



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

239 Lido Blvd., Long Beach, NY

• 11561

• 516-897-2175

Executive Board Minutes

October 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:18pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

10/26/20, 11/9/20, 11/23/20, 12/14/20, 1/11/21,
1/25/21, 2/8/21, 3/8/21, 3/22/21, 4/12/21*,
4/26/21, 4/26/21, 5/10/21, 5/24/21/6/14/21

- B. Every day brings new joy and excitement to us in the world of education. Hopefully, you have found a rhythm during the last three weeks with our new working conditions. The mandates put forth by the State, do not always allow us to use traditional best practices. However, the way you have adapted is truly remarkable and is recognized by all the Long Beach educational community. Every time I speak to a District Administrator or School Board member, they ask me to thank you on their behalf for all you have done. Each time I speak to the Superintendent she always ends the conversation with how remarkable you all are, and how proud she is to be your Superintendent.



The district has committed to addressing any concerns you have and wants to support you in every way possible. No one thinks what you are doing is easy. A common theme I see for success, is working collaboratively to find the system that works best for you. As with the beginning of the year, there will continue to be some changes to procedures, to accommodate social distancing, as we cycle through the different phases of the school year.

There has been ongoing dialog regarding secondary attendance procedures with the superintendent. Your concerns about the excessive time it takes to complete attendance has been heard loud and clear. There are two potential solutions in the pipeline from Google and SchoolTool. The district is in contact with both companies to identify a timeline of when and if they will be able to communicate with each other, or if they will offer a solution independently. We are hopeful that we will receive some positive information or action from them this week. If there is no movement, the District is committed to address the concerns with an internal solution.

Observations traditionally start in October, and that will not change. While we are in-person and in the hybrid model there will be no virtual observations. All procedures will remain in place for our APPR. You can only be observed on the observable measures within the Danielson Framework. Here is a link to the [Long Beach Teachers APPR](#).

Keith Harvey

President

Karen Bloom

Executive Vice-President

Amy Leder

Vice-President for Secondary Schools

Beth Prostick

Vice-President for

Elementary Schools

James Fiola

Treasurer

Patricia Van Loon

Recording Secretary

Elleen Parks

Corresponding Secretary

Table of Contents

- I. [President's Report](#)
- II. [Committees](#)
- III. [Executive Vice President](#)
- IV. [VP for Elementary Schools](#)
- V. [VP for Secondary Schools](#)
- VI. [Treasurer's Report](#)
- VII. [Building Reports](#)
 - A. [Virtual Committee](#)
 - B. [West](#)
 - C. [Lindell](#)
 - D. [East](#)
 - E. [Lido](#)
 - F. [Pre-K](#)
 - G. [Middle School](#)
 - H. [High School](#)
- VIII. [NYSUT Benefits](#)

There has been clarification to the Federal and State leave entitlements in the recent weeks. The concept of getting full pay and not using sick days for quarantines, is limited to \$511 per day for some situations. There is also a \$200 limit on childcare issues due to COVID closures. Members can fill the gap to their salary with fractional sick days if they choose. However, you can accept the \$511 or \$200 and not use sick days as well. If a member is quarantined and asked to remote teach into their classroom, they should not be docked days. These Federal and State leaves are benefits outside of our contract and are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The leave entitlements are set to expire on 12/31/20. The Superintendent sent a summary and flowchart from the NYS DOH regarding COVID-19 screening, going to work, and going back to work. Please make sure you read these documents. Members should contact their direct supervisor and Dr. Natali if they have any questions about the screening process.

Athletics will kick off this year with off-season training for the Fall High School sports. If successful, the district is optimistic that it will be able to provide the same for the other seasons. The district is enthusiastic that these off-season training sessions will be a positive segue for our student athletes, should the seasons resume.

I know our teachers and librarians have faced great challenges with the workload this year. However, I would also like to recognize our guidance counselors for the work they have been doing in close quarters with our students, to ensure their social emotional needs are being met, while trying to maintain the organization and structure of the students schedules. This awesome feat has not gone unnoticed. I would also like to recognize our true heroes, our frontline workers, our nurses. Long before COVID our nurses were so much more than band aides and ice packs. Now with COVID they have another added layer far beyond anything we have dealt with before. Their knowledge and expertise were key factors that has allowed us to open successfully.

Please remember, these new working conditions are only temporary during this pandemic and it will not permanently change our working conditions or contract in the future. We are all in this together! Thank you.

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. Negotiation Committee—Chief Negotiator's Report—Keith Harvey

1. The permanent substitute and teacher contracts have been signed and are being prepared for printing.

C. New Member Committee—Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka

We hope everyone is having a good year so far. We have been brainstorming different ways to have a safe Buddy Party and we decided to host a virtual Zoom Happy Hour once a month in order to accommodate all of our new members and buddies. We will be inviting small groups of new members with their buddies to each virtual meet up where they can enjoy a Buddy gathering from the comfort of their own home. Please let us know if there is a new member in your building without a buddy. If you are already working with someone as a buddy, please let us know and we will add that person to our list. Thank you!

