



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

December 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:17pm by Keith Harvey.

Keith Harvey

President

Karen Bloom

Executive Vice-President

Amy Powers

Vice-President for Secondary Schools

Beth Prostick

Vice-President for

Elementary Schools

Patricia Van Loon

Recording Secretary

Elleen Parks

Corresponding Secretary

James Fiola

Treasurer

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

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



B. Happy Holidays

As I reflect on 2020, I am sure like most of you, I am glad it is coming to an end. I also feel blessed to be working here in Long Beach alongside all of you. Everything we do as an Association, is to advance the quality of education in our schools. We achieve this by unifying our members and securing and strengthening the conditions necessary to support teaching as a profession. The challenges we faced this year were tremendous and it is amazing to see how everyone has adapted to them. Now it is more important than ever that we stick together and work collaboratively as a cohesive unit.

C. COVID Testing in Schools

During the week of 11/29/20 Governor Cuomo once again shifted the testing requirements for schools in yellow, orange and red zones. Although the yellow zone testing requirements have not changed, the orange and yellow requirements have. The new requirements for orange and red are now less comprehensive. "The state mandate is 20-percent (orange) — over a month — red zone 30-percent over a month - on a rolling basis," explained Cuomo.

Yellow Zones- Schools in yellow zones must test 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff over the two-week period immediately following the announcement of a yellow zone designation. *NYS has not placed Long Beach in the Yellow Zone at this time.* If the results of the testing reveal that the positivity rate among the 20% of those tested is lower than the yellow zone's current 7-day positivity rate, testing at that school will no longer be required to continue. However, if the results of the testing over the first two weeks reveal that the positivity rate among in-person student, staff and faculty is higher than the Yellow Zone's current 7-day positivity rate, the school will be required to continue to test 20% of the in-person population on a bi-weekly basis.

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D. Federal and State COVID Leave Acts

Please recognize that without further action, the State and Federal Relief Acts are set to expire on 12/31/20.



E. 2020 Toy Drive

This year we were not be able to have our traditional toy collection. Instead of collecting actual gifts, we raised funds which allowed us to donate toys and money to Circulo de la Hispanidad, The Little Saint Nick Foundation, and the Holiday Toy Drive Sponsored by Senator Todd Kaminsky. Thank you very much to all the buildings and individuals that contributed.

F. Reopening the Reopening Committee

Thank you very much to everyone that volunteered to participate in the Reopening Committee. The committee met on 12/1, and the sub-committees met on 12/7. The Superintendent will be issuing a report from those committees on 12/15. Click [here](#) for the report.

G. 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, 2021. 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.

H. NYSUT Offers Online Guide for a Successful Retirement

NYSUT has a publication for future retirees. "[Your Blueprint for a Successful Retirement: An online planning guide](#)" is posted as a resource for planning the next chapter in your life -- retirement! A login for NYSUT.org is required to access the online publication.

I. Study Money Dates

The winter deadline was December 11th. Those approved will be listed on the next Board of Education agenda. There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Money Program: Summer – May 14, 2021. 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](#).



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 Member Committee – Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka

1. We wish you all a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.
2. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Jim Fiola at jfiola@lbeach.org or Alison Katulka at akatulka@lbeach.org. **Please contact us if you do not have a buddy or mentor.** Do not be afraid to ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you. Keep reading the minutes!

C. Political Action Committee – Jennifer Garrett

1. Our next meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday, January 20th at 4:30. Even if you cannot make it, 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.
2. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

D. Public Relations – Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Great job West School for raising \$850 in donations that will go to Memorial Sloan Kettering Kids' Mustaches for Kids Long Island Chapter.

2. Please look for our LBCTA holiday ad in the Herald.
3. We will be having a PR/PAC Zoom meeting on Wednesday, January 20th at 4:30 pm via Zoom. If you will be attending, please email Amy, Beth, or Jenn so that we can send you the Zoom information for the meeting.

E. Social Committee – Elleen Parks

1. Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season, and a Happy New Year!
2. Hoping 2021 brings us all a healthy year so we can all get together soon!

F. Teacher Center – John Marr

1. For the last twenty-two years the Long Beach Teacher Center has done its best to provide high quality professional development to the teachers and staff of the Long Beach School community. Beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year, the Long Beach Teacher Center Policy Board approved a \$40 per 10-hour course fee once the grant's course budget line is expended with a \$2 surcharge for Venmo or Paypal payment. Effective November 10, 2020 the \$2 surcharge has been eliminated by the policy board. As a result, all class beginning November 2020 will have a flat rate of \$40.00 attached to them payable in full via Paypal, Venmo, cash, or check. If you have any questions regarding payment options, please contact the Director at 516-897-2083 or email at lbtc@lbeach.org.
2. The LBTC is currently seeking individuals interested in running 10-hour PD classes. The Center pays \$800 with a 1099 at the end of the calendar year. If you are interested in running a class for the LBTC, please fill out a proposal on [mylearningplan](#) or contact the director at lbtc@lbeach.org.
3. The LBTC wishes everyone best holiday wishes.

