



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

February 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report—Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Dates

3/11/24, 3/25/24, 4/8/24, 5/6/24, 6/10/24

B. 2024-2025 Long Beach School Budget(s)

At the February 6th Board of Education meeting three elementary program options were presented. Option 1 represented the \$3.8 million gap in next year's budget and options 2 and 3 represented the additional \$4.3 million in cuts to Foundation Aid. The Long Beach community showed up with great opposition to options 2 and 3. Community members also suggested looking further into our reserves and piercing the tax cap. It is our hope that the district is considering other options besides these deep cuts to our faculty and programs.

The secondary program will be presented in a similar way at the February 27th BOE meeting. If you would like to understand the impact these cuts will have on our programs, please consider attending the upcoming BOE meetings. Although the next meeting will focus on Secondary, the implications presented will also show some impacts at the elementary level.

We can't let this deflate us. We must continue to rally together as an association, and as an educational community to lobby our legislators and the Governor to restore our funding! Thank you to the LBCTA PAC for coordinating these efforts.

Please remember nothing has been decided yet.

C. "Second Chance" Retirement Incentive

The district will be offering those who declined to retire when first eligible for a second incentive, equal to the first. If you believe you are eligible for this please contact me ASAP.

D. Workplace Violation Law

I am appointing Karen Bloom as the LBCTA representative to attend the building walkthroughs required under newly amended Workplace Violation Law. She will be accompanied by a Building Rep at each building. Thank you to those who volunteered.



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. LBTC

I am appointing Lorie Hartfield to the Long Beach Teacher Center Policy Board to represent Lindell School.

F. Annual Bowling

Thank you and congratulations to the Public Relations committee for their tremendous success with this year's Spring Bowling Fundraiser. Please see the Public Relations Committee report for full details.



G. LBCTA Sick Bank

Since its inception, hundreds of days have been donated. Unfortunately, there are currently more requests than donations, leaving the bank at a negative balance. Please remember that the bank runs on the generosity of the membership. [Donation form](#).

H. LBSD 2024-25 School Calendar

The 2024-2025 District school calendar was adopted by the Long Beach Board of Education at their 2/6/24 meeting.

I. State of the Union Speech

The State of the Union Speech will be at the 3/25/24 Executive Board meeting.

J. AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program

The program offers four 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members, as well as 10 one-time \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education and/or fund their proposed ideas to strengthen and grow their union. [Click Here](#)

K. 2023 Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund, Len Motisi Memorial Scholarship

Children of in-service members of NYSUT locals, who are high school seniors, graduating this year, and who will be attending a post-secondary institution on a full-time basis, are eligible. If you would like an application, please contact Keith Harvey.

L. Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund Grants

1. Military Grant

For in-service members of NYSUT who have been called up to active military service in the United States armed forces and who as a result suffer loss of income. Please contact Keith Harvey for the form.

2. Burial Grant

Payable to the individual who incurs the funeral expenses of any member of a participating local who dies while in active service. Please contact Keith Harvey for the form.

3. Catastrophic Loss Dues paying members of NYSUT

Locals who are participants in the Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund, and who are in dire need of financial assistance due to: (1) death or serious illness in the immediate family requiring expenditures exceeding \$3,000 "out of pocket" and not covered by insurance, (excluding co-pays and deductibles) (2) sudden personal catastrophe loss, requiring expenditures exceeding \$3,000 "out of pocket" such as loss of home by fire, etc. not covered by insurance. (excluding co-pays and deductibles). Please contact Keith Harvey for the form.

M. 2024 LBCTA Scholarship - Reminder

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 graduate from their high school in either January or June of 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 email at EFrishman@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 March 18th. Please contact Elena if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented.

N. LBPTA—PTA Teacher Fellowship - Reminder

Deadline for Applying: February 15, 2024 – Now Open! 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.



O. Study Money—Reminder

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](#).

P. Coaching Pay Dates

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

High School

Winter: Second Check: 2/16

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

Middle School

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. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Bowling Fundraiser. The event was a tremendous success.
2. Please be on the lookout for a “Save the Date” email for our Spring New Member gathering.
3. Please contact me if there is someone in need of a union buddy at akatulka@lbeach.org.

