



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

November 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

A. Website

Please visit us at our website www.lbcta.com.

B. PTA

The LBHS PTSA will once again be hosting their annual "Comedy Night" on Saturday, December 3. Please consider attending. A flyer was sent out last Thursday. If you need another please let me know.



C. Long Beach Aware

Long Beach Aware will once again be bringing in Dr. Dewey on Thursday, November 17, 7-9PM, at the High School. Dr. Dewey will be providing important information which will empower both parents and teens. Key topics are:

- Giving parents the information they need to navigate through the adolescent years.
- Learning both the short and long term effects of alcohol and other drugs on the developing brain.
- Specific information on the most addictive drugs, from caffeine to heroin, and how they impact the brain.

D. SRP Recognition Day- November 15, 2016

SRP Recognition Day acknowledges the contributions of School-Related Professionals in helping to educate the whole student. Long Beach SRP members perform a variety of key roles in schools working as bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, food service workers, teaching assistants, aides and in dozens of other job titles.



E. Superintendent's Conference Day and Fundraiser

Thank you very much to Dr. Gallagher and the PDP committee for putting together a thoughtful and well planned day of workshops. The teachers greatly appreciated having options. Thank you very much to everyone that contributed to the Food Pantry fundraiser on Superintendent's day. This year's donations will be going to St. Mary's Food Pantry and Bags of Hope.

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

Eileen Parks

Corresponding Secretary

James Fiola

Treasurer

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F. Mustaches for Kids - Long Island Chapter

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed. This was our TENTH year growing mustaches for kids and to date we have raised over \$500,000. All proceeds benefit the Pediatric Cancer Center at Memorial Sloan Kettering. I look forward to seeing a couple more fuzzy upper lips next year.

G. Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) Registration

All members who hold a permanent or professional certificate in classroom teaching, educational leadership service or a Level III Teaching Assistant certificate must apply for initial registration during the 2016-2017 school year during his/her month of birth and must renew every five years through the [TEACH](#) system.

H. Grade 3-8 state tests regional item writing workshops

In order to give more teachers an opportunity to participate in the development of items for the state grade 3-8 tests, the state test vendor is holding regional workshops this year. [Here are more details.](#)

Teachers interested in participating in the workshops should send their name, grade, subject, school district, session and contact information to Terry McSweeney at tmcween@nysutmail.org. All submitted names will be provided to Questar Assessment for review and final decisions about participants.

I. Flexible Spending

Medical has increased to \$2600 for the 2017 plan year. Child/Elder care spending limits continue to be \$5,000 per year. Should you wish to participate in the 2017 plan, please complete and return the application to your Building Secretary no later than close of business on December 2, 2016. The forms can be found on the district website under [Human Resources-Forms-Flexible Spending Account.](#)

J. 403(b) Plans in the News

The New York Times has published a number of articles in the past few weeks that pertain to 403 (b) plans, [\(link\)](#). As you scroll down the article you will see links to the other articles in this series that the New York Times did on this topic. These articles have reinforced the notion that selecting the appropriate 403(b) provider for supplemental retirement savings can be a challenging task. While recent legislation has been passed to help clean up the industry regarding disclosure of fees, compensation and even accepting a fiduciary role, governmental 403(b) plans have remained mostly exempt from these regulations.

In light of this, NYSUT Member Benefits would like to remind local associations about the options that it has put in place to assist NYSUT members with these important financial decisions. These include our 403(b) *Field Guide* publication, online Financial Planning Center and endorsed Financial Counseling Program (available on a voluntary or group basis). School districts can also offer the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan (457(b) plan). [Here's more information.](#)

K. NYSUT offers online guide for a successful retirement

NYSUT has a new 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! Login to [NYSUT.org](#) is required to access the online publication.

L. Study Money Dates

There are two more opportunities to participate in the Study Money Program: Winter- Dec. 9, 2016 and Summer- May 12, 2017. 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.](#)



M. Coach pay dates

Middle School Winter I: 12/9 and 1/20

High School Winter: 12/23 and 2/3

Middle School Winter II: 2/17 and 3/17

High School Spring: 4/17 and 5/12

Middle School Spring: 4/28 and 6/9

N. NYSUT Leadership Training

Following is a schedule of the workshops and conferences to be presented by the Nassau regional office during the 2016-17 year. As you will note, NYUST will not be holding a leadership conference at Gurney's this year. Instead, they will be holding workshops throughout the year. You will be receiving more detailed information about each of the following events at the appropriate time.

