



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

239 Lido Blvd., Long Beach, New York 11561 • (516) 554-2830

*President*  
Steve Freeman

*Vice-President for Secondary Schools*  
Karen Bloom

*Recording Secretary*  
Nora Bellsey

*Executive Vice-President*  
Keith Harvey

*Vice-President for Elementary Schools*  
Beth Prostick

*Corresponding Secretary*  
Elleen Parks

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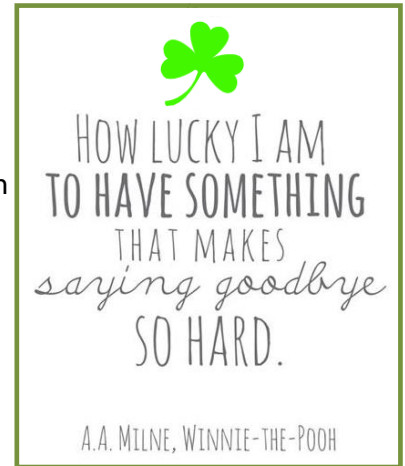
*Treasurer*  
James Fiola

## Executive Board Minutes

March 2, 2015

### I. President's Report - Steve Freeman

- A. February 2015 marked my 43<sup>rd</sup> year in the employ of the Long Beach Public Schools. I feel very lucky to have worked as a Library-Media Specialist in a district which has been a liberal bastion; free of censorship and open to the free exchange of ideas. Having a job which has always offered me access to cutting edge technologies and new media brings to mind the saying "if you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life." But it is now time to explore new professional opportunities and on June 30 I will be retiring and therefore will not running for re-election in this May's election of officers. Thank you for the opportunity to have served as your President for the past six years.
- B. Report of the Elections Committee - Jonathan Bloom Chairperson  
The following positions will appear on this year's ballot:  
President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President for Secondary Schools, Vice-President for Elementary 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 Jonathan Bloom, in writing c/o LBHS by March 16, 2015. By April 1, 2015 candidates must submit petitions to me with signatures of thirty-five (35) members of the association who support your candidacy. 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 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 five years.  
For more information on the duties of each position or the election procedures please refer to the LBCTA Constitution which is available at [nysut.org/longbeach](http://nysut.org/longbeach).
- C. Proposed 2015-16 School Budget  
District COO Michael DeVito presented his proposed 2015-16 school budget at the February 24 meeting of the Board of Education. His budget does not include any funds for salary increases and once again it appears he is anticipating that the association will accept wage freezes in future negotiations. If you are unwilling to accept further wage freezes it is important that you attend meetings of the Board of Education and let your feelings be known.
- D. Camp Invention  
This district has contracted with Invent Now Inc. to offer a summer STEM camp for students in grades 1-6. In order to make an informed decision on whether to apply for a position at Camp Invention it is important that you understand that this is not a district-sponsored activity and the stipend is not pensionable. In addition the \$20 per hour rate is less than half the rate paid for teaching at summer school or for the special education extended year program. Highly educated professionals deserve professional salaries and should not be exploited by corporations intent on hijacking public education.
- E. Federal Tax Deduction for Teachers  
Teachers who use their own funds to purchase school books, supplies, computer equipment or other materials for their classrooms can deduct up to \$250 (\$500 if married filing joint and both spouses are educators, but not more than \$250 each) from their adjusted gross incomes when filing their 2014 Federal tax return. You do not have to itemize in order to receive this deduction.



