



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

March 25, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report—Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Dates

4/8/24, 5/6/24, 6/10/24

B. State of the Union

Good afternoon my fellow Executive Board members and distinguished CTA sisters and brothers. Today it is my privilege and distinct honor to deliver the State of the Union. Before I begin, I would like to say thank you to the Executive Board and our membership, for all that you do to make Long Beach Public Schools a great place for our children and its workers.

I would like to open by saying I believe the state of our union is strong. Even while under attack by special interest groups, recovering from the long-term effects of COVID 19, dealing with an ever-changing political landscape, and fighting hard to make sure our students are not being used as political pawns, WE ARE STRONG. We are strong not only because of the work we do as an association, but because of the work that our individual members do. We are strong because of the bond that we have with one another. We are strong because we rally together for common interests. We are strong because of the support we show one another during challenging times.

Our union is not the Executive Board. The union is you, the individual, and the work you do as an individual to support the collective group. We must remember that our strength and victories come from our collective power. Together, we have accomplished so much in the areas of curriculum, working conditions and charitable contributions. It is important to celebrate those achievements and our solidarity.

This year we started with our Making Strides Against Breast event raising over \$6,000. Reinforcing that fact that in Long Beach no one fights alone. Then recognizing that food insecurity continues to be an issue here in Long Beach, we donated \$1,400 to St. Mary's Food



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

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Pantry at Thanksgiving. Next, we turned our efforts to our annual Toy Drive and contributed to The Little Saint Nick Foundation by sponsoring 145 gift bags which were distributed to local hospitals. Most recently we came together with the LBSEA and ASPPG, and raised \$8,100 for the Bats Out for Lazar Foundation at our annual bowling fundraiser. These are just some of the many charitable events that we sponsored, not to mention all the individual and building Sunshine sponsored events that happen every day.

We need to make sure we stay strong in our advocating to restore our Foundation Aid. I want to thank everyone who answered the call and allowed us as an organization to send over 1,000 electronic letters and over 2,000 printed letters to our legislators to make sure they heard us loud and clear. Our voices were most certainly heard again at last week's NSYUT "Fund our Future Rally" while Long Beach teachers stood beside our Long Beach parents, BOE members, and legislators to demand they properly fund our schools. It's amazing to see that even when faced with hard challenges our membership does not get discouraged. That time and time again we step up and fight for what is right. We will continue to fight this battle and so many other important ones, like Fix Tier Six and fixing APPR.

The connections and partnerships that we make with our students, their families, and the stakeholders in the district, allow the community to see the commitment that we have made to Long Beach. It is those relationships and our commitment that gives the community the confidence to support Long Beach Public Schools, including the annual budget. We are fortunate to work in a district that time and time again comes out to support their public schools. The connections we make and the work we do in the community helps to define who we are as an organization.

It is not only about the connections we make in the community, it is also about the connections we make with each other. It is easy to see the commitment and camaraderie that our members share at the grade, department and building levels across the district. This has never been truer or more prevalent than now. When we come together in acts of solidarity to support our students and one another, our voice and our efforts cannot be denied. I am extremely proud and honored to serve you individually and as a collective group.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to the Executive Board and our membership for all that you do to make Long Beach Public Schools a better place for our children and its workers.

Thank you.

C. LBCTA Scholarships

I am pleased to announce the following association members' children are this year's scholarship winners: Hannah Bloom, daughter of Karen and Jon Bloom (High School) and Maeve Graham, daughter of Christine Graham (High School). Thank you to Elena Frishman for serving as the chair of the scholarship committee and thank you to the committee volunteers: Amy Leder, Geoffery Noss, Jeanne O'Shea-Saroka, Scott Brecher, and Matthew Hartmann for their time and reviewing the applications.

D. Executive Vice President of Elementary- Succession

With Beth's recent announcement for retirement, we will need to fill the one year remaining in her term as Vice President of Elementary Schools. As per the LBCTA constitution, "The Executive Board shall fill the vacant Vice Presidential positions from their membership. Such officers will serve for the remainder of the term." If you are an executive board member and interested in filling this position, please let me know ASAP, but no later than the close of business on Thursday, 4/4/24. The Executive Board will fill the vacancy at the 4/8/24 meeting, and the one year term will begin on 7/1/24.

E. Condolences to the friends and family on the passing of Mike Wernow. Mike was a valuable member of the Middle School math department for many years.