Wednesday, November 30 – Teacher Negotiations Workshop:
Status and Strategies (Nassau RO)

Saturday, February 11 – Nassau Winter Leadership Conference
(Crest Hollow Country Club)

Wednesday, March 1 – Post State of the State--Relevant Issues

Thursday, March 16 – Labor Movement and History Workshop (Nassau RO)

Tuesday, June 6 – Tenure Workshop (Nassau RO)

March 3-4 – Health & Safety Conference (Hilton, Saratoga Springs)

O. Credit Swap

Debra Cupani—1.5 credits for Long Island University

II. Committees

A. Grievance Committee—Karen Bloom

1. We filed Stage 3 for the Pre-K Faculty room grievance. I will update you as soon as possible.
2. We have recently been given an arbitration date in December for our Pre-K teachers being able to send their children to Long Beach Schools.
3. We were able to withdraw a grievance concerning an administrator who threatened a teacher if she filed a grievance. The district was able to give assurance that no reprisals of any kind would be made towards this teacher.
4. We were denied at Stage 1 regarding a teacher who has been assigned 2 classes within the same period. Stage 2 has been filed and heard. We are awaiting a response. I will keep you posted.
5. 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

The negotiations team has come to the table with an open mind and is trying to work with the district. I am hopeful that we will be able to get closer to a settlement in the upcoming weeks and look forward to being able to provide more information at the next meeting.

C. New Member Committee

1. I am sure that many of you have had at least one observation. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding them. You can email Jim Fiola at jfiola@lbeach.org or Alison Katulka at akatulka@lbeach.org.
2. Thank you to all who were able to join us for the Fall Buddy/Mentor party which was held on Friday, **Nov 4th** at The Ale House in Point Lookout. We hope that it was an opportunity to

meet with your fellow new members, officers, building reps, mentors, buddies, and other colleagues. **Please contact us if you don't have a buddy or mentor.** Please ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you.

D. Political Action Committee—Beth Prostick

1. Thank you to everyone who volunteered in anyway to help elect Todd Kaminsky. Your hard work has paid off and I thank you.
2. I must change the date of our PAC meeting due to a scheduling conflict with Superintendent's Conf. Day committee. We will meet on November 29, at 3:45 in Lido room L25. We welcome anyone who would like to get involved.

E. Public Relations

1. Our first PR meeting was held last week. Thank you to Stacy Rice, Camila Gamboa, Jenn Garrett, Beth Prostick and Elleen Parks for joining me. The meeting was very productive. We are in the process of putting together our holiday ad for The Herald.
2. Our spring fundraising event will be held in March this year. We are hoping to have an evening of bowling fun for all. Information and more details will follow soon.
3. A reminder that the PR committee is open to ALL members. New members are welcome at any time.
4. Our next PR meeting will be help on **Tuesday, January 10th at 4pm at Lido School.**
5. If you have a FB account and you are not a member of our LBCTA private group, please email me at amylo609@aol.com your FB screen name so that we can add you to our group.

F. Teacher Center

1. The Teacher Center is looking for instructors. Please contact John Marr for more information.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

A. APPR

1. At this point, you should have received and acknowledged your composite scores. All teachers in our district were Effective or Highly Effective this year, so we should have no appeals at this point. Remember you can only appeal an Ineffective or Developing rating.
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. You should have received a document letting you know who your evaluators are. If you have not, please ask your immediate supervisor. Some of these have changed, but you should receive notification of any changes made to your observer schedule.
4. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

B. Health & Safety Committee

1. I will be serving as the association's representative again this year. Our first meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, November 15th at 4:00 pm in room 268 at the high school. We met last week to specifically address the HVAC system at the high school.
2. The first topic was the Band Suite at the high school. We just recently learned that there was a malfunction in the HVAC system that services the band room. We reviewed this issue with the new architect, Mr. Grillo, and he will be proposing his solutions in order for the district to decide how to proceed. The unit needs to be replaced and is providing unsafe conditions for both students and staff. He assured us that these conditions only occur during

cooling months, so as long as the AC is not on, we are ok. Therefore, we will need to make sure that this is taken care of before we need to start cooling the building again. Additionally, a dehumidifier was added to the area to help reduce the buildup of moisture, and the head custodian is checking daily to make sure that no issues arise.

3. We also asked if there should be concern about mold traveling through the ducts to other parts of the building. Mr. Grillo explained that this should not be an issue; however he could not guarantee it. It appeared to be a more localized problem. The individual units should not be mixing, but if there are problems occurring that we are not aware of, this could potentially occur. This led to a discussion of the many odors that seem to be penetrating through the vents in a variety of locations throughout the high school. Mr. Grillo will be following up with a company, Cunningham, to check on the recent scope of work that was completed with the ductwork. Once this has been determined, he will work with Mr. DeVito and JC Broderick to come up with a plan to address all vents throughout the building. They will be methodically checked, most likely with cameras, to make sure that there are not issues that we can't see. Mr. Grillo stressed the importance of cleaning all areas, not just the units themselves.