C. Political Action Committee—Jennifer Garrett

1. In response to the 2024-25 New York Executive Budget released by Gov. Hochul, the LBCTA has rallied together as an association for our students and schools. We must demand the state fully honor their commitment to fund education. **We must fight to restore proper funding for our schools!** Thus far, PAC emailed all members a [link](#) to urge state legislators to fully fund our public schools. Also, members have been made aware of upcoming BOE meetings they can attend to hear the impact these cuts will have on our programs. Please consider attending the next meeting on Tuesday, 2/27/24, 7:00PM to hear the impact these cuts will have on our Secondary Programs. Also, to further lobby our legislators and the Governor to restore our funding, PAC has organized a letter writing campaign. Many thanks to everyone for their support with this letter writing effort.
2. Thank you to everyone that has emailed to update their contact information with a current personal email address. The response has been great! If you are not receiving PAC emails, please

email lbctapac@gmail.com to update your contact information with a current personal email address.

3. 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, ideas, or suggestions for content for the next newsletter please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com. All suggestions are greatly appreciated!
4. 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.

D. Public Relations Committee—Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Beth and I want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed to the LBCTA Bowling fundraiser at Maple Lanes. Your amazing efforts proved instrumental in making the event a resounding success. Together with the LBSEA and Group B, we were able to raise \$8100 to donate to the Bats Out for Laser Foundation.
2. The behind-the-scenes work of Karen Bloom and Patty VanLoon was nothing short of extraordinary and played a key role in the event's success. We would also like to give a special shout out to Alison Katulka, Jenn Garrett, Keith Harvey, Joanne Harvey and John Bloom for volunteering their time at the event.
3. It's important to acknowledge the invaluable support and dedication of our building reps, without whom this event would not have been possible. Your hard work and commitment did not go unnoticed, and we are genuinely grateful for your contributions.
4. We are already looking forward to next year, where we can come together once again to make a positive impact on our community.

E. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. Our 2024 LBCTA end of the year celebration honoring our retirees will take place at The Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach on Thursday, May 16, 2024. The event flyer will be distributed after February break.

F. Long Beach Teacher Center—John Marr

1. We would like to welcome Lorie Hartfield to the Long Beach Teacher Center Policy Board as a Lindell representative.
2. The LBTC is looking at starting a TESOL cohort through Stony Brook University. This five-graduate class extension will provide you with the knowledge to become an ENL teacher. In order to gain certification, you must have taken 12 credits (2 years) in college-level languages. Stony Brook has a number of open houses that you can attend. The next open house is Monday, February 26 at 6:00pm via zoom. [Please visit this link to register](#). We need 15 people to start a Long Beach Cohort, but if we have less interest we will be combining with other centers to start the program, which will take 11 months to complete (one class per semester).
3. Please continue to monitor your email for PD Opportunities that are being offered by Centers from around New York State.
4. We look forward to the district releasing a Needs Assessment for next year via google forms. Please be sure to complete this assessment as it helps both the district and the Policy Board in writing the continuation application for the grant next year.

5. 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.

G. Pre-K Committee—Molly Drake

1. Pre-K is looking forward to our rescheduled information session on 2/28. Thank you to Dr. Ostroff for the conversation and shared planning before the event.
2. Pre-K in-person registration is March 7th and 8th at Lido. Please spread the word!
3. Thank you to Dr. Radice for the February Book Love resources.
4. The bowling fundraiser was a big success. Thank you to all who planned, donated and participated!
5. Please consider donating a sick day to the sick bank.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

- A. We appreciate Dr. Gallagher, Mr. DeVito and Dr. Natali taking the time to meet with us regarding the upcoming budget. We look forward to continuing our discussions and hope that we can work together to minimize the impact of the huge loss in Foundation Aid.

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. **MS Mice:** According to Mr. Kramer, over 100 traps were put down over Christmas Break, some were caught and they have only seen a few since break. However, the reports coming from the building are conflicting. Mr. Kramer will follow up with the Head Custodian.
2. **HS Mice & Roaches:** According to Mr. Kramer, there have not been any mice seen in the last month on the HS. In addition, he explained that the roaches were likely due to students bringing them in from home. However, in the interim, it has been discovered that there was an infestation of roaches in the cooking room that ate through the wires of one of the stoves. We are hoping that Mr. Kramer will follow up.
3. **Security Cameras HS:** Mr. Kramer explained that A+ has been more hands on and cameras have been working better. However, there are still areas that need cameras replaced and many of them are very slow when trying to pull up information. Next year, they plan to upgrade places that are not functioning as well as adding additional cameras.
4. **Lockdown Drills:** The district is in the process of testing panic buttons to make sure that signals get sent to police. Mr. DeVito will schedule times with each principal.
5. **Lido Multipurpose Room:** After much discussion, it was decided that the original plan for lockdowns was not feasible, so they will work on coming up with a new one.
6. **Workplace Violence Prevention:** This newly applies to schools so the district is currently working on getting a plan in place. The Policy Statement has been done, and the next step is to conduct Risk Evaluations in each school building to assess the physical environment. Reps from each Union will be participating and it was suggested to have building people attend rather than

just having one team for the whole district. We conducted the majority of them today and will complete them after break. This will be followed up with a district policy as well as clear procedures to follow regarding how to report an incident and to whom.

