



# 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

April 20, 2015

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

#### A. Administrative Shakeup

At the April 14 meeting of the Board of Education, Supt. Weiss revealed an audacious plan to shakeup the administrative staff. With the trustees' full faith and backing he is eliminating the positions of Director of ELA and Reading, Director of Mathematics, Director of Social Studies and Director of World Languages and ESL. In their place he is creating a Director of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), a Director of Humanities (ELA, Reading, Social Studies and World Languages), and a Director of Elementary Curriculum. In addition the MS and HS will each add a .5 VP position.

The position of Director of Human Resources, vacated by the retirement of Dr. Berger, has been posted. It is anticipated that the position will be filled from within.

The search for a replacement Director of Comprehensive Arts, a position vacated by the retirement of Dr. Johanson, has been reopened. The committee will reconvene shortly.

The search for a High School Coordinator of Special Education, a position vacated by the resignation of Dr. Deborah Smith, yielded just one candidate. The interview committee met on Thursday, April 16 and the Board of Education is expected to announce its decision shortly.

*Why Long Beach is unable to recruit and retain experienced administrators with proven track records is something the Board of Education should be very concerned about.*

#### B. Report of the Elections Committee - Jonathan Bloom Chairperson

The following members are running in this year's officer and delegate election:

President - Keith Harvey

Executive Vice-President - Karen Bloom

Vice-President for Secondary Schools - John Anfossi, Amy Powers

Vice-President for Elementary Schools - Beth Prostick

Treasurer - Jim Fiola

Recording Secretary - Alison Katulka, Patricia Van Loon

Corresponding Secretary - Elleen Parks

NYSUT Delegate (2) - Perry Bodnar, Elleen Parks, Beth Prostick, Jessica Vetter

AFT Delegate (3) - Perry Bodnar, Elleen Parks, Beth Prostick, Jessica Vetter

There will be a Candidates Forum on Monday, April 27 at 4 PM in the MS auditorium. Given the number of contested positions I highly recommend that you attend this forum in order to make educated decisions who to vote for. Please keep in mind that the election will be conducted using mail-in ballots which will be sent to your last known home address by May 1.

#### C. HS Educational Technology

At the April 14 meeting of the Board of Education Trustee Ryan asked District COO Michael DeVito if there were funds allocated in next year's budget to improve HS teachers' access to technology. Mr. DeVito responded that he had no knowledge that there was a problem and no funds have been allocated. Given that the HS reps and VP for Secondary Schools Karen Bloom have included complaints about the lack of access to computer labs and laptop carts in every edition of the Exec Bd minutes since October 2014; I can only infer that either Mr. DeVito was not being truthful or he does not care if teachers have access to the tools they need to best educate their students.