4. We also discussed the moisture that appears on surfaces, doors and walls, specifically when the cooling units are on. Mr. Grillo explained that this could have to do with the mechanical end of the system. According to Mr. Genduso, head custodian, there have been many issues with the electronically operated systems; all of the newly replaced units in the building. He will be following up with Cardinal, the company who installed most of the newer units. Mr. Grillo has a contact at this company as well so he will be following up to make sure that all units were properly balanced as well as to check to see if the proper air flow is being maintained. These are all possible reasons for the buildup of moisture in the classrooms. It also appears that another company, Ultimate Power, who was responsible for some of these installations, may have installed certain vents backwards causing a variety of problems. Mr. Grillo will be following up with them as well.

5. We also questioned the amount of fresh air that is coming into the building. According to Mr. Grillo, during the cooling months, 100% of our air coming in should be from the outside, while during the heating months, a minimum of 15% should be coming in from outside. These amounts will be checked and confirmed to assure that we are receiving the proper flow of air from the outside.

6. In summary, we decided as a group that we will reconvene in December to hear the follow up from most of these companies. We can then make a plan for how to proceed with the cleaning and maintenance of the HVAC system, specifically the ducts and vents. Mr. Grillo seems to be an excellent addition to the district as he was on the same page as all of us, and to guide us through the next few months and will help us to gather the information we have been trying to acquire for a very long time. We are looking forward to working together to resolve the issues we have been facing for years here at the high school.

7. There are a few other lingering Health and Safety issues that have not yet been addressed and are on the agenda for tomorrow afternoon. The Lido/MS complex exit, the issues

surrounding the current traffic pattern at the High School, sicknesses in Elementary schools and the windows at Lindell and East. Hopefully, Mr. DeVito will be able to provide us with some answers at the meeting tomorrow.

8. If you have any Health and Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

B. District Safety Team

1. I will be serving as the association's representative to the team again this year. Our first meeting is tomorrow, November 15th at 4:00 pm, in room 268 at the high school.

2. We are still awaiting the status of the Security Booth at the HS, as well as the issue of lock-downs. Many rooms have different keys, and teachers may not be able to properly secure their rooms. We have yet to receive any details. These items have been added to the agenda for tomorrow. Hopefully, Mr. DeVito will have some answers for us.

3. If you have any Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

C. 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.

3. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

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

A. 1. Even though we have a permanent sub in each building, it is very difficult to get subs to fill other spots. Dr. Gallagher will look into the matter.

2. Mr. DeVito is working with transportation to figure out why West buses are late. Hopefully, this issue will be resolved soon.

3. Elementary Council will meet on November 21, at 3:45 in Lido room L25.

4. I wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving.

V. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report—Amy Powers

A. An ongoing thank you to Karen Bloom for all of her time and dedication towards our Health and Safety needs. There are several Secondary health and safety issues (mold concerns at HS/MS, faulty HVAC system, HS smells in hallways, traffic pattern, and security booth) that I do not need to report again in my secondary minutes due to her diligence and tremendous dedication to our needs.

B. We are eagerly awaiting and look forward to the arrival of our first batch of chromebooks. We were sad to hear at our last faculty meeting that there will be a minimum of another five weeks before we see them.

C. Our next Secondary meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 17th at 3:15 PM** in HS Guidance Suite. Please let me know only if you cannot make it.

D. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

VI. Treasurer's Report—Jim Fiola

A. Union dues for 2016/2017 for full-time members will be \$998.36. The break-out is \$384 local, \$378 NYSUT, \$228.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$98.54 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.

B. October Financial Results

Expenditures

NYSUT	\$14,445
AFT	8,679
Taxes and Insurance	6,094
Telephone	118
Donations	100
Meeting Expenses	244
Officer and Rep Stipends	20,851
Total	\$50,531

Revenues

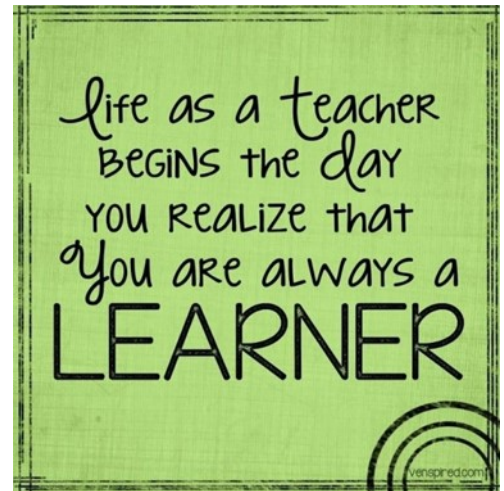
Union Dues	\$39,404
Retiree Dues	9
Total	\$39,413

- C. Well a quarter of the school year is already over. I hope you are having a good year. Please consider donating a sick day to the [Sick Day Bank](#). Thank you for reading the minutes and please encourage your fellow members to do the same. Best wishes for a happy and joyous Thanksgiving with your family and loved ones.
If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please email them to me at jfiola@lbeach.org.