D. Political Action Committee—Jennifer Garrett

1. Ensuring all members receive information is vital. If you have not done so already, please send an email to LBCTAPAC@gmail.com from your personal email address so you can be added to our email list. Thank you to those that have already sent your personal email addresses. Also, you can follow the LBCTA Facebook page for additional information.
2. Communication, knowledge and action are vital to ensuring a strong union. Informed members are stronger members. Please consider joining the LBCTA Political Action Committee. Keep informed, strengthen member engagement, and take action on important issues.
3. Our next meeting will be on October 21st. This meeting will be held virtually at 4:15pm. Additional information to follow. Please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com from your personal email if you are interested in attending.

Even if you cannot join, 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.

4. We are in the final month of the 2020 Census, the once-a-decade process that requires each and every one of us to stand up and be counted! The **October 31st deadline** to complete your Census is coming up fast. You must be counted! Spread the Word!! <https://my2020census.gov/>

5. If you haven't already, please download the NYSUT MAC (Member Action Center) app to your phone. You can find it at the following link: <https://mac.nysut.org/get-the-nysut-macsmartphone-app> in the U.S. House of Representatives. Please encourage everyone to fill out their questionnaires. Please encourage everyone to fill out their questionnaires.

It's our voice. Make it count.

E. Public Relations—Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Long Island will look a little bit different this year. This year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign is going to be a hybrid of different engagements, as they know everyone has a multitude of comfort levels, but they want to make sure people can still come “together” to fight the fight against Breast Cancer. Please consider joining the Facebook page “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer-Long Island.” They continue to post wonderful virtual events and activities that are occurring this month.

2. Team LBCTA 11561 intends on continuing our efforts to fundraise even without the walk. This year we will be selling LBCTA Beanies (hats) to our members for \$20 each. If you would like to buy a Beanie, please fill out this [Google form](#).

3. We still have some of last year's white shirts available (larger sizes) and white masks. Please email Amy Leder if you would like to buy an OLD item.

4. **Wear Pink**— Our annual “Wear Pink Day” will be on Thursday, October 29th. Please join us by wearing pink, an old LBCTA shirt or a new Beanie. This would be a great day to fundraise together as a school should you choose.

5. We continue to be overwhelmed by everyone's love and support towards reaching our goal. Thank you to everyone who has already donated. [Team LBCTA 11561](#)



F. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. No report at this time.

G. Teacher Center—John Marr

1. We are waiting for the release of this year's approved grant.

2. As a result this, we will not be running classes until we learn the status of the state grant at the end of the month. If any teachers are interested in running virtual PD classes, please contact the director at lbtc@lbeach.org and we can discuss a possible start time in mid October.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

A. Although we are in month 2, this is all still very new for everyone. Hybrid teaching is an overwhelming experience for both students and teachers. We hope that everyone remains patient and understanding. We all need to work together to figure out the best ways to engage our students both home and at school.

B. You may have noticed recently that you received an email about your observation elements from last year. Please disregard anything that referred to an ineffective rating. They were clearing out last year, and notifications should not have been sent to teachers. No one received any ineffective ratings last year as APPR was suspended.

C. 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. We have spoken to Dr. Romanelli regarding APPR and observations. He has assured us that administrators are here to support us, and that they will be mindful of our current situation.

3. Please take an active role in the observation process. Keep in mind that the Danielson framework that we use is based on best practice observable measures. You should not see opinions from your evaluation team. Be sure to address issues in your post observation conferences.