7. **Bond Issue:** The district has decided that in light of the recent cuts made to our Foundation Aid, they will be holding off on proposing the bond issue for this year. This will impact the plan for ventilation and cooling across the district. However, they will be using some of the capital reserve fund to fix some of the more pressing issues, such as the MS Turf Field, the Lindell Bulkhead and PA System in the gym and the diving board at the HS. If there are other items that people feel need to be considered, they should reach out to Mr. DeVito and Mr. Kramer.
8. The next meeting date is May 6th.
9. 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. A HUGE thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for organizing another awesome Bowling Event! It was much needed and great to see such a variety of people there together!
2. Have a relaxing winter break with family and friends!
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. Thank you to all who donated and or attended our Bowling Event. A great time was had by all! The raffle baskets were amazing!
- B. As educators, our focus is always on the well-being and success of our students. It is important to consider the potential negative impact these cuts may have on their education. Reduced resources and limited opportunities could greatly hinder their learning and growth.
- C. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- D. Send me any issues that you were unable to work out at your building.
- E. I hope you all have a wonderful break!
- F. 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. Beth and I want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed to the LBCTA Bowling fundraiser at Maple Lanes. Your amazing efforts proved instrumental in making the event a resounding success. Together with the LBSEA and Group B, we were able to raise \$8100 to donate to the Bats Out for Laser Foundation.
- B. The behind-the-scenes work of Karen Bloom and Patty VanLoon was nothing short of extraordinary and played a key role in the event's success. We would also like to give a special shout out to Alison Katulka, Jenn Garrett, Keith Harvey, Joanne Harvey and John Bloom for volunteering their time at the event.
- C. It's important to acknowledge the invaluable support and dedication of our building reps, without whom this event would not have been possible. Your hard work and commitment did not go unnoticed, and we are genuinely grateful for your contributions.
- D. We are already looking forward to next year, where we can come together once again to make a positive impact on our community.
- E. Please consider attending our end of the year celebration on Thursday May 16th at the Ocean Club.

- F. A special thank you to Jennifer Garret, our building reps and each and every one of you who signed letters to support PAC's letter writing campaign. Together we are always stronger.
- G. Please consider attending the BOE meetings. It's even more crucial now that everyone understands and listens to the district's proposals for next year's school budget.
- H. Enjoy your winter recess.

VI. Treasurer’s Report—Jonathan Bloom

A. January Financial Results

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Retirees	\$64.00	NYSUT Dues	\$16,233.83
Bowling	\$240.00	AFT Dues	\$9,969.238
Union Dues	\$42,257.35	Payroll Fees	\$750.34
TOTAL	\$42,561.35	Future Teachers Club	\$18.27
		TOTAL	\$26,971.67

- B. Thank you to Amy Leder, Beth Prostick, the Public Relations Committee and all of those who attended and participated in the annual LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser. It was a wonderful time for a worthwhile cause.
- 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 Wonderful Winter Recess!

For Tax purposes, the 2023 Dues were \$1026.92

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Thank you to Amy Leder, Beth Prostick, the LBCTA public relations committee, everyone that came out to bowl and all who donated to the 7th Annual LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser. A fun night was had by all!
2. Thank you to West PTA for the Magic Show to celebrate Global Play Day.
3. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Bank.

B. Lindell School

1. The Annual LBCTA Bowling fundraiser once again was a huge success. Thank you to the Lindell faculty and staff for contributing to the Lindell Pod Spa basket. The money raised will support Bats Out For Lazar Foundation.
2. Children reveled in the joy of literacy during Elementary World Read Aloud Day, immersing themselves in captivating stories shared aloud. Similarly, on Global Play Day, their imaginations soared as they engaged in unstructured play, fostering creativity and collaboration across the globe.
3. Lindell Elementary students celebrated their 100th day of school with enthusiasm celebrating with activities centered around the number 100.
4. Third-grade students joyfully participated in the Happy Heart Dance with contagious smiles and spirited moves, they shared the feeling of happiness throughout the event.
5. Lindell Students created Valentine's Day cards for veterans, crafting each one with care and appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

6. 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. Thanks to all who organized, donated and/or participated in the 7th annual bowling fundraiser. It was a fun and successful event.
2. Our first graders celebrated the 100th day of school with their families and teachers by singing songs and engaging in themed activities.
3. Thank you to our students for creating thoughtful Valentines for Veterans. We are grateful to Melissa Zimmerman for bringing this to East School.
4. Congratulations to Katherine Meyers on her appointment as probationary elementary teacher.
5. Wishing everyone a relaxing and enjoyable winter break.
6. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.