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Congratulations to Aileen Monahan and anyone who completed the NYC Marathon. GOOD GOING!!!!
2. Also, congrats to Aileen Monahan on the marriage of her son, Thomas, to Alex.
3. Thank you to all the presenters at the Superintendent's Conference Day.
4. Condolences to Diana O'Farrell (West School) and Mary O'Farrell on the passing of their son/brother, Timothy O'Farrell.
5. Condolences to Mary Peppe (Lido Nurse's Office) and Steven Peppe (Middle School) on the passing of Mary's father-in-law, Vincent DeRosa.
6. We continue to have concerns with regard to the number of children placed on the Catechism buses. Too many children and only a bus driver on an overcrowded bus is not safe.
7. We continue to have buses arriving late at dismissal which holds up the process.
8. Our computers/Smartboards are not being repaired. Work orders have been sent in and there has not been a response to date.
9. Staff parking is becoming an issue with regard to the new construction of driveways in the West End.
10. Thank you to those who have donated sick days to our bank. We encourage anyone who has not done so to consider donating.
11. Wishing a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.



B. Lindell School

1. Red Ribbon Week was enthusiastically received by students and staff. Compassion and kindness were our unifying theme. Thank you to our Red Ribbon Committee for a job well done.
2. Lindell SAFE night featuring Kelly Mooney, informed parents about math strategies. Congratulations to our SAFE Committee on an informative session for parents and fun Super Hero event for attending children.
3. Historical characters were brought to life through 5th Grade's outstanding Living Museum.
4. Mysteries of Science were creatively revealed through 3rd Grade's Halloween Science Day.
5. Happy Thanksgiving to all!!!

C. East School

1. The Storybook and Historical museum parade was enjoyed by all the children and staff. Everyone looked great!
2. Thanks to John Dunne and Jason Pearl for a successful Sports Night. The 3rd and 4th graders had a blast.
3. Thank you to the PTA for the Bash the Trash Assembly. The kids were smiling from ear to ear.
4. We are still awaiting materials in order to start the READ 180 program.
5. Please consider donating a sick day to the district sick bank.
6. Have an enjoyable Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

D. Lido School

1. Students eagerly participated in various activities based on making healthy, positive life choices during Red Ribbon Week.
2. Kindergarten students enjoyed learning about fire safety in a special presentation by the fire department.
3. We want to express our gratitude to Lido PTA for the Pumpkin Patch event at the habitat which also incorporated the Stranger Danger program. Students were excited to listen to a read aloud and went pumpkin picking.
4. Kudos to Pre K and Kindergarten students for giving us such a wonderful treat during the Storybook Costume Parade.
5. Congratulations to Sue Corrie Del-Cid and Tova Markowitz for their participation in the most recent NYC Marathon.
6. Kudos to Fifth Grade students and teachers for organizing an awesome schoolwide Mock Election experience. Students were excited to listen to election read aloud books from our principal, Mrs. Young. K-2 students listened to Duck for President and 3-5 students listened to Grace for President.
7. Many thanks to the Superintendent's Conference Day Committee members and facilitators for a productive day.
8. Condolences to Mary Peppe on the loss of her father-in-law.
9. Kudos to students who contributed to the Veteran's Wall of Honor.
10. Thank you to students and staff members for donating food to the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
11. The lack of available substitute teachers is of great concern.
12. Thanks to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating.
13. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

E. Pre-K

1. Our students enjoyed participating in our storybook parade.
2. To celebrate "P" week, the students participated in a pajama day. Fun was had by all.
3. Thank you to all for a successful Red Ribbon Week.
4. Wishing you and your families a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

