



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

March 11, 2019

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

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

3/25/19, 4/8/19, 4/29/19, 5/13/19, and 6/10/19

B. State of the Union Speech

The State of the Union Speech will be at the next Executive Board meeting on March 25, in the MS Library.

C. LBSD 2019-20 Budget

Mr. DeVito has spent the last two months presenting various components of the School Budget at the School Board meetings. There have been some subtle and not so subtle recommendations regarding staffing for a variety of programs next year. The Board will discuss those recommendations at the March 14th Work Session and will present their Final Draft Budget at the March 28th Regular Meeting. The Board will then adopt the Budget at the April 11th Regular Meeting and the public will vote on the Budget on Tuesday, May 21st.

D. TRS Delegate Elections

It is time to elect our TRS delegates. If you are interested in volunteering for the position please contact me, Keith Harvey at kharvey@lbeach.org. We are eligible to have one delegate and one alternate delegate. This year's Annual Meeting of NYSTRS Delegates will be held Sunday, Nov. 3 and Monday, Nov. 4 in Saratoga Springs.

E. Federal Tax Deduction for Teachers

Teachers can claim the Educator Expense Deduction regardless of whether they take the standard deduction or itemize their tax deductions. A teacher can deduct a maximum of \$250. Two married teachers filing a joint return can take a deduction of up to \$250 apiece, for a maximum of \$500.

F. NYSUT Members Benefits, Trust-Endorsed Legal Service Plan and Financial Counseling Program

To learn more about the Member Benefits-endorsed programs please [click here](#) or go to [Appendix A](#).

G. 2019 LBCTA Scholarship

I am pleased to announce that the association will once again be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are children of CTA members. Pat Fallon has graciously



Keith Harvey

President

Karen Bloom

Executive Vice-President

Amy Leder

Vice-President for Secondary Schools

Beth Prostick

Vice-President for

Elementary Schools

Patricia Van Loon

Recording Secretary

Elleen Parks

Corresponding Secretary

James Fiola

Treasurer

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volunteered to continue as the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. To be eligible for a CTA scholarship, the student must graduate from his/her high school in either January or June 2019. He/she may attend high school in any city or town. A parent must have been a dues-paying member of the CTA for at least three full years and currently paying dues unless on family or medical leave. Those interested and eligible may request an application from Pat, by email at pfallon@lbeach.org. The closing date for receipt of the completed application and all supporting documents, submitted in duplicate, is 2 PM on Friday, March 15. The evaluation of these applications will take place on Wednesday, March 20 immediately after school at the High School. Please contact Pat if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented.

2. AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program This program offers four 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members, as well as 10 one-time \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education. [Click here to apply.](#)

H. APPR De-Linked-Update

The NYS Senate and the Assembly passed a bill to eliminate the mandatory use of state assessments to determine a teacher or principal's effectiveness. The bill still has not been delivered to the Governor. To track the progress [click here.](#)

I. FLEX Spending-Reminder

Reminder Flexible Benefits may be used for unreimbursed medical or dental expenses or dependent care. The District has opted for a 2.5 month extension plan. Participants may incur expenses through March 15th of the calendar year following the year of the election; all requests for reimbursement must be submitted to the plan administrator (Preferred Group) no later than March 31st.

J. Study Money Dates

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Money Program: Summer - May 10, 2019. 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.](#)



K. Coach Pay Dates

Middle School Winter II: 3/15

High School Spring: 4/12 and 5/23

Middle School Spring: 4/26 and 6/7

L. Condolences to Jack Murphy and family on the passing of his son, Teague Murphy.

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. Board of Elections—Jennifer Garrett

1. The following positions will appear on this year's ballot: President, Executive Vice-President, Vice President for Elementary Schools, Vice-President for Secondary Schools, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, NYSUT Delegate (2) and AFT Delegate (3). If you are interested in running for any of these positions you must notify me in writing by **March 15th** at jgarrett@lbeach.org. You will be notified when your letter of intent is received and you will be supplied with a copy of the petition that you can use to secure the necessary 35 signatures in order to appear on the ballot.

2. Candidates must submit petitions to me with signatures of thirty-five (35) members of the association who support your candidacy by **March 30th**. No person may be an officer of the LBCTA unless he or she has been granted tenure and has been an active member for two consecutive years immediately prior to election. In addition, no person may be President of LBCTA unless he or she has previously been an officer of the LBCTA, a member of the Executive Board, an elected delegate, or a member of a standing or special committee within the previous 5 years. Thank you!

