



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

March 25, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 4:12pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

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

B. State of the Union—2019



Good afternoon my fellow Executive Board members and distinguished CTA sisters and brothers. I have had the opportunity of being your president for the past four years and today I have the privilege of delivering my fourth state of the union. Before I begin I would like to say thank you to the Executive Board and our membership as a whole, 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 has never been stronger. Even while under attack from billionaire special interest groups like the Freedom Foundation, that funded the Janus Supreme Court Case, we are stronger! Even while working with less resources and more unfunded mandates under the 2% Tax Cap, we are stronger! Even while faced with the ever-changing, state mandated APPR, we are stronger! And even while we adapt to the many district and building lead initiatives that affect how we assess, implement, deliver and assign curriculum, we are stronger! We are stronger because we band together to find common ground on how to overcome these challenges while still providing the highest level of rigor for our students.

There have been many recent district and building lead initiatives have been created with good intent. However, there are many members that would have liked to have had more input during the process. In some cases, the district has made it clear that these changes are their administrative prerogative. In other cases, these decisions are being led by a variety of district and building led committees. We have a place on district and building level committees where these decisions are being discussed. We should be, and we must be a part of these committees. It is my sincere hope that you will all consider joining one of these committees. We are stronger when our collective voice is heard during these meetings.

Last year we were faced with the Janus decision which overturned 40 years of union labor precedent. Even though expert labor analysts predicted we would lose 10%-30% of our union membership, I stand before you today proud to tell you we are at 100%. Last year we came together, educated our membership, and when the decision came out against public unions we already had all of our members sign their new membership cards. I am proud

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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to say that since that time the district has hired almost three dozen new potential members and every single one of them has joined the LBCTA. We are stronger because even our newest members understand the power and importance of a unified voice.

One of the greatest challenges we face is the tax cap. As you know the Tax Cap is 2% or the CPI whichever is lower. This means the district has limited means to increase revenue while having to fund the increasing number of unfunded mandates. Luckily the district has healthy reserve funds and areas of revenue which gives them the ability to stay in the black. Although the District has been able to draw from their reserves in the past, they have made it very clear that they cannot continue this practice, and in fact have started building up their reserves.

Unfortunately, Governor Cuomo is pushing for the tax cap to become permanent as part of this year's NYS Budget. The current tax cap was ill conceived and unfairly targets schools and communities. It is unfortunate to see New York going down the same path of Proposition 13 in California. A tax policy that brought California's robust public education system from "first to worst" amongst the nation's schools. I hope you will join us in NYSUT's efforts to reform the tax cap instead of making it permanent.

Another challenge we face is the state mandated APPR. As you know the current system was forced down our throats by the State because of a Federal grant tied to the Every Student Succeeds Act. A grant, which the state diverted from our classrooms, leaving little for districts to cover its expenses. This created a system which over relies on State test scores, and that few educators value. Luckily the state has put a moratorium on using student performance measures based on the grades 3-8 ELA and Math State assessments. 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. If it is not signed, the NYS Commissioner of Education has a plan to continue the moratorium in April. If this happens we will once again be kicking the problems of the APPR down the line. Should this bill be signed by the Governor, we will once again find ourselves renegotiating our APPR. I look forward to updating you when a decision is made.

There are many challenges that we face however our strength does not come from overcoming these challenges. Our strength comes from our unity and our dedication to our students. We see this every day, as we, the practitioners, take on and implement the district's new initiatives. We see this every day when our members volunteer for afterschool and weekend programs to support our students. As an association it is important that we give back to community organizations that support our students. It is not only important that we participate in these activities but also that we come together to discuss and celebrate these acts of solidarity. It is the celebrating that allows us to unite and create positive solutions that can make a real difference in our community.

When I took on the position of President I very quickly saw the bond and camaraderie that our members share at the grade, department and building levels around the district. The bonds we share, the work we do together, and our unified voice as an organization has an amazing power and is what gives us our strength. When we come together in acts of solidarity to support important charitable causes, implement district initiatives, or to fight for equitable contract settlements—our strength, our voice and our efforts cannot be denied. I am extremely proud and honored to serve you as a collective group.