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. Our Spring New Member gathering will be held on April 5th at EGP Land and Sea. Please check your school gmail for an RSVP Google Form. This event is open to new members, union buddies, mentors, and executive board members.
2. Please join us at the LBCTA End of the Year Celebration on May 16 at The Ocean Club.
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. We continue our fight to restore proper funding for our schools!

Thank you to everyone for their support with our letter writing campaign, attending the Fund Our Future Rally on March 16th, and to those who took action via the NYSUT MAC app to urge state legislators to Fully Fund our Public Schools! If you haven't done so already, you can find the latest MAC app blast here: <https://mac.nysut.org/action/856> Please take a minute to add your name to the list of people urging our state legislators to Fully Fund our Public Schools.

Also, if you haven't already, you can download the NYSUT MAC (Member Action Center) app to your phone with this link: <https://mac.nysut.org/> NYSUT utilizes this app to disseminate important information and updates to members.

While it is encouraging that the Governor's office has recently indicated she might be open to rethinking her proposal, WE CANNOT LET UP THE PRESSURE!

2. If you are not receiving PAC emails, please email lbctapac@gmail.com to update your contact information with a current personal email address. Thank you to everyone that has already reached out to update their contact information.
3. As always, please feel free to share your ideas on how LBCTA PAC can better serve our members. You can email your thoughts to LBCTAPAC@gmail.com.

D. Public Relations Committee—Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Save the date, Long Beach Art Show & Wellness Fair 2024 will be held on Saturday, May 11th. Doors open at 10 am. At 10:30 am, there will be a Zumba Master Class, 10-1pm will be the wellness fair with vendors, raffles, and giveaways, and at 10-2 student art displays will be out.
2. Great job coaching our Challenger Games Coach Devivo and Coach Ford.
3. Congratulations to our LBHS Robotics team "The Riptides", Mr. Johnsen, and Mr. Lerner on being ranked #7 out of 49 teams from across the nation and the world at the FIRST Long Island Regional event. Great job Marino Bragino and the Pep Band for performing at the event.
4. Please consider attending our 2024 LBCTA end-of-the-year celebration honoring our retirees at the Ocean Club in AB on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
5. Please save the date, April 5, 2024, for our Spring New Member gathering at EGP Land and Sea.
6. Please save the date for the MS Drama production, *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, April 18-19. More information to follow.
7. Check out the [article](#) about our very own, Megan Grahlfs, in the publication, *NYSUT United*!





E. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. All LBCTA members should have received their flyers for the 2024 End of the Year celebration on Thursday, May 16, 2024. **Please RSVP by May 2nd!** You may send a check or Venmo@Elleen-Parks to attend this fun-filled event celebrating our 2024 retirees.
2. Have a very Happy Easter and enjoy the long weekend!

F. Long Beach Teacher Center—John Marr

1. Thank you to those who have filled out the needs assessment sent out by Dr. Ostroff. If you have not already filled out the survey, please fill it out as soon as possible. The more voices providing input the more targeted our professional development will be.
2. If you're interested in running a summer professional development class, please fill out a request on Frontline Education (formerly MLP) for the summer. Currently there is no summer option available, but please put in the description that you want to run the class during the summer and we will schedule it.
3. We are looking for an individual who would like to lead a book study on [Learning Targets](#). As per district guidelines, all courses must be in person or virtual with half the time synchronous.
4. The new printer has arrived! Once it is set up please lookout for my email letting you know when and how you can access our poster making service.
5. If you have any questions or interest in running a program, please contact the director at lbtc@lbeach.org.

G. Pre-K Committee—Molly Drake

1. Pre-K visitation was held Friday, March 15th at all four elementary schools. Registration information is available on our website or at the registration office at Lido School. Registration is ongoing.
2. NYS UPK Quality review visit is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26th and Wednesday, March 27th at all four schools to view the UPK program.
3. Pre-K students across all four buildings enjoyed sharing their learning of the Museum Unit with their families. Thank you to the students and staff for their efforts in showcasing our student's work.
4. Wishing Dr. Radice good luck in her new position and thanking her for her work with the students Pre-K-12. We will miss your love of literacy!
5. Please consider donating a sick day to the sick bank.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

- A. Thank you to Dr. Gallagher and Mr. DeVito for continuing to keep us involved in conversations surrounding the budget and the upcoming school year.
- B. Mr. Pettas and I had a productive meeting in order to continually improve upon our printing, streaming, filtering and access issues. We should be receiving a message from him in the near future regarding some upcoming changes and timelines for implementation. Please continue to make your building reps aware of unresolved issues related to technology.
- C. We look forward to continued discussions regarding an alternative high school and credit recovery for our students, as this is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed.