4. Our APPR handbook is on our website. You can find all timelines, conversion charts and percentages here.

5. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

D. Health & Safety Committee

1. I was able to sit down with Mr. McGuire from JC Broderick last week to go over the air quality reports. It was clear that all buildings are receiving plenty of fresh air from the outside. All of the buildings, except the high school, had testing done in each room to ensure that each location was receiving enough fresh air. The head custodians are walking through the buildings with Brendan Scully in order to check on the locations that seemed to be off. For example, a reading may have had a very low for % of fresh air, but if that is a closet, that is okay! If it is a classroom, then we will need to address it.
2. Although Mr. DeVito thought that specific rooms were tested in the high school, they were not. Spaces were checked, and units were checked, but not all individual rooms were checked. However, since our meeting, JC Broderick has been in the building all of last week to do the missing tests. We did have plenty of fresh air coming into the building, that report was completed. We wanted to know specifically that each space was receiving enough of that fresh air. Hopefully these reports will be available in the next few days. Mr. McGuire will be meeting with us again to go over them as soon as they are available.
3. In addition we are supposed to be receiving weekly balancing reports in order to make sure that our ventilation remains up to par. The balancing reports come from Honeywell. These are an indication of whether the units are distributing fresh air properly. Although I have not seen these reports, supposedly they are being completed. I will continue to follow up with Mr. DeVito regarding air quality.
4. You may also have noticed much colder temperatures in some areas. Remember, units must be running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! So, they used to shut down at night or on weekends. That can not happen now, so areas are remaining much colder. Please speak to your head custodian as they may be able to adjust the temp a bit, but please be patient as we all work through these issues.
5. We are hoping to see cleaning, sanitizing and ventilation logs for each of the buildings on a regular basis. Mr. DeVito is working on the best way to do that.
6. We are hoping to hear a date for our first Health & Safety meeting sometime in the near future. In addition, we would love to get an update on the traffic project!
7. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org

E. 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 lbtca.com.

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

- A. I hope things are beginning to settle down and you are all able to get into some sort of routine.
- B. We will be having our Building Rep Elections on Monday, November 2nd. If you are interested in serving as a Building Rep please email me at bprostick@lbeach.org or send a letter of interest to me c/o Lido School. The letter or email must be received by the close of business Friday, October 23rd. All Elementary Schools need 3 reps and 3 alternates.
- C. I am glad the buses are beginning to arrive in a timely manner. If you are still having issues with dismissal please let me know.
- D. Just to clarify a few things, our professional periods can be used for daily planning or meetings with administrators twice a week and we can have two faculty meetings a month. Our prep periods are duty free. Duty free means we can't be assigned anything during that time.
- E. Our first Elementary Council meeting will be on October 19, at 4:00 on Zoom. I will send you the link that morning.
- F. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.
- G. Send me any issues you are 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. We will be having our Building Rep Elections on Monday, November 2nd. If you are interested in serving as a Building Rep please email me at aleder@lbeach.org or send a letter of interest to me c/o High School. The letter or email must be received by the close of business Friday, October 23rd.
Middle School: 5 Reps High School: 7 Reps.

- B. Please continue to communicate with your Building Leaders and Building Reps about items that need to be addressed or looked into.

VI. Treasurer’s Report—Jim Fiola

A. September Financial Results

<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	
NYSUT	\$15,444	Union dues	\$39,769
AFT	9,155	NYSUT Ad Placement	500
PTA Dues	3,280	Retiree Dues	315
Taxes and Insurance	629	Mask Fundraiser	75
Meeting Expenses	1,122	Total	<hr/> \$38,659
Public Relations	323		
Donations	75		
Telephone	316		
Total	<hr/> \$30,344		

- B. I hope that your school year is off to a great start. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank. I would encourage you to watch a few School Board meetings on Facebook during the year. **If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please email them to me at jfiola@lbeach.org.**
- C. Union dues for 2020/2021 for full-time members will be \$1,017.96. The break-out is \$397 local, \$378 NYSUT, \$234.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$101.80 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column “MDED-03.” 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. Elementary Virtual Learning Committee

1. Welcome to the Virtual Teaching Staff.
2. We are addressing the concerns that came up with the administration of the NWEA assessments virtually.
3. Please consider buying in LBCTA Beanie to support or Breast Cancer Fundraiser.
4. Please wear pink on October 29th on our annual “**Pink Day.**”

B. West School

1. We would like to welcome Barbara Schneider to our Building as our new West School Nurse and Mrs. Glindell as our Health Office Secretary.
2. Back to School Night went smoothly for most of our staff and families.
3. Thank you to our new 5th grade teacher Ms. Jessica Donato for organizing our Custodial Appreciation Day lunch for our building Custodial Staff.
4. Condolences to Rhonda Healy on the loss of her father Roy Siegel. Rhonda is a Teaching Assistant at West.
5. Please consider purchasing an LBCTA beanie or make a donation. There are still LBCTA masks and some shirts available for purchase. JOIN US and wear **pink** on October 29th in support of our Making Strides fundraiser!!!
6. The busses have been coming on time and dismissal has been running much more smoothly.
7. Please consider donating a sick day to the sick bank.

C. Lindell School

1. Welcome back Danielle Goggin and Shannon Ambury from their leaves.
2. Thank you Lindell PTA for providing staff with Lindell facemasks.

3. Happy to report all of the Lindell busses have been arriving and departing safely and on time this past week!
4. Thank you to our custodial staff for all they have been doing and continue to do to keep us healthy and safe.
5. Welcome Cathy Barone as Lindell's 3rd CTA representative.
6. Wear Pink Day is October 29. Please remember to support Breast Cancer Awareness month by wearing pink.
7. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.