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

Thank you.

C. 2019 LBCTA Scholarship

I am pleased to announce the following association members' children are this year's scholarship winners: Sydney Altbacker, daughter of Liz O'Brien (Middle School) and Charlotte Kile, daughter of Christina Kile, (Middle School). Thank you to Pat Fallon for serving as the chair of the scholarship committee and to the committee volunteers: Jay Spitz, Mike Corrigan, John

Bloom, Karen Bloom, Julie Hall, Deborah Capodiferro, Danielle Fioretta, Flor West, Elizabeth Sherlock, Stephanie Bragino, Cornelius Campbell and Jeanne O'Shea for their time and reviewing the applications.

II. Committees

A. Grievance Committee—Karen Bloom

1. There are no grievances to report at this time.
2. Please contact me if you have any issues that you feel are a violation of our contract.

B. New Member Committee—Jim Fiola

1. Thank you to those who attended the Spring New Member Buddy Party this past Friday at the Point Ale House. We hope that you had a fun time socializing with your fellow new members and the members of the Executive Board. This year Jim is a mentor and will continue attending the meetings for the rest of the year. We wish you a smooth ending of your school year. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.
2. We can be reached via email jfiola@lbeach.org for Jim or akatulka@lbeach.org for Alison. **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.

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

D. Public Relations—Amy Leder

1. There is still time to support our National Honor Society students by buying a commemorative brick which will be laid at the entrance to our school this spring! Orders will be accepted until April 12th. Please see the attached [order form](#) if you are interested. Completed order forms, along with a check made out to LBSD Extra Curricular Fund, can be put in my mailbox in the main office.
2. Congratulations to Justin Sulsky and Dr. Caitlin King and the LARC students who earned spots in the International Wonder League Robotics Competition Invitational Round. Our students were among only 6 percent of teams around the world earning recognition.
3. Great job by Eric Heck and the wood shop classes at LBHS as they construct Adirondack chairs that will be donated to veterans. They are making 12 chairs, four will go to the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The remaining 8 will be placed in areas around the HS.
4. Congratulations to Mr. Johnsen and our automotive classes. They have been busy restoring a 1939 Chevy pickup truck. The class has already completed a motorcycle project, when they restored a 2009 Harley Ultima Chopper.

5. Kudos to the 4th grade teachers and students at East School for putting on a spectacular American Revolution timeline, a living museum of historical figures and a play that reenacted the Boston Tea Party for their Social Studies Fair.
6. Great job to the MS for holding another successful Science Symposium featuring research and discoveries that 6th grade students have made this school year.
7. Way to go Team B teachers Jay Spitz, Anna Pace and Tara Brady. Together with their students they traveled to St Mary's of the Isle to donate care packages they collected together. They also participated in a soup kitchen where they served food and distributed the care packages.
8. Kudos to all 7th grade students that qualified for the Long Island Championship for National History Day. Good luck on Sunday!

E. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

Please join us for the End of Year Celebration! The festivities will take place on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at Bridgeview Yacht Club at 5:00. We expect a large turnout for our many LBCTA retirees. Flyers will be going out on April 9th.

F. Teacher Center—John Marr

1. The Teacher Center is wrapping up the grant for this year. I am in the process of speaking with Dr. McArthur concerning a needs assessment for PD.
2. In the spirit of the "maker" movement, the LBTC is purchasing a Cricut Maker and assorted tools to allow teachers to use. We will house it at Lindell for now, but plan on making this mobile to provide each building in-school access to the device. More information will follow.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

- A.** Unfortunately, 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.

B. 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. If you do not know who your observers are, please contact Dr. Natali's office.
3. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

C. Health & Safety Committee

1. We are happy to report that the roof work has started at the high school! We hope that work will be minimally disruptive and that most will be completed outside of the school day.
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.