III. Vice President – Karen Bloom

- A. We would like to thank Dr. Gallagher for including all parties in the reopening task force meetings. We look forward to hearing the recommendations that came out of each committee. Although we would love to have all of our students back, we need to make sure that we are putting the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff at the forefront of our decisions.
- B. We hope that all parties can continue to work together in these extremely challenging times. I am proud to be a part of the Long Beach Community and am thankful to work with such a caring and dedicated group of professionals.

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. 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. Virtual observations will be conducted during the 2020-21 school year utilizing the Danielson Rubric for fully virtual classes. Once the administrator visits the virtual classroom for an observation, the administrator will alert the teacher of their presence in the classroom.
4. If we go fully virtual, we will follow the guidelines for the fully virtual classes that are happening now.
5. Our APPR handbook is on our website. You can find all timelines, conversion charts and percentages here.
6. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

D. Health & Safety Committee

1. District Wide Health & Safety Plan

- a. The district will need to update who they consider as essential during fully remote closures, which employees need to be in-district in order to perform their job

successfully. There are also some further revisions to our scheduled safety drills forthcoming. In addition, there are requirements to have large supplies of PPE's available.

2. COVID 19

- a. The district is working on updating the screening questionnaire to reflect the newest changes.
- b. Reopening task force will reconvene to discuss any potential new recommendations or suggestions
- c. It was also stated that communication should come directly from principals now, regarding COVID cases. There was some confusion as to whether it should come from Dr. Gallagher or each building.
- d. Nurses are keeping spreadsheets of sick students. They need a confirmed negative test or some other diagnosis in order to return to school.
- e. All people traveling from states other than those touching NY need to quarantine and test to return. If you are aware of a student who traveled and came to school, please report to the nurse or principal.
- f. DOH supersedes all other documents for us. Although the CDC has reduced quarantine time, we are still bound to the 14 days.
- g. Gators were discussed and it was decided that the reopening task force would discuss their use.
- h. Orbio is in fact both a cleaner and a sanitizer. It is a cleaning product made by the district and is effective in killing many viruses including COVID 19.

3. Water Testing

- a. It resumed a few weeks ago, after the testing had to be stopped from a governor's order. It has nothing to do with COVID 19. It is just normal water testing that we are required to complete.

4. Air Quality Testing HS

- a. Retesting was completed, but we have not seen the results yet. We were told that all is good and that the air supply is sufficient. However, we would like to check to make sure that with the increase in numbers of students that the amount of fresh air is enough to accommodate the rising numbers. A few rooms were on the low end and may need to be adjusted for air flow. Vents can be opened more to allow for more fresh air, but this will also cause much lower temperatures in certain areas.

5. ID Cards HS

- a. Supposedly they are in the works! We discussed the importance of having them, especially now since we can't see anyone's faces!

6. Cleaning Logs

- a. We discussed the importance of having the logs signed. Head custodians will work with the cleaners to make sure that this step is being completed.
7. Please continue to keep your building reps aware of any health & safety issues in your buildings so that we can address them as needed.
8. Our next Health and Safety meeting has not yet been scheduled.
9. Our next Health and Safety meeting has not yet been scheduled.

E. Other

1. Thank you for all that you do! Have a happy and healthy New Year! I hope that you get to spend some quality time with your friends and families away from the computer screens!! Please take some time to relax and recharge!
2. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible. They are virtual! So it's easy!

3. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank. The form is on our website at www.lbcta.com.

IV. Elementary Vice President – Beth Prostick

1. Dr. Romanelli is aware of the Parent Conference time not allowing for a full 50 minute lunch break. He said he will look into it for the Spring to ensure we get a full 50 minutes.
2. Thank you for your donations to our Holiday Toy Drive.
3. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on January 14, at 4:00 on Zoom. I will send you the link that morning.
4. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.
5. Send me any issues you are unable to work out at your building. I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org.
6. Have a very relaxing and happy holiday and stay safe!

V. Secondary Vice President – Amy Leder

- A. Wishing everyone the safest and healthiest holiday season. Sending virtual hugs to you and your loved ones during these uncertain times.

VI. Treasurer’s Report – James Fiola

A. November Financials

Revenues

Union Dues	\$41,524
Retiree Dues	36
Total	\$41,560

Expenditures

NYSUT	\$15,444
AFT	9,155
Taxes and Ins	179
Meeting Exp	65
Total	\$24,843

- B. I wish you all a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and Best wishes for a Safe, Happy and Healthy New Year. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank and virtually attend an upcoming School Board Meeting. Thank you for reading the minutes and please encourage your fellow members to do the same.
- C. **If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please email them to me at jfiola@lbeach.org.**
- D. 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. 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. LBVE

1. Thank you to everyone who supported the Holiday Gift Cards, Cash & Venmo Collection for the students in Long Beach. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!
2. Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and peaceful Holiday Recess! May you have much joy and happiness in the New Year!