- F. Deadlines and changes to our benefit plans that you should be aware of:  
 2014 Flex Plan claims for expenses incurred from January 1, 2014 to March 15, 2015 must be received by Preferred Group Plans by March 31, 2015.  
 Claims for 2015 Flex Plan excess medical expenses can be submitted any time after January 1. You do not have to wait until sufficient funds have been withheld in order to seek reimbursement.  
 Claims for 2015 Flex Plan child/elder care expenses however will not be paid until sufficient funds have been withheld from your pay checks.  
 Empire Plan claims for expenses incurred during 2014 must be received by United HealthCare by March 31, 2015.  
 Claims for dental work begun in 2014 must be received by Fitzharris Benefits Administrators within 12 months from the date the procedure(s) began.
- G. The NYSTRS Contribution Rate will decrease from 17.53% of salary to 13.26% of salary for the 2015-16 school year. This is a decrease of 4.27%. This along with a reduction in the ERS contribution rate should mean an approximately an annual savings of about \$2.4 mil for the Long Beach schools.
- H. IRS Mileage Rates  
 The 2015 business travel rate is 57.5 cents a mile and the rate for medically-related travel in 23 cents per mile. Use the business travel rate for all district-related travel such as conferences and travel between building assignments and the medically-related travel rate when seeking reimbursement from your FLEX plan.
- I. CTA Scholarships  
 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 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 2015. 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 either e-mail at pfallon@lbeach.org or by phone at 897-2062. The closing date for receipt of the completed application and all supporting documents, submitted in duplicate, is Wednesday, March 18. The evaluation of these applications will take place on Wednesday, March 25 immediately after school in the HS main office conference room. Please contact Pat if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications.
- J. Summer Study Money  
 Applications to participate in the Summer 2015 Study Money program must be received by the HR department c/o the Middle School by May 15. The application is available online at [http://www.lbeach.org/Assets/Personnel\\_Forms/participation\\_groupa.pdf](http://www.lbeach.org/Assets/Personnel_Forms/participation_groupa.pdf).
- K. Coaching Pay Dates
- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Winter I HS teams |                  |
| Second half: 3/13 |                  |
| Spring HS         | Spring MS        |
| First half: 4/10  | First half: 4/24 |
| Second half: 5/8  | Second half: 6/5 |
- Credit Swap**

1.5 St. Johns	Ellen McElroy
1.5 Molloy	Jeanne O'Shea
3 C.W. Post	Betsabe Montoya
1 Hofstra	Mary Doheny
1 Hofstra	Linda Fuller
1 Hofstra	Tara Brady
- L. New Member Program  
 If you have any questions, please email Jim Fiola or Alison Katulka at [jfiola@lbeach.org](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org) or [akatulka@lbeach.org](mailto:akatulka@lbeach.org).  
 Alison and I are attending the mentor meetings to speak to the new members about any issues or concerns they have and will make each monthly meeting. They have Homework for the next meeting: to bring ideas for the upcoming negotiations and/or how to make our union even stronger. The next meeting is Tuesday March.24th at 3:45 in the East School library. All new members are encouraged to attend even if they have a union buddy and not a mentor. Please do not be afraid to ask for help if you need it. We (and many others) are here for you.  
 The New Member party will be held March 20th at 4 pm at The Ale House in Point Lookout. A reminder email will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

II. Report of the Chief Negotiator - Steve Freeman

- A. Thank you to all who came out to vote to ratify our new contract. At its February 24 meeting the Board of Education voted 3-1 to approve the agreement. President Tangney was absent from the

meeting due to a family illness, Trustee Ryan voted “no” with no explanation and Trustee Vrona indicated that she too would have voted “no” but felt an obligation to keep the promise made by her predecessor on the board. If you have a social or familial relationship with these two trustees it is incumbent upon you to dissuade them from their apparent notion that teachers and their families are somehow immune from rising food prices, utility and insurance rate increases and rising property taxes and therefore do not need wage increases.

District COO Michael DeVito has informed me that he expects that all retroactive payments will be made by April 24, 2015.

- B. Executive VP Harvey and I are currently negotiating the Permanent Sub Contract and we expect to reach a settlement shortly.
- C. On February 13 I sent Board President Darlene Tangney a letter requesting the opening of negotiations for a successor agreement to our new contract which expires on June 30, 2015. In anticipation of the exchange of demands we need your input. If you have any items you would like us to negotiate please inform the negotiating team at lbcta@aol.com.