D. 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.

E. Other

1. Please mark your calendars for May 29th! CTA end of year celebration to honor our retirees!
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. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.
- B. I hope each school can be well represented at our annual End of Year party on May 29. The flyers should be arriving soon.
- C. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on April 1 at 3:45 in Lido room L25.
- D. 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.

VI. Treasurer's Report—Jim Fiola

- A. The March financial results will be reported in the minutes of our April 8th meeting.
- 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. Thank you to our fabulous PTA for the book fair held the week of Parent Teacher Conferences.
2. Another hearty thank you to our PTA for the delicious and much appreciated Staff Luncheon held Friday the 22nd. You are all so generous and we are thankful for you as well.
3. Congratulations to the OM Team, and their Coaches Mr. Sulsky and Mr. MacConnell, that placed at state this past weekend including Tabitha Freeny, Catherine Maguire, Geddy Moss, Alyiah Tricher, Dustin Basneyat, Shane Haglich, Benjaman Levinson, Jordon Soriano, and Sebastian Tricola. Aran Blau and Jordi Perez will be going to World in Michigan. The BEST of luck to them and all the participants.
4. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.

B. Lindell School

1. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the amazing Lindell PTA for a most delicious luncheon and for donating two picnic tables to the school.
2. Staff members no longer need to sit on the steps of the school during warm weather lunch breaks.
3. The PTA held a successful Scholastic Book Fair allowing students and families to shop during the week of parent teacher conferences.
4. Congratulations to the LARC Robotics Teams for earning a spot in the International Wonder League Robotics Competition International Round.

C. East School

1. Congratulations to the Elementary Odyssey of the Mind team led by Doug MacConnell and Justin Sulsky. They came in 2nd place at regionals and will be going on to compete in the World Finals. Best of luck!
2. Thank you to Mr. DeVito and Ed from JC Broderick & Associates for spending time with our teaching staff over the last two weeks to answer questions about the recent steam leak in the crawl space below East School. We appreciate hearing about the steps that have been taken to make sure that our classrooms are safe for children and staff members. We are happy to hear that further testing will take place to make sure that the moisture levels remain low.
3. Thank you to the PTA for a wonderful assembly to kick off PARP week. The magician was enjoyed by all.
4. The PTA organized a dinosaur themed Book Fair. The students were excited to shop for new books.
5. Thank you to the PTA for a fabulous luncheon for Teacher Appreciation Day.
6. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank if you haven't done so already.

D. Lido School

1. Thank you to Lido PTA for a wonderful Scholastic Book Fair. It was a great success and the children enjoyed purchasing their books.
2. Kudos to Lido PTA and families for collecting coins through the All for Books program and purchasing books for our classrooms.
3. Condolences to Tova Markowitz on the loss of her mother.
4. Congratulations to Justin Sulsky and Doug MacConnell and their Odyssey of the Mind team for winning the New York State competition. They are now qualified for the World Finals! Good luck!
5. Students loved listening to the invited special guests as PARP readers which included many parents.
6. Much appreciation to Lido PTA for their delicious Staff Luncheon and great Lido water bottles during Parent Teacher Conferences.
7. Congratulations to Annie Wiemann on the birth of her baby girl, Hailey!
8. Welcome to our new permanent substitute, Kaitlyn McCormack!
9. Congratulations on the marriage of Robert and Taylor Draine!
10. Thanks to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating.

E. Pre-K

1. No report at this time.

F. Middle School

1. Kudos to all teachers, staff, administration, the No Place for Hate Committee and our PTA for their participation and support in designing and implementing our 3 school-wide activities to become a No Place for Hate School, recognized by the Anti-Defamation League. The three activities included:

Our tremendously successful Community Book Club that read *The Benefits of Being an Octopus* by Ann Braden. This was a great opportunity to build community through literature. Special thank you to Lorie Beard for organizing this great event.

Our beautiful new school Unity Mural creatively led by artist Joyce Raimondo. If you have not done so already, make sure to stop by the gym hallway to see the finished product.

Our School-wide Lip Dub video for the song "This is Me". A special shout out to Kate Smith, Jasmine Salazar, Billy Papetti, and the MANY others that helped make this event a success for everyone.