C. New Member Committee—Jim Fiola

1. The Spring New Member Buddy Party will be on March 22nd at the Point Ale House after school. Spread the word. Please let us know if you did not receive an email about this event. Alison and I will both be at the next mentor meeting to personally invite those new teachers in attendance (and their mentors).

2. You can direct any questions or concerns via email to Jim Fiola at jfiola@lbeach.org or Alison Katulka at akatulka@lbeach.org. **Please contact us if you don't have a buddy or mentor.** Don't be afraid to ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you.

D. Political Action Committee—Beth Prostick

1. If you are interested in being on the PAC committee to interview candidates for the upcoming Board of Education elections, please email me at LBCTAPAC@gmail.com. These interviews will most likely be held in early April.

2. Are you prepared to spread the word and stand strong by telling everyone: "I'm sticking with our union!" Watch the video below for some inspiring reasons why we stick to our union.

Our Voice: 'Communities'

<https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/janus-action/video>

3. Our next PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, March 27 at 3:45 Lido L25.

4. With the NYSUT MAC App, you can use your smartphone to quickly and easily take action on important issues and legislation. Follow the links below to get started.

[Get the iPhone/iPod Touch app](#)

[Get the Android app](#)

The app does all the work for you. It takes your zip code and quickly determines your legislators so you can start taking action right away. You can:

Make a free call to legislators.

Fax your legislators a letter with one click.

Get push notifications for alerts on the latest actions.

Have some fun, too: take more action to get your name on the Leaderboard.

E. Public Relations—Amy Leder

1. A total of four Long Beach Odyssey of the Mind teams took top results at the regional tournament. At both the middle school and elementary levels, students collaborated successfully to secure first-place trophies and advance in the program. Congratulations to the elementary teams who were coached by teachers Justin Sulsky and Douglas MacConnell, while Long Beach Middle School students worked under the guidance of coaches Christina Kile and Susan Kasper.

3. The 2018 issue of Long Beach High School's literary magazine, *Fragments*, was recognized by numerous press organizations. The publication, which featured the theme "Life of a Star," was awarded a gold medal with All Columbia Honors for Essentials from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and a gold medal from the Empire State School Press Association. It earned a First Place with Special Merit for Outstanding Theme title from the American Scholastic

Press Association and a First Class with One Mark of Distinction in Editing and Writing honor from the National Scholastic Press Association. Congratulations to all of the winning students and their teacher, Rachel Koegall, for their accomplishments.

F. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. Please keep your eyes open for the retirement flyer which will be delivered to all buildings before spring break. The celebration will take place on Wednesday, May 29th at Bridgeview Yacht Club in Island Park.

2. We are asking all retirees to please forward their bios to PVanLoon@lbeach.org by **April 1, 2019.**

G. Teacher Center—John Marr

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center has expended its grant for the year. We will continue to run a few classes through our non-profit organization, Long Beach Teacher Center Inc. Beginning next year, the center will be charging for classes run out of the non-profit to make sure the center is sustainable. At this time we are working on the grant for next year.

2. As a reminder the center offers lamination services and is open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:45 to 6:00pm at Lindell Schools room 104. Please contact the center to let us know you are coming at 516-897-2083.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

A. Congratulations to Dr. Romanelli on completing his doctorate!

B. We still have not gotten a clear answer as to why the decision to make such big changes to our science sequencing in both the middle school and the high school was rushed to start this September as opposed to next year. There are still so many unanswered questions regarding course curriculum, sequencing and weighting. These are decisions that should be made after thoroughly researching and discussing, rather than rushing into the changes before having a comprehensive plan in place. We hope that the district will consider this before moving forward.

C. APPR

1. Please be sure to remain actively engaged in the APPR process. Be sure to discuss your targets with your lead evaluator. Remember, you should not see opinions from your evaluation team when classroom observations take place. Be sure to address issues in your post observation conferences.

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

D. Health & Safety Committee

1. We are looking forward to all of the work that is supposed to be completed this summer, especially at the high school.

2. Please continue to inform your head custodian if you have any air quality or temperature issues in your classrooms.

3. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled. 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. District Safety Team

The next meeting has not yet been scheduled. If you have any District Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

F. 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.

IV. **Vice President for Elementary Schools’ Report—Beth Prostick**

- A. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.
- B. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on April 1 at 3:45 in Lido room L25.
- C. 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. Please consider attending our end of the year celebration at Bridgeview on Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

I. **Treasurer’s Report—Jim Fiola**

A. **February Financial Results**

<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	
NYSUT	\$14,981	Union Dues	\$40,100
AFT	9,062	Retiree Dues	9
Taxes and Insurance	416	Bowling Event	3,077
Donations	6,150	Fundraiser	
	_____		_____
Total	\$43,186	Total	\$43,186

- B. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank and try to attend an upcoming School Board Meeting. Thank you for reading the minutes and please encourage your fellow members to do the same. Please save the date and join us for the LBCTA Year End Celebration on May 29th. We will be honoring many retirees for their dedication to this community.