### III. Executive Vice-President’s Report - Keith Harvey

- A. Congratulations to Steve Freeman and Nora Bellsey on their retirement. Thank you for your years of dedicated service to the students and teachers of the Long Beach School District.
- B. Board of Education  
Please consider attending a minimum of 2-3 Board of Education meetings each year. Look for the dates on the signup sheet in your faculty room.
- C. APPR  
Many teachers have voiced a concern with how they will be receiving their SLO Growth Rating because of inconsistency and lack of validity. I will be reviewing those issues with our members and administrators as needed. SLO’s are for teachers whose classes are less than 51% ending in a state exam. If you are not receiving a State Provided Growth Score and you do not know what your SLO is you should contact your director or principal ASAP.
- D. Grievance Committee  
Health Insurance Withdrawal -The district has agreed to reimburse all of the identified members with the difference between the reimbursements already received and the amount owed. We are currently waiting to receive a list of the teachers and the amounts they are owed.  
Special Education Case Managers- The district agreed that teachers are not to become case managers of their students and that teachers should continue their professional responsibilities’ the way they had prior to Superintendent’s Conference Day.
- E. Constitution Committee  
Thank you to Ms. Prostick, Ms. VanLoon and Dr. Garrett for volunteering to serve on the Constitution Committee. All of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws amendments passed.
- F. Health and Safety Committee  
The February 3 meeting was canceled and no makeup date has been issued. I hope the district will consider having a meeting prior to the 5/5 date as many items were tabled at the last meeting. If you have any health or safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level please e-mail me.
- G. District Safety Team  
The February 3 meeting was canceled no makeup date has been issued. If you have any safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level please contact me.

### IV. Vice-President for Elementary Schools’ Report - Beth Prostick

- A. Last year many teachers volunteered their time to the Report Card committee. Unfortunately, we have yet to see the new report implemented. We hope the district will choose to use these new Common Core aligned report cards next year. Since the new report cards are aligned with the Common Core Standards, it will also be extremely important for the district to inform the parents of the new grading system.
- B. Please begin to inquire about the scheduling of next year’s Parent Teacher conferences. Dr. Graham will be informing the principals to include the building reps.
- C. Congratulations to Nora Bellsey on her upcoming retirement. It has been a pleasure working with her as an officer these past four years. Enjoy your well-deserved, permanent vacation! You will be missed!

- D. I would like to congratulate Steve Freeman on his upcoming retirement. He has always been a wealth of knowledge both in his position in the Library Media Center and the Union. I wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors.
- E. Elementary Council will meet on March 30, at 3:45 in Lido School.
- F. If you have any questions I can be reached at bprostick@gmail.com.

V. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report - Karen Bloom

- A. The traffic pattern at the high school continues to be a huge safety concern, especially for students walking, or on bikes. Last week a student was nearly hit by a car at the entrance as buses were exiting and cars entering. This issue was supposed to be addressed at the last few Health & Safety meetings; however, it continues to be pushed off the agenda. We sincerely hope that administration deals with this problem before a tragedy occurs.
- B. APPR targets are now being shared, and are not consistent across departments. In addition, some of the targets were arbitrarily chosen without input from teachers. Other departments have not received their targets as of yet. We expect that this will be discussed and rectified. I will follow up with Dr. Graham, since he assured us that directors would be consistent with their APPR targets.
- C. Security at the high school continues to be an issue. There is no buzz-in system, and people can walk right into the building without being questioned. We are hoping that a system is put in place similar to those in other district buildings, before next school year.
- D. We are still awaiting solutions for the many inclusion classes at the high school that are extremely large as well as having very high numbers of special education students, up to 50% in some classes. We hope that administration will help to rectify the situation, and make sure that this does not happen again next year. We were disappointed to see that there were no additional special teachers in the proposed budget allocated to the high school for next year.
- E. We have an extreme lack of technology at the high school. It is very difficult to get a computer lab, as there are only two for the entire building. There are only a few laptop carts as well, so integrating technology is extremely challenging. We would also like to see an increase in the proposed budget in the area of technology at the high school for next year.
- F. We hope that all positions vacated by retirees in the middle school & high school will be replaced next year.
- G. We are concerned with the teaming at the middle school. The program has slowly been eroded and we hope that the proper time & effort will be placed into programming for next year.
- H. We would like to congratulate Steve Freeman on his retirement! Thank you for your 43 years of service to the Long Beach School District! You will be missed!
- I. We would also like to congratulate Nora Bellsey on her retirement! Thank you for all you have done! We wish you the best of luck!
- J. The next secondary Council Meeting will be held on Monday March 9, at 4 PM in the HS guidance conference room. The next Publicity Committee meeting will be held on March 16, at 4 PM in the HS guidance conference room.

