/22 for a list of committees and meeting dates. To sign up, please complete this Google [form](#).
- C. The outpouring of love and support we have received from our union members, community members, administrators, Group C and our field hockey team towards raising money for breast cancer has been incredible. To date, Team LBCTA 11561 has raised over \$8,400; our highest yet! Thank you to everyone who donated, bought a shirt, wore pink, and/or walked. Your commitment and dedication to this cause has been truly heartwarming. It means the world to us!

- D. For the 2nd year, to help raise money towards the LBCTA Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Fundraiser, LBHS will be hosting a Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Out Football Game. Please come and show your support by attending the LBHS Varsity Football Game against Calhoun HS at 2:00 pm on October 29th. T-shirts will be sold at the game for \$20 each. There will also be raffle baskets to choose from at the game. The winners will be picked at half time.
- E. Save the date for our 6th Annual Bowling Fundraiser at RVC Maple Lanes on Thursday, March 30, 2023.
- F. Please continue to communicate with your building reps about new and old items that are a concern to you. We encourage you to also keep the lines of communication open with administration about any personal issues and/or items you feel comfortable discussing with them.

VI. Treasurer’s Report—Jonathan Bloom

A. September Financial Results

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Making Strides T-shirt	1,719.50	Future Teachers Grant	400.00
Retiree Dues	225.00	Charity	175.00
Union Dues	40,337.00	PTA Dues	3,472.00
NYSUT Logo	<u>100.00</u>	Taxes and Fees	<u>22.50</u>
Total	\$42,381.50	Total	\$4,069.50

- B. Thank you to all that donated to or walked in the Making Strides Walk at Jones Beach on October 16th. Special thanks to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for their leadership efforts in coordinating this event.
- C. Please attend our LBCTA New Member party on Friday October 28th, 2022 at EGP at Island Park.
- D. Save the date for our Bowling fundraiser event on March 30th, 2023.
- E. 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.
- F. Union dues for 2022/2023 for full-time members will remain at \$1,022.76. The break-out is \$397 local, \$378 NYSUT, \$239.76 AFT dues and \$8 for PTA membership. \$102.28 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.

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Congratulations to Noelle Policastro on her marriage to Drew.
2. Thank you to the West PTA for our wonderful Welcome Back Party!
3. Thank you to the West PTA for the students’ new field trip shirts.
4. Thank you to the LBFD for visiting West! Our pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners had an amazing experience learning about fire safety from our very own Long Beach Fire Fighters.
5. A special thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for all their work in organizing the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign.” Thank you to everyone who walked, donated, wore pink or participated in the fundraising and awareness events. Your efforts and generosity toward the search for a cure are greatly appreciated.
6. Our LBCTA Fall New Member Party will be on Friday, October 28th at EGP Land and Sea in Island Park from 4:00-6:00 pm. All new members and “buddies” are encouraged to attend!
7. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Bank.

B. Lindell School

1. Thank you Lindell PTA for a successful Family Fun Night. Rain and shine, it was a memorable event.
2. It was a pleasure having Back to School Night in our building this year. The parents were able to get a better sense of where their children spend the day learning.
3. Lindell “Walked It Forward” on October 7th to celebrate kindness and think of ways we can all be kind to each other.
4. Thank you to Kirstyn Golden for gearing us up for Red Ribbon spirit week.
5. Congratulations to our AP Anna McGovern on her marriage to Matt.
6. Congratulations to Christina Causi on her marriage to Nick Romero.
7. Congratulations to Noelle Pollicastro on her marriage to Drew.
8. Congratulations to Dana Runfola on the birth of her son Ryan James.
9. Congratulations to Crysti Cardineau on the birth of her son Matthew Mark.
10. Much appreciation to all who put on their pink in support of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on October 14th. We had a beautiful day for the Jones Beach walk and together raised over \$8000 for the cause.
11. Congratulations to the Odyssey of the Mind team for participating in the worlds finals competition.
12. Please consider donating a day to the CTA sick bank.

C. East School

1. Thank you to all who wore pink, donated, and/or participated in the Making Strides Walk. Our generous members helped to raise over \$8,300 for the Making Strides Foundation.
2. Thank you to our wonderful PTA for the Red Ribbon assembly.
3. Many thanks to Kirstyn Golden for all of her hard work organizing the Red Ribbon Week activities.
4. New members please join your colleagues at EGP on 10/28 at 4:00 for our New Member Party.
5. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

D. Lido School

1. Please join us October 28th for our Fall New Member Gathering at EGP Land and Sea, Island Park for our newest members and their buddies.
2. Students are excited to be participating in Red Ribbon Week activities encouraging making healthy, positive life choices organized by Kirstyn Golden.
3. Thank you to our Lido PTA for hosting a successful Color Run. Fun was had by all who participated!
4. Thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for organizing the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach. Many thanks to those members who participated through donations, wearing pink, contributing to our ongoing fundraising efforts, or walking. We appreciate your continued support for such a worthy cause.
5. Congratulations to Noelle Pollicastro on her marriage to Drew Bach.
6. Condolences to Denise Callahan and family for the loss of her mother in law, Sally Jane Callahan.
7. Congratulations to Michelle Root and family on the birth of her son, Tyler James.
8. Welcome to Dr. Janna Ostroff as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, in addition to Monica Martin as Director of Mathematics.