D. APPR

1. There is a potential bill being presented that would eliminate the use of student test scores to be used in teacher evaluations. More information to come!
2. 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.

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 and 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.

E. Health & Safety Committee

1. We are still waiting to hear what the plan for the Lido Multipurpose room is. In addition, the MS and Lido Complex is still having an issue with the mice. We hope that this situation can be addressed as soon as possible.
2. The next Health & Safety meeting date is May 6th.
3. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

F. Other

1. Enjoy the Easter break with family and friends!
2. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible.
3. 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. If you are interested in serving as a Building Rep for the 2024-2025 school year, 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 Wednesday, May 8. All Elementary Schools need 3 reps and 3 alternates. Election details will be posted in the April 8 minutes.
- B. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on April 15, at 4:00 in Lido room L25.
- 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. Wishing those who celebrate a joyous Easter 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. We will be holding our Secondary Building Rep elections during the week of May 20th. 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 Wednesday, May 8th. This will also allow any new Building Reps to attend our last meeting of the year on June 10th. Middle School: 5 Reps High School: 8 Reps.
- B. Please consider attending our 2024 LBCTA end-of-the-year celebration honoring our retirees at the Ocean Club in AB on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
- C. Our Secondary Council meeting will be on April 2nd at the HS.
- D. Please consider attending the next BOE on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the East Elementary School Gymnasium** in person and via YouTube at tinyurl.com/proudtobeLB; click the "Videos" tab, then click the video marked "Live".
- E. Wishing those who celebrate a beautiful Easter break.

VI. Treasurer's Report—Jonathan Bloom

- A. As the month of March has not ended yet the March financial results will be reported in the minutes of the April 8th Executive Board.

B. 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.

C. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Easter Recess

D. For Tax purposes, the 2023 Dues were \$1026.92.

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Wishing Lorraine Radice good luck in her new position. She will be greatly missed!
2. Save the date for our Spring New Member party on April 5th at EGP Land and Sea.
3. Save the Date for the LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
4. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

B. Lindell School

1. The SEL families met this month with a focus on being appreciative for what we have and maintaining a positive attitude. The students enjoyed the read aloud selected, *Happy Right Now* by Julie Berry.
2. Thank you to the Lindell PTA for the *Bash the Trash Assembly*. The musical group, *Sustainable Sounds*, uses musical instruments made from recycled and reused materials to explore concepts of sound, science and sustainability. A fun and informative time was had by all.
3. Congratulations to Lorraine Radice on her new appointed position as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in Valley Stream 13. You will be missed.
4. Save the date for our Spring New Member party on April 5th at EGP Land and Sea. Please your the following link to respond: [Buddy Party](#)
5. Save the Date for the LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
6. Wishing all who celebrate a Happy Easter.
7. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

C. East School

1. Thank you to building administrations and central administration who worked swiftly to move our entire school to the Lido/MS complex when a pipe broke at East School last week. A heartfelt thank you to everyone at Lido School and the Middle School for welcoming all of us to your schools.
2. Condolences to Jackie Eiger on the passing of her husband, Michael.
3. Condolences to Jacqui Byrne on the passing of her father, Michael Trail.
4. Congratulations to Dr. Lorraine Radice on her appointment to Asst Superintendent at Valley Stream 13. Your dedication and support to both teachers and students have had a tremendous impact in our district. You will be greatly missed.
5. Thank you to all who attended the Funding Education Rally in Hauppauge.
6. Please join us for our End of Year Celebration on Thursday, May 16th at the Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach.
7. Have a very happy and healthy Easter break.

D. Lido School

1. Congratulations to Dr. Lorraine Radice on her appointment as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in Valley Stream 13 for the next school year. We appreciate all that you have done in Long Beach as our PreK-12 Director of Literacy. You will be missed!