VI. Treasurer's Report - Jim Fiola

A. May Financial Results	
<u>Revenues</u>	
Union dues	\$37,295
Retiree dues	<u>36</u>
Total	\$37,331
 <u>Expenditures</u>	
NYSUT	\$13,219
AFT	8,349
Payroll-related items	411
Training	225
Meeting Expenses	326
Donations	620

**There are folks out there who say, 'it doesn't impact me, I'm not a union guy, I'm not a teacher, I'm not a civil servant.'**

**Let me tell you how it *does* matter to you.**

**Wages are going down in this country for *everybody*.**

**When you destroy UNIONS there will be no standard at all, nobody left to negotiate decent jobs for the middle class.**

U.S. Senator  
Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

**f unions4workers** LIVE BETTER. WORK UNION.

Telephone	69
Travel	<u>16</u>
Total	\$23,245

- B. I would like to thank Steve Freeman and Nora Bellsey for their many years of leadership, service, and representation of the LBCTA. It has been my pleasure serving with you on the Executive Board. I wish you a happy and healthy retirement! If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please email them to me at [jfiola@lbeach.org](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org).
- C. Union dues for 2014/2015 for full-time members will be \$954.76. The break-out is \$370 local, \$358 NYSUT, \$218.76 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$95.48 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column "MDED-03." (The 2014 union dues for tax purposes was \$944.36.) 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. West School

1. Bedtime and Books evening continues to be a successful West School tradition. Parent workshops and fun activities for the children were developed by teacher volunteers demonstrating valuable techniques to encourage reading and make reading fun!
2. Expert Expose' for 2nd grade showcased nonfiction writing skills through an interactive parent/student format.
3. Thank you to the H.S. faculty and student athlete volunteers for the 5th grade Athletes Helping Athletes program. How especially wonderful to see former West School students return as fine examples for our current students.
4. The Pedestrian/Bike Safety Program is welcomed and is a fine compliment to the safety education already in place at West.
5. Thank you to the CTA negotiating team, especially our own Elleen Parks, for finalizing our contract.
6. Thank you, again, to Rich, Fawas, Travis and Louie for making sure the walkways around West School stay safe!
7. Congratulations to Steve, our fearless leader, on his retirement.
8. Congratulations to Nora for your many years of service to LBCTA.

### B. Lindell School

1. Thank you to our custodial staff for their tireless efforts in keeping our outdoor walkways and stairs clear.
2. Lindell's VIP Day in grades K, 1, & 2 was a *Very Impressive Program*.
3. Read Across America came to life in Lindell as our Student Council and Golden Rule club members read Dr. Seuss books to all Kindergarten and First Grade students.
4. Some teachers are still experiencing difficulty with accessing their report cards at home.
5. In recognition of their notice of retirement and in advance of the end of the year excitement, we would like to thank Steve Freeman and Nora Bellsey for their outstanding service to Long Beach CTA.

### C. East School

1. Congratulations to Lori Montgomery on her upcoming retirement. We want to thank her for her many years of service and dedication to East School.
2. Congratulations to Steve Freeman and Nora Bellsey on their upcoming retirements. We want to thank them for their many years of service on behalf of our union.
3. Kudos to our PTA for another successful Gingo Night. They raised a lot of money for our students and a good time was had by all!

### D. Lido School

1. Condolences to Tara Moran on the loss of her husband.
2. Condolences to Warren Vegh on the loss of his mother.
3. Many thanks to Wayne Hoffman and the custodial staff for keeping the sidewalks safe



- during inclement weather, snow and ice.
- 4. Congratulations and best wishes to Steve Freeman and Nora Bellsey on their retirement. Thank you for all of your many years of dedicated service to the LBCTA.

E. Pre-K

- 1. Congratulations to Steve Freeman on his retirement. His hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated. A special thank you from the Pre-k teachers for always being one of our best advocates.
- 2. Congratulations to Nora Bellsey on her retirement. Her hard work and dedication are greatly appreciate.
- 3. Welcome back to Terry Mazzeo.
- 4. Thank you to our custodians for keeping our walkways safe.

F. Middle School

- 1. Congratulations to Jessica & Matt Koch on the birth of their first child, Cameron!
- 2. Condolences to Michele Frank and family on the loss of her father-in-law.
- 3. Condolences to Janna Arkow and family on the loss of her uncle.
- 4. A huge thank you to our building administration for securing fans and to the custodial staff and buildings and grounds for installing the fans over February break!
- 5. We hope that the many positions being vacated at the MS due to retirements will be filled for September.
- 6. Teaming is a philosophy in our school that has proven successful for our students. We are concerned that its integrity has been slowly eroding over the past few years and hope that a true teaming model can remain.
- 7. Welcome back to Lauren Behan.
- 8. We wish Walter Kramme all the best in the HS.
- 9. We would like to extend best wishes & congratulations to Steve Freeman on his upcoming retirement. We thank you for your years of leadership, hard work, and dedication. Enjoy this new chapter of your life!
- 10. Congratulations to Nora Bellsey on her upcoming retirement and we would like to thank her for the many years of dedication. Enjoy this new journey of your life.