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 2018/2019 for full-time members will be \$1,014.36. As you can see there was no increase over last year. The break-out is \$397 local, \$378 NYSUT, \$231.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$101.44 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.

The union dues for 2018 tax purposes was \$1,014.40.

VII. **Building Reports**

A. **West School**

1. Congratulations to Travis Van Nostrand on his marriage to his new bride, Rose.
2. Thank you to our FABULOUS PTA and their Supermarket BINGO Success!!! Supermarket BINGO is an event that has been held for 23 years in support of our West School PTA. People play bingo to win prizes and raffles makes the night complete. This year was no exception due to the dedication and hard work by our PTA in making it a GREAT night.
3. Another BIG thank you to our PTA for our kick off to PARP and Read Across America Day with a magic show by Mike the Magician. He visited us last week and had some fun magic to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday!
4. Congratulations to ALL who participated and continue to represent Long Beach at Binghamton University for Odyssey of the Mind.
5. Condolences to June Schecter on the passing of her mother-in-law.

6. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.

B. Lindell School

1. Thank you Lindell PTA for Brain Show, an educational game show assembly challenging students and staff. It was a great kickoff to our Winter Recess.
2. Lindell celebrated Multicultural Week by having each student complete a WRaP activity where students created a paper doll to represent their culture and connection to the Long Beach/Lindell community.
3. After repeated communication with transportation by Mrs. Sauter and Dr. Pullara, routes 34 and 22 continue to be late on a daily basis. This has been an ongoing problem as buses are leaving after 3:30.
4. Please consider donating a day to the sick bank.

C. East School

1. Save the Date for the LBCTA Year End Celebration where we will be celebrating many colleagues including FIVE long-time East School Teachers!!! Our party will be at Bridgeview on Wednesday May 29th.
2. Congratulations to the Elementary Odyssey of the Mind team led by Doug MacConnell and Justin Sulsky. They won first place at regionals. Best of luck!
3. Congratulations to the 5th grade teachers and students who had a successful STEAM Fair.
4. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank if you haven't done so already.

D. Lido School

1. Congratulations to our principal, Brenda Young, for being honored as an individual making significant contributions to the Long Beach community by the LBHS African American Club.
2. Congratulations to April Andrews-Kosolapov on the birth of her baby boy, Tristan.
3. Students participated in Read Across America week. A Dr. Seuss book was highlighted each day and students dressed to exemplify the story content.
4. Thank you to Lido PTA for organizing and launching the PARP program.
5. Students are enthusiastically engaged in March Math Madness activities. Kudos to Mary Doheny for organizing the activities in the Math Museum.
6. Congratulations to Justin Sulsky, Douglas MacConnell, and the Odyssey of the Mind elementary student teams for advancing to the state level competition at Binghamton University on March 23rd.
7. Condolences to the family of Jack Perry, beloved Lido School Security Guard. He will be missed by all.
8. Thanks to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating.

E. Pre-K

1. Congratulations to April Andrews-Kosolapov and her husband, Alex, on the birth of their son, Tristan.
2. Congratulations to Eugenia Altman on the birth of her grandson, Liam.
3. We are all saddened by the loss of our security guard, Mr. Jack. He will be greatly missed by staff and students.

F. Middle School

1. The security desk at the back of the building remains unmanned "on the inside" after school. Dr. Romanelli has been in contact with Summit Security. Summit Security believes a security guard in a car outside the back of the building at the parent drop off area is sufficient. This leaves the rear entrance unmanned. This is a security concern. We look forward to

- the return of a security guard after school at the back entrance inside the building until 4pm.
2. Thank you to the MS No Place for Hate Committee, PTA, students and artist Joyce Raimondo for the new school Unity Mural. If you have not done so already, make sure to stop by the gym hallway to see the finished product.
 3. Kudos to our Odyssey of the Mind team coached by Mrs. Kile and Ms. Kasper and for finishing first place in their regional tournament. We wish them luck as they head to Binghamton for the state championships.
 4. Thank you to Ms. Darkeh for organizing visits to Adelphi University for our 8th grade students. Students had a great experience.
 5. Kudos to our World Language teachers. They celebrated World Language Week with students and many great cultural celebrations.
 6. Congratulations to Coach Lindsay Pichichero and the LBHS Cheerleading squad on qualifying for the counties for the first time in school history. Congratulations on a great season.
 7. Get well wishes to Melissa Megias.
 8. Congratulations to Dr. Paul Romanelli on receiving his doctorate.
 9. Thank you Patrick Kiley-Rendon for attending grade level meetings to present on Fab Lab. We look forward to the SMART Board trainings scheduled for the 12th.
 10. 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.