D. East School

1. Check <http://www.lbcta.com/> for union updates, forms, member benefits, helpful links, and information regarding our Team LBCTA 11561 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraisers.
2. Our annual Pink Out Day will be Thursday 10/29. Please wear pink to show your support.
3. Condolences to Angelo Peppe on the loss of his sister-in-law Jacqueline Hayes.
4. Please consider donating to the LBCTA sick bank.

E. Lido School

1. Congratulations to Dr. Lauren Anderson-Miller for earning her doctorate degree!
2. Condolences to Mary Peppe on the loss of her sister.
3. Thank you to Nurse Nancy and Nurse Kelly for all that you do on a daily basis for our students, especially this year!
4. Join the Facebook page: Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Long Island for information about ways to be involved even though the walk will not be taking place this year. Also, a LBCTA beanie will be on sale to raise money for the Making Strides fundraiser. White LBCTA masks and some shirts from last year's Making Strides walk are also available to purchase.
5. Our annual "Wear **Pink Day**" is Thursday, October 29th! Please join us by wearing pink or a LBCTA Making Strides shirt from previous years.
6. November 2nd will be the LBCTA Building Rep election.
7. Some buses are still running late, however most are arriving in a timely manner.
8. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA Sick Bank.

F. Pre-K

1. Congratulations to Revi Spinks on becoming a grandmother!
2. Condolences to Mary Peppe on the loss of her sister.
3. There were some problems with families being able to log into virtual back to school night.
4. Thank you to our nursing and custodial staff for helping keep our building safe.
5. Please consider donating to Make Strides against breast cancer.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.

G. Middle School

1. We look forward to a more effective way to streamline the attendance process. The process is time consuming and infringes on valuable teaching time.
2. Thank you to everyone for a successful Back to School Night. We appreciate the support we received from Administration in creating an effective process in light of our current situation.
3. LBMS Rep. Elections will be held on November 2nd.
4. Condolences to Lorie Beard on the loss of her sister.
5. Condolences to Dan Cook on the loss of his father-in-law.
6. Congratulations to Mary Callaghan on her recent marriage to Kevin ???
7. Get well wishes to Lorie Beard for a speedy recovery!
8. Welcome to Chris Webel. We look forward to working with you.
9. On 9/24, Dr. Romanelli, sent out an email asking for volunteers to serve on district committees. Please consider serving on a district committee.
10. It's Breast Cancer Awareness Month! The walk will be virtual this year due to COVID but the need to raise money towards finding a cure remains the same! **Please consider donating to our Making Strides fundraiser.** [Team LBCTA 11561](http://TeamLBCTA11561.com) Also, Team LBCTA 11561 will be selling beanies this year! Reach out to aleder@lbeach.org or bprostic@lbeach.org to place your order. Additional information on fundraising events to follow.

Annual Pink Out Day is October 29th! Remember to wear your PINK!

11. If you haven't already done so, please consider donating to our sick bank.

H. High School

1. Thank you to Mr. Myers for providing staff with a safe socially distant entrance to the building.
2. Thank you to Dr. Newman for adding icons on SchoolTool to differentiate between blue and green cohort students.
3. Thank you to Dr. Kiley-Rendon for providing teachers with the ability to connect SchoolTool and Google Classroom.
4. Staff welcomes the continued dialog with Central Administration and the technology department to develop a system for taking student attendance that does not steal valuable planning and instructional time.
5. Staff would like to see the district require students to wear student ID cards during the school day.
6. Additional training is needed to assist teachers with the planning on and implementing meaningful and secure online assessments.
7. Building Committee elections for this school year will be held on Monday, November 2nd. If you are interested in running for building representative, please submit a letter of interest to Amy Leder by Friday, Oct 23rd.
8. Please join the CTA in supporting the Making Strides for Breast Cancer by wearing **pink** on Thursday, October 29th. If you are interested in buying a Making Strides T-Shirt or Beanie, please see Amy Leder.
9. Thank you to Building and Central Administration for helping to provide a socially distant Back to School Night.
10. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.
11. Thank you to everyone for all of the efforts to meet the needs of the students during this difficult time.

At 6:15pm, a motion was made by Elleen Parks to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Matthew Hartmann.

In Attendance:

West: Cheryleann Fontenot

Lindell: Susan Simon, Cathy Barone, Lisa Rundo

East: Jennifer Diamond, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dana Monti, Diana Armada, Dorothy Lopez

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Lauren Behan, Alison Katulka, Stacey Mason, Kate Smith

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Lisa Casey, Matthew Hartmann, Greg Milone

Retiree: Frank Volpe

Officers: Keith Harvey, Karen Bloom, Beth Prostick, Amy Leder, Jim Fiola, Patricia Van Loon, Elleen Parks

Guest: Cathy Barone

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

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Sept/Oct '20