9. Congratulations to the Odyssey of the Mind students and coaches on participating in the World
10. Finals Competition that took place this past May in Ames, Iowa. Students were coached by Susan Kasper, Doug MacConnell, Milen Melo Olivera, and Dr. Justin Sulsky.
11. Save the date for our LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, 3/30/2023.
12. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

E. Pre-K

1. Thank you to Deb O'Connell, Dr. Hernandez, Ms. Diroff and the Pre-K teachers for getting the Pre-K report card updated and on School Tool.
2. Thank you to all who donated, bought 50/50 raffle tickets, wore pink, and walked to support LBCTA's Breast Cancer walk. A special thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for organizing the wonderful event and for raising a tremendous amount of money to support this wonderful cause.
3. Thank you to the Lido Fire Department for the tour of their fire house. Our first field trip was a big success!
4. Thanks to Ms. Golden for a fun filled Red Ribbon Week! Our students are looking forward to the theme of each day and exploring the healthy me in LB theme.
5. Thank you to the Lido PTA for the fun filled Color Run this weekend.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.

F. LBMS

1. A special thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for all of their hard work and fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who walked, donated, wore pink or participated in the many fundraising and awareness events. Your continued efforts and generosity toward the search for a cure are greatly appreciated.
2. Once again, the 6th grade trip to Frost Valley was a tremendous success. Our students had a great time. Kudos to Keith Biesma, Patty Van Loon, Regina Dean and Tricia Henry for all of the hard work and dedication they put into planning this great trip. Also, a special thank you to all chaperones that attended.
3. Kudos to Mrs. Espinet and all those that participated in voiceovers for our wonderful Hispanic Heritage Month Person of the Day announcements.
4. Special shout out to our Student Organization members (advisors: Bill Papetti and Wally Kramme) on a successful Unity Day. It was great to see everyone in their orange to unite for kindness, courage and inclusion.
5. Kudos to our GSA Club (advisors: Dan D'Ottavio and Kate Smith) on a successful National Coming Out Day. Students dispersed ribbons in a great show of support.
6. Condolences to Denise Callahan on the loss of her mother in law.
7. Please join us October 28th for our Fall New Member Party at EGP Land & Sea from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm. All new members, mentors, and buddies are welcome to attend.
8. Save the date for our 6th Annual Bowling Fundraiser at RVC Maple Lanes on Thursday, March 30, 2023.
9. 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.

G. LBHS

1. Thank you to Amy Leder, Beth Prostick, The LBCTA Public Relations Committee, and all staff who supported the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser.
2. Thank you to Dr. Morand, Mr. Bragino, and all the club advisors, coaches, and students for hosting a wonderful pep rally and Homecoming Carnival.
3. The holidays are approaching and Mrs. Hartmann could use some help - so please consider donating to the food/clothing pantry in the H.S., particularly large storage tupperware, sweatpants, sweatshirts, and boxed food (especially rice and instant oatmeal).
4. HS Staff is concerned about the lack of smoke/fire alarms going off in the building after a specific incident that occurred which should have set them off.
5. HS Staff is concerned about the impact of the district's decision to eliminate the midterm exam week in January. This week was instrumental in allowing for the students to have longer exams that served as valuable practice in preparing students for their Regents, AP, and IB Exams. It is impossible to provide these exams during the regular school day. Staff have concerns about a decline in student achievement & mental health.
6. Please consider attending the Fall New Member Gathering at EGP in Island Park on October 28th.
7. Please consider serving on a district committee and have your voice heard.
8. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.

At 5:08 pm, a motion was made by John Marr to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jennifer Garrett.

In Attendance:

West: Anne LaPenna

Lindell: Susan Simons, Cathy Barone, Heather Puckhaber

East: Jennifer Diamond, Melissa Canner, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Dana Monti, Lori Parenti

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Alison Katulka, John Marr, Natasha Nurse, Grace Parisi

LBHS: Lisa Casey, Pamela Bankey, Camila Gamboa, Greg Milone, Brian Petschauer

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC): John Marr

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

Executive Officers: Karen Bloom, Beth Prostick, Amy Leder, Patricia Van Loon, Elleen Parks, Jonathan Bloom

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

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