B. West School

1. Thank you to all who donated to the LBCTA Annual Toy Drive.
2. A big thank you to the ladies of our Main Office, Patty Pues and Christine O’Driscoll, for all their help and amazing efforts for keeping us on track at West School.
3. Thank you to those who have donated a sick day to our bank. Please consider donating a sick day to the sick bank.
4. We would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happiest of Holiday Seasons!!!

C. Lindell School

1. A big thank you to all teachers for their tireless work during such a difficult time in our careers.
2. Thank you to all who donated to our Holiday Toy Drive.
3. Thank you to our custodial staff for keeping us safe and the building clean during this time.
4. Happy holidays to all. Stay safe and well and try to take a well-earned break from all the stress. Happy New Year and hope we have a better 2021!
5. Please consider donating a sick day to our district sick bank.

D. East School

1. Thank you to all who donated to the CTA holiday toy drive.
2. East School staff and students enjoyed participating in our Holiday Spirit Week and identifying our mystery masked readers.
3. We wish everyone a restful holiday break and a happy and healthy new year!
4. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

E. Lido School

1. Thank you to those who have donated to the LBCTA Holiday Toy Drive!
2. Thank you to St. Mary of the Isle and the Martin Luther King Center for helping with the organization and distribution of meals to our Long Beach families during remote instruction.
3. Thank you to the Lido PTA for organizing the Amazon Book Wish List for the Lido teachers in lieu of Lido’s annual book fair at this time of year, and a big thank you to the Lido families who donated books to the teachers’ classroom libraries. In addition, thank you to the Lido PTA for the thoughtful Thanksgiving treats for the Lido staff members; we appreciated it!
4. Many thanks to the students, families, technology, and school staff members who have all supported our period of remote instruction at Lido School.
5. We continue to send Dana Monti well wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery!
6. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
7. Wishing all a happy, healthy, and restful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

F. Pre-K

1. Kudos to the Pre-Kindergarteners, their families, and staff for the amazing job they are doing with remote learning!
2. Thank you to those who donated to LBCTA Toy Drive for the upcoming holiday season to support our local families in need.
3. Please consider donating a sick day to our LBCTA sick bank.
4. Have a wonderful, restful, and safe holiday season! Looking forward to a new year!

G. Middle School

1. Thank you to the Building Administration, Mary Callaghan, Liz McMahon, and Melissa Hartman for handling the contact tracing that goes along with suspected cases.
2. Thank you to our Bldg. Admin. for adding the attendance reminder with the link in School Tool. This has made taking our attendance much easier.

3. Thank you to EVERYONE for all efforts to follow health and safety protocols. Please remember these protocols are keeping us safe.
4. Thank you to the ever-generous MS faculty and staff who donated to the LBCTA Holiday Toy Drive. Between Friday's Denim for a Cause and our building fundraiser, we were able to raise \$410. Way to go to Middle School!
5. Thank you to our Student Organization (advisors: Wally Kramme and Christina Gardrvits) for planning and organizing a fun-filled Spirit Week for the MS.
6. Welcome back to Andrea Hinke.
7. Get well wishes to Lorie Beard.
8. 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.
9. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a very happy new year!

H. High School

1. Condolences to Chrissie Fowler and Kathy Buckley on the loss of their sister and sister-in-law.
2. Cleaning logs for each classroom are displayed in each classroom. Cleaners should be signing the log to indicate that the room has been cleaned and disinfected pursuant to the cleaning checklist. Staff members whose log is not being signed should notify the head custodian and CC Mr. Myers.
3. Thank you to the Building Administration for handling the contact tracing that goes along with suspected cases.
4. COVID testing and quarantine rules are constantly changing. Each situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If you should have any questions regarding your need to get tested or whether you need to quarantine, please contact Dr. Natali. If you prefer to have a building representative contact Dr. Natali, please let one know.
5. Thank you to all who donated to the LBCTA Toy Drive.
6. Staff would like to see the district require students to wear student ID cards during the school day.
7. Additional training is needed to assist teachers with the planning and implementing of meaningful and secure online assessments.
8. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.
9. Thank you to EVERYONE for all your efforts to follow health and safety protocols. Please remember these protocols are keeping us safe.
10. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

At 5:24 pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Matthew Hartmann.

In Attendance:

Long Beach Virtual Elementary (LBVE): Heather Puckhaber

West: Claudine Clark, Cheryleann Fontenot, Anne La Penna

Lindell: Susan Simons, Cathleen Barone, Lisa Rundo

East: Jennifer Diamond, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Diana Armada

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Alison Katulka, Stacey Mason, Kaitlin Smith

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Anthony Balsamo, Neil Campbell, Lisa Casey, Matthew Hartmann,
Greg Milone

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC): John Marr

Retiree: Frank Volpe

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

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