G. High School

1. Condolences to Chris Brown on the passing of his mother.
2. Wishing Marino Bragino III a speedy recovery.
3. Congratulations to Coach Joe Brand and the players who won the New York State High School Hockey Championships.
4. Congratulations to Coach Lindsay Pichichero and the Varsity Cheerleading Team for qualifying for the Nassau County Championships.
5. Congratulations to Coaches John Skudin, Lynn Volosevich and the Boys Varsity Swim Team for finishing seventh in the state at the recent New York State Swimming And Diving Championships
6. Congratulations to Matt Morand, the class advisors, and the students involved in the recent Class Olympics.
7. We would like to see the district address the lack of uniform door locks and keys at the HS.
8. The internet connectivity continues to be problematic throughout the HS. It has been extremely disruptive for students and staff.
9. Building cleanliness continues to be an issue. Mice droppings have been reported in some classrooms of the school. We welcome continued dialog and discussion between building administration and buildings and grounds to ensure a clean and healthy environment for student and staff.
10. The lack of conversations and input from science teachers regarding the restructuring of the science curriculum is extremely upsetting. The changes have not been fully developed and there are many potential implications that have not been fully considered. We would urge the district to fully consider them before implementing any changes.
11. The issue of building temperature and climate concerns has been reported for many years by the HS Building committee. The HVAC unit at the HS is in a woeful state. For the past few years the maintenance of the equipment has been a series of temporary fixes that do not address the situation properly. We urge the district to prioritize the addressing of the HVAC situation at the high school.

12. While we are supportive of making the HS more secure and recognize the need to move towards a single point of entry, we would like building administration to consider a compromise to allow staff to enter separate entrances in the morning.

13. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.

VII. New Business

At 4:55pm, a motion was made by Stacey Rice to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jennifer Garrett.

In Attendance

West: Cheryleann Fontenot

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Lisa Rundo, Susan Simons

East: Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Marilyn Pilo

Pre-K:

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Lauren Behan, Camila Gamboa, Stacey Rice

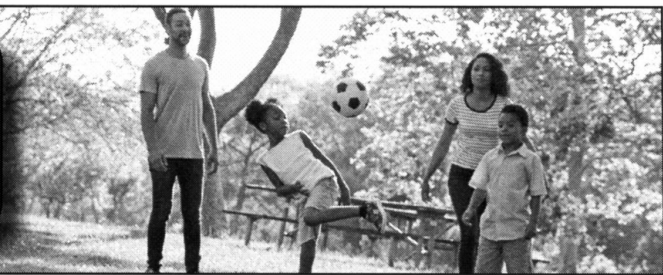
LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Anthony Balsamo, Neil Campbell, Elena Frishman, Eric Heck, Jay Spitz

Retirees: Frank Volpe

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

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

**Union-endorsed
benefits designed to
protect your loved ones**

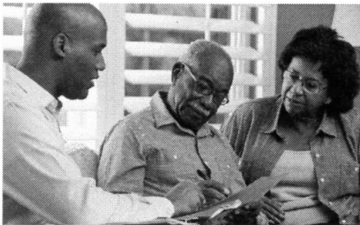


Legal Service Plan

NYSUT members have access to dozens of endorsed programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality legal and financial planning assistance services that can help to protect their loved ones and provide them with peace of mind.



For an annual fee, the **Legal Service Plan** -- provided by 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. With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free advice from plan attorneys.



Financial Counseling Program

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 you up with to six hours of toll-free phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

And unlike with purchasing products available to the general public, there's no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back. Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we'll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

Whether you are participating in one of our legal or financial services; insurance plans; or shopping, travel or entertainment offerings, NYSUT members have the **"Power of the Union"** behind them.

A wealth of financial information -- Now available on the NEW Member Benefits website

Financial Planning Center

MEMBER BENEFITS
nysut
Working to Benefit You

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101**.



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

Mar./Apr. '19