2. Thank you to the Lido PTA for the successful Book Fair! Students enjoyed choosing books to add to their collections at home.
3. New members, please consider attending the upcoming New Member Spring Party on April 5th at EGP Land and Sea in Island Park.
4. Save the date for our LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
5. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
6. Wishing everyone a restful Easter Holiday Break!

E. LBMS

1. Mouse sightings continue throughout the building. We look forward to additional measures to finally address the issue and bring it under control.
2. Congratulations to all 6th grade students on their successful Science Symposium. Kudos to Ms. Tursi and our 6th grade science teachers for organizing this event for our students. Special thanks to our librarians for all of their help.
3. Shout out to our LBMS Math Team and Mr. Papetti on a successful Pi Day 2024. Also, special thanks to all that participated, wore your π attire and showed your mathematical spirit.
4. Our 6th grade students enjoyed their recent trip to the Cradle of Aviation. Kudos to our 6th grade advisors Regina Dean and Patty Van Loon for planning this trip for our students. Special thanks to all chaperones for helping to make the trip a success.
5. The 2024 Joe Farrell Memorial Scholarship Basketball Tournament was a fun success. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of basketball, raffles and treats. Special thanks to Keith Biesma for organizing this event and to everyone that participated.
6. Kudos to Justin Marks for being selected to work with and conduct the SCMEA (Suffolk County Music Educators Association) All County 7th and 8th grade band this past weekend!
7. Thank you to our PTA and parent volunteers for hosting our Spring Scholastic Book Fair. Our students enjoyed the event and each student was excited to receive a book!
8. Sending continued love and healing prayers to Sandra Hnis.
9. Condolences to the family of Mike Wernow on his recent passing.
10. Congratulations to Lorraine Radice on her new position at Valley Stream.
11. The Spring New Member party will take place on April 5th at EGP Land and Sea.
12. Save the date for our LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
13. 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. Congratulations to the LBCTA scholarship winners: Christine Graham's and Jon & Karen Bloom's children, Maeve and Hannah.
2. Congratulations Jim Johnsen, Dan Lerner and the Riptides Robotics Club on their 7th place finish at the SBPLI Long Island Regional Competition at Hofstra.
Congratulations to Eric Fox and the IB students for all of their amazing artwork in the IB Visual Arts Showcase.
3. Congratulations to Lorraine Radice on her new position at Valley Stream.

4. Teachers are disappointed with the District's decision to eliminate after school review sessions for IB, AP & Regents exams. As the exam dates are quickly approaching, we have found many students rely on this extra time to be successful on their exams.
5. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.
6. Wishing everyone a restful and happy Easter Break!

At 4:44 pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Heather Puckhaber.

In Attendance:

West: Claudine Clark

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Cathy Barone, Susan Simons

East: Jennifer Diamond, Melissa Canner, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Dana Monti, Lori Parenti

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Alison Katulka, Grace Parisi

LBHS: Lisa Casey, Matthew Hartmann, Brian Petschauer, Rachel Yousha

Pre-K Committee: Molly Drake

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC):

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

Check out all your union membership has to offer!

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that can save you money, assist you in protecting your family, and help you plan for the future.

Legal Service Plan

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

Financial Counseling Program

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone & virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more

For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan -- provided by the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. Plan participants receive unlimited access to toll-free advice weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) as well as a toll-free hotline for urgent legal assistance outside of these hours.

Meanwhile, the Financial Counseling Program -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone or virtual consultations with a Stacey Braun Certified Financial Planner. *



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.



Mar/Apr 2024

The Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association



End of the Year Celebration

Thursday, May 24, 2024

5:00 - 9:00 pm

The Ocean Club, Atlantic Beach

\$85.00 per person

Honoring our 2024 Retirees

Lauren Breen, Jennifer Diamond,
Terriann Eidt, Robert Gallopini,
Beth Prostick, Debra Rabiner,
Mary Jane Rochford and Lisa Rundo

**Open Bar... Hors d'oeuvres...
Dinner... DJ... Dancing... Photo Booth**

Please return the completed form along with a check made out to LBCTA to Elleen Parks c/o West School, 91 Maryland Avenue, Long Beach, NY 11561. If you prefer, use the Venmo QR code and make sure to include your name, who you would like to be seated with and what building you are from.

Your name(s) _____

Please name one person you would like to be seated with: _____

Building: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Seating Requests will be honored if payment is received by May 2nd.

Last 4 digits of Elleen's Cell: 1923