G. High School

- 1. Best of luck to Steve and Nora on their retirement.
- 2. Congratulations to all who were involved in class Olympics.
- 3. Congratulations to the varsity wrestling team.
- 4. Good luck to the swim team.
- 5. Condolences to Ellen McElroy and her family on the loss of her father in law.
- 6. Gas fumes in offices from busses idling is a problem.
- 7. There is a concern regarding inconsistent APPR and SLO targets.
- 8. There is a need for security for evening review classes.
- 9. Class size and inclusion classes continue to be a problem.

**51% of the children attending US public schools live in POVERTY!**

**Ignore the "R and D"!**

**Let Them Eat Tests!**

VIII. Meeting dates

March

- 10 Board of Education, 7:30 PM Lindell School
- 12 ED 18, Westbury HS
- 23 Exec. Bd., 4 PM MS Library
- 24 Board of Education, 7:30 PM MS auditorium

May 2015

- 20 End of the Year Celebration, 4:30 PM Bridgerview



In attendance:

HALB - Gari Ann Harris

West - Mary Ann Colucci, Cheryleanne Fontenot

Lindell - Migdalia Schneider, Heather Puckhaber, Jane Quinton

East - Lori Montgomery, Barbara Lewy

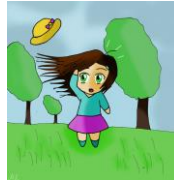
Lido - Marilyn Pilo, Dorothy Lopez, Cheryl Carroll

Middle School - Patty Van Loon, John Anfossi, Jessica Vetter, Jenn Garrett, Jill Cherlin

High School - Amy Powers, Jonathan Bloom, Jay Spitz, Adriane Glassberg, Perry Bodnar

Officers - Steve Freeman, Keith Harvey, Karen Bloom, Nora Bellsey, Jim Fiola, Beth Prostick, and Dale Greenstein

In Like a Lion



Out Like a Lamb



Respectfully submitted by Nora Bellsey, Recording Secretary.



New York State Teachers' Retirement System

I. 2015 Winter/Spring Pre-retirement Planning Seminars

These day-long (8:30 AM-3 PM) seminars feature presentations and discussions on financial planning, Social Security, adjusting to retirement, legal considerations, and other retirement related topics. The seminars are open to active members age 45 and older. Spouses/companions are also invited to attend. There is no cost to attend but you must call NYSTRS at 1-800-348-7298 X6180 weekdays between 8:30 AM and 4:15 PM to make a reservation and spaces fill up fast.

Plainview	Friday, March 20 Saturday, April 18 Saturday, May 2	Residence Inn 9 Gerhard Road Plainview, NY 11803
Riverhead	Friday, April 17	Hotel Indigo - East End 1830 West Main Street Riverhead, NY 11901
Ronkonkoma	Thursday, March 19 Friday, May 1	Courtyard by Marriott 5000 Express Drive South Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

II. Video Consultations:

One-on-one video consultations enable members to meet with a NYSTRS representative to ask questions about specific situations and receive printed estimates of their retirement benefits via a live video hook-up.

Consultations are available most Mondays-Fridays at the following locations:

Nassau BOCES	Suffolk BOCES	Suffolk BOCES
71 Clinton Road	762 Deer Park Road	15 Andrea Road
Garden City	Dix Hills	Holbrook

You now have two ways to book a video consultation:

Online using your MyNYSTRS account. After logging into your account, select the "My Tools" tab and then "Schedule Appointments." Or by calling NYSTRS at (800) 348-7298 X6100

TRS members with questions  
may call your teacher-members  
on the New York State Teachers'  
Retirement System Board of  
Directors or email  
[united@nysutmail.org](mailto:united@nysutmail.org):

David Keefe (Retiree Representative),  
516-741-1241;  
Tim Southerton, 631-273-8822;  
Paul Farfaglia, 315-431-4040;  
or Jolene DiBrango 585-267-3420.