D. Lido School

1. Thank you to all who participated in the LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser on February 1st. A great time was had by all! Kudos to Beth Prostick and Amy Leder for putting together this great event.
2. Condolences to Jodi Balzano on the loss of her mother.
3. Students listened to stories, read books, played games, and participated in Kerboom Kids on February 7th in celebration of Global Play Day and World Read Aloud Day. A good time was had by all.
4. Welcome to Lido our new permanent substitute, Brianna Palmieri and Mrs. Bach's leave replacement, Brianna Dixon.
5. Students enjoyed celebrating the 100th day of School and P.S. I Love You Day on February 9th.
6. Kindness Week is looking to be an awesome week full of special outfits and activities related to kindness.
7. Save the date for our LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
8. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
9. Have a happy and restful winter break!

E. LBMS

1. Mouse sightings continue 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.
2. In recognition of School Counseling Week (Feb. 5 - Feb. 9) a special shout out to our school counselors, Mr. Bajit, Dr. Darkeh, and Mrs. McDonnell for all that they do each day for our students.
3. Our 8th grade students enjoyed the recent trips to the Cold Spring Harbor DNA Learning Center. Special thanks to Ms. Tursi, Mrs. Bryan, Mrs. Kalner, Mrs. Ouro and all chaperones for helping to make the trip a success.
4. Kudos to our 7th grade students, Mrs. Arkow, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Espinet, Mr. Hoffman, Dr. Marr, Mr. Pellegrini, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Van Loon and Mrs. Scudiero for another successful National History Day experience. Congratulations and good luck to those students who were selected to move to the next round at Hofstra University.



5. Kudos to students in our Science Research Club (advisors C. LaPenna and N. Nurse) for participating in the US Department of Energy National Middle School Science Bowl at Brookhaven National Laboratory.
6. Kudos to the MS Student Organization and Math Team (advisors Bill Papetti and Wally Kramme) on a successful Valentine's Day Candy Gram Fundraiser.
7. Congratulations to Caroline Espinet for being named the Flocabulary Favorite Educator of the Year by Nearpod.
8. Welcome to Danielle Callahan. We look forward to working with you.
9. Very special thank you to Amy Leder, Beth Prostick, the LBCTA public relations committee, everyone that came out to bowl and all who donated to the 7th Annual LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser. Together we raised \$8,000 for Bats Out for Lazar Foundation.
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 if you have not done so already.

F. LBHS

1. Condolences to Patricia Baron on the loss of her father, Edgar James.
2. Congratulations to Theresa Scudiero on the announcement of her retirement.
3. Thank you to Michael Corrigan for setting up the Suspenders for Spitz day of remembrance and kindness in honor of our friend Jay Spitz and thank you to everyone who contributed and participated in this memorial fundraiser.
4. Thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for organizing the LBCTA Bowling fundraiser this year. A great time was had by all for an amazing cause. Thank you to Dr. Radice for organizing the HS Book fair.
5. Thank you to the student government for a successful blood drive.
6. Thank you to Mrs. Scudiero for bringing Carl Wilkens from World Outside My Shoes to do a presentation for some of the students.
7. Teachers are very concerned about the District's decision to eliminate after school review sessions for IB, AP & Regents exams. Many students rely on this extra time to be successful on their exams.
8. Teachers are encouraged to email Dr. Smith with any recommendations they may have for a smoother Midterm week next year.
9. Staff is encouraged to report all bug and rodent sightings to Mr. Genduso.
10. Staff is still concerned about the lack of communication when it comes to the use of streaming services. Teachers have not had access to educational videos that they have used for years in the classroom with no notice or explanation as to why certain services are arbitrarily blocked while others aren't. Teachers have prepared lessons geared toward new and diverse learning styles that they are now unable to implement.
11. Printers have become a big problem within the school. Teachers and students are hopeful that a practical solution can be reached to have both office printers and photocopy machines functioning throughout the building.
12. Please consider serving on a district committee.
13. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.
14. Wishing everyone a happy and safe winter break!



At 4:59 pm, a motion was made by Matthew Hartmann to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jennifer Garrett.

In Attendance:

West: Claudine Clark, Julie deBruin

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Susan Simons

East: Jennifer Diamond, Melissa Canner, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dana Monti, Lori Parenti

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Darice Bynoe

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

Pre-K Committee: Molly Drake

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC):

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

Guests:

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

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Jan/Feb. 2024