2. Kudos to all 7th grade students that qualified for the Long Island Championship for National History Day. Good luck on Sunday!

3. Kudos to Buddy Hoffman and all those that came out to support our 8th grade basketball team Staff Appreciation Day game.

4. Kudos to Billy Papetti on his successful 8th grade Pi Day activities, including the "Pi"e Throwing contest which involved many teachers and administration throughout the building.

5. Kudos to Billy Papetti, Patty Van Loon, and Michelle Frank for organizing a Family Feud contest for 8th grade students during lunch periods.

6. Thank you to our New Members Committee for our Spring Buddy Party.

7. Thank you Patrick Kiley-Rendon for SMART Board trainings.

8. Thank you to Fawwas Persaud for going above and beyond and lending a helping hand to assist faculty. It is appreciated!

9. 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. Congratulations to Adrienne Glassberg, Michael Dotzler, Neal Campbell, Matt Hartman, Phil Bruno, Andrew Frey-Gould, Kyle Swan, Frank Lettieri, and John Graziano for organizing and participating in the St. Baldrick's Foundation Fundraiser. Over \$5000 was raised for a wonderful cause.

2. Thank you to Jim Fiola and the New Member Committee for hosting our recent Buddy Party.

3. Congratulations to Jay Spitz, Anna Pace and Tara Brady, the teachers of 9th Grade Team B. Together with their students, they collected items for care packages that they then brought to St. Mary's of the Isle. While there, teachers and students volunteered in a soup kitchen where they served food and distributed the care packages.

4. Congratulations to Lee Krinsky and all the teachers involved in the Pie Throwing Fundraiser.

5. We would like to see the district address the lack of uniform door locks and keys at the HS.

6. The internet connectivity continues to be problematic throughout the HS. It has been extremely disruptive for students and staff.

7. Building cleanliness continues to be an issue. We welcome continued dialog and discussion between building administration and buildings and grounds to ensure a clean and healthy environment for student and staff.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. We are disappointed by the district's decision to cancel the January Midterm Testing Week. This decision will negatively impact students by denying them an important opportunity to pass their regents examinations.

11. 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.

12. Please consider attending our LBCTA Year End Celebration on May 29th at Bridgeview.

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

14. Please consider volunteering to serve on a district committee.

VIII. New Business

At 4:57pm, a motion was made by Karen Bloom to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Elleen Parks.

In Attendance:

West: June Schecter

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Susan Simons, Lisa Rundo

East: Jeanne Richards, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Marilyn Pilo

Pre-K:

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Lauren Behan, Camila Gamboa, Alison Katulka

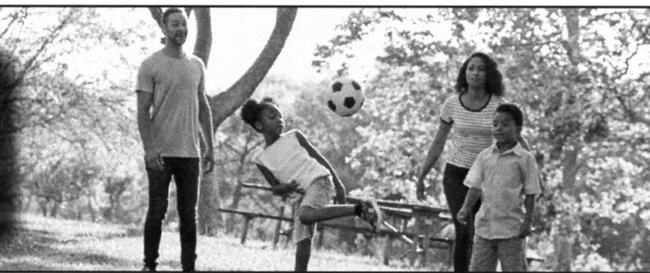
LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Anthony Balsamo, Neil Campbell, Eric Heck,

Retiree: Frank Volpe

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

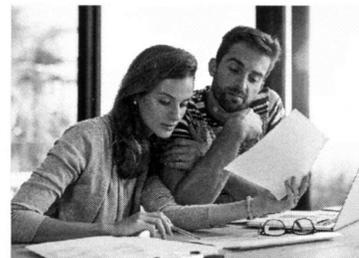
Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

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

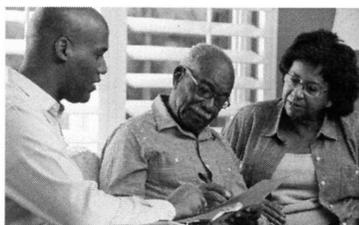


Legal Service Plan

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



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