F. Middle School

1. Condolences to Devorah Sokal on the recent passing of her mother.
2. Security: Several members have noticed and reported people trespassing on school grounds during school hours. Also, there are concerns that, once someone receives a visitor sticker at security, visitors can then walk the building unescorted.
3. Congratulations to Grace Parisi on becoming a Master Teacher.
4. There were several complaints about "glitches" with School Tool. Some members had issues entering assignments and comments. We also had members enter in data only for it to vanish after saving and logging out.
5. We have members still without curriculum materials. These materials should have been ordered and delivered prior to the first day of school. We are now 11 weeks into the school year and we have members without materials necessary for course instruction.
6. Bus safety: Certain bus routes have very crowded buses where students are forced to stand in the aisle because there are no available seats. Administration has contacted transportation and expressed concern for student safety. Apparently students are expected to sit three to a seat but students have been forced to ride the bus standing in the center aisle which is not safe.
7. Kudos to Wally Kramme and Kerri Rehnback for spearheading a mock election held for the 7th grade students.
8. Congratulations to Dena Hopper on completing the New York City Marathon!
9. Kudos to Michelle Frank for winning a \$300 Classroom Technology Grant from Subway. Not only did Ms. Frank secure the grant but we also received a free Subway lunch for the Middle School Staff!
10. Kudos to Mallory Notholt for winning the FUJIFILM INSTAX Camera Giveaway administered by Scholastic. She won 3 Instax Mini cameras and a case of film to use with her classes!
11. Please consider donating a sick day to our [sick bank](#).
12. We wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

G. High School

1. Thank you Dr. Gallagher, the Superintendent's Conference Day committee, and all instructors for a well thought out and productive day.
2. Congratulations to all those involved in yet another successful blood drive.
3. Congratulations to Robyn Tornabene on being named a Master Teacher.
4. Congratulations to Kerri Bolkcom on her recent completion of the NYC Marathon.
5. Thank you to the LBCTA on our recent successful buddy party.
6. The state of technology continues to be a major problem-
 - a) The delay in chromebooks has severely limited teachers and students access to technology. We are still waiting for information regarding the timetable of the arrival. The ordering of chromebooks needs to be prioritized and fast tracked.
 - b) Printing- The HS Printer server has been malfunctioning and as a result printing from classroom computers and offices have been problematic. This makes planning for lessons challenging. The fact that this continues to be a problem is inexcusable.

- c) The district needs to hire a person to take charge of developing and implementing a technology plan for the district.
7. We are pleased to hear that the district has hired someone to conduct an audit of the district's ENL program. We still feel that the district needs to provide staff development and training for teachers of these classes. The amount of work created by ENL regulations has placed significant time constraints on some staff members. The district should hire an ENL Supervisor in order to serve the students and teachers of this department.
8. School Tool- There are a number of issues regarding the new student management system:
- a) Teachers do not have access to student's historical grades.
 - b) Students who are marked absent from second period are being marked absent by default for the remainder of the school day.
 - c) Substitutes have no ability to enter attendance in the classroom.
 - d) The nurse's office has experienced many problems tracking students immunizations and creating reports that are optimized for the health office and necessary for state reporting.
9. Classroom 215 is still not properly outfitted to deliver the Computer Repair and Networking curriculum to the students. The room still does not have walls to practice wiring, unfiltered network access to install and use required programs, and still waiting for a whiteboard to display notes or diagrams in the room to be installed.
10. There have been a number of weird smells noticed around the school (in the hallway between rooms 354 and 357 in particular). These smells are often observed near ceiling vents. We believe that some of these smells are related to the condition of the ventilation system. We ask that the entire ventilation system be studied and tested to ensure that the conditions in the building are safe for students and staff.
11. We are hopeful that building administration can develop a plan to improve student attendance in detention. Students who miss detention will eventually be issued in-school suspension. We would like to take steps to ensure that students avoid this and do not miss class unnecessarily.
12. Despite rumors that the district is hiring a traffic expert, we are still waiting for the HS traffic pattern to be studied. All we want is to have the issue studied to see if we have the safest traffic pattern that we can have.
13. Please consider attending the Long Beach Aware sponsored educational night The effects of Drugs and Alcohol on the Teen Brain, on November 17th, at 7:15 at LBHS.
14. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA [sick day bank](#).
15. Wishing you and your families a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

VIII. New Business

- A. A motion was made by Beth Prostick to make a donation to the LBCTA Toy Drive. It was seconded by Jonathan Bloom.



At 5:25pm, a motion was made by Cheryleann Fontenot to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Dorothy Lopez

In Attendance:

West: Cheryleann Fontenot, June Schecter

Lindell: Jane Quinton, Heather Puckhaber, Susan Simons

East: Jeanne Richards, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez

Pre-K: Elizabeth Fichtelman

LBMS: Alison Katulka, Camila Gamboa, Jennifer Garrett, Stacey Rice

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Erik Heck, Jay Sptiz

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

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.