- D. **The Opt-out Movement**  
 More than 82,000 or 40+% of Long Island students in grades 3-8 opted-out of last week's ELA assessment. When questioned by Trustee Ryan about the number of Long Beach students who opted-out; Supt. Weiss would only answer that 73% of the students took the ELA. The number of students opting out of this week's math assessment is expected to be higher given the media exposure. A special thank you to Matt Adler and Rich Napolitano, the founders of Long Beach Opt Out, for all of their hard work and dedication educating parents about the negative effects of high-stakes testing and a parent's right to control his/her child's education.
- E. **Is the Honeymoon over for Assemblyman Kaminsky?**  
 In the middle of the night of March 31 the assemblyman voted "yes" for Cuomo's ill-conceived education "reform" plan. His support for public education was first tested week earlier when after first refuting Cuomo's education tax credit for millionaires; he came out in support of it. Given that the assemblyman's mother and grandmother were proud life-long members of the LBCTA and his grandfather was a past-president of the Long Beach Board of Education his "yes" vote was indefensible.
- F. **Retro-Retro payments**  
 Due to District COO's Michael DeVito's failure to properly inform the payroll department; those members who landed on Step 18 in 2012-13, as well as Pre-K teachers, did not receive their \$400 retro payments on March 27 as anticipated. Their retro payments will now be paid retroactively.
- G. **LBCTA 2015 Scholarship Winners**  
 I am pleased to announce that the following association members' children are this year's scholarship winners:  
     Timothy Josephs, son of Nancy Josephs (MS Science)  
     Paisley McKevitt, daughter of Kerri Rehnback (MS Math)  
 Thanks to Pat Fallon for serving as the chair of the scholarship committee and to those members who volunteered their time to review the applications.
- H. **NYSTRS Delegates**  
 Congratulations to Ama Darkeh and Perry Bodnar who will be serving as our 2015-17 New York State Teachers Retirement System delegates.
- I. **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)
- J. **Coaching Pay Dates**
- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Spring HS        | Spring MS        |
|                  | First half: 4/24 |
| Second half: 5/8 | Second half: 6/5 |
- K. **New Members**  
 If you have any questions, please e-mail Jim Fiola or Alison Katulka at [jfiola@lbeach.org](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org) or [akatulka@lbeach.org](mailto:akatulka@lbeach.org).  
 The New Member party was held March 20 at The Ale House in Point Lookout. I would like to thank all who made the effort to join us. The attendance of the new members was noticeably low. Alison and I will look into the reason for this and perhaps make adjustments to the timing of the Spring gathering next year.  
 We will continue attending the mentor meetings to speak to our new members about any issues or concerns they have. The next meeting is Tuesday May 19 at 3:45 PM 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.
- L. **Food Service Advisory Committee - Dale Greenstein**  
 The second Food committee meeting took place on March 31 in Lido School. Director of Food Services Steve Kamlet ran the meeting. The purpose of this committee is to make suggestions and discuss ways that could improve food services and help reduce the \$400,000 annual subsidy required to keep the department operating. After the previous meeting district employees were informed of the anticipated launch of a program in which staff members could order lunches and have them delivered to their building or work site. While that did not happen immediately we were informed that the service would begin in the near future. As of April 21 menu choices and prices were posted on [lbeach.org](http://lbeach.org) and an e-mail was sent to some employees. However some of the prices were listed with tax included and others without; leading to confusion. In addition staff members are required to FAX in their orders each morning. Many staff members do not access to a FAX, machine defeating the purpose of this initiative. E-mail would be a better method. Even

though the Lido complex physically connected to the MS, where meals are prepared, they too need to be included in the outreach. At the meeting we discussed that there has been a district-wide push to get more students to sign up for free or reduced rate lunches. We also discussed the changes being made to the menus to make them more attractive to students, but little more. The committee has been meeting for just one hour and has only met twice. More time is needed at meetings for discussion if we are going to be able to help make the needed changes requested by the Board of Education.

## II. Report of the Chief Negotiator - Steve Freeman

- A. The remaining retroactive payments will be made as follows:
  - April 24 - \$400 for PreK teachers and those who landed on Step 18 in 2012-13 and the 2013-14 (1%) salary and rates increases.
  - April 24 - 2014-15 salary schedules and rates go into effect.
  - June 24 - 2014-15 retroactive payments for the period of 7/1/14-4/24/15 (1%).
- B. I am pleased to report the successful ratification of the Permanent Sub contract. However the agreement was not ratified by the Board of Education at its April 14 meeting as anticipated due to an oversight on the part of the Supt. I now expect it to be ratified on April 28. Needless to say the district has not yet established a timeframe for paying the retro payments.
- C. We are scheduled to meet with the Board of Education on April 21 to exchange proposals for a successor agreement to our contract which expires on June 30, 2015.

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

- A. Board of Education  
Please consider attending a minimum of 2-3 Board of Education meetings each year. Look for the dates on the sign-up sheet in your faculty room.
- B. CTA Election and Candidates Forum  
The ballot will be mailed to you on May 1 and must be returned in the enclosed SASE postmarked by May 15. Prior to the election on Monday, April 27 there will be a Candidates Forum at 4:00 PM in the Middle School auditorium.
- C. Constitution Committee  
The Constitution Committee proposed two By-Law amendments which will appear on the ballot;
  - 1. Article II Expenditures- Increase the President's Expenditure for non-regular operating expenses from \$300 to \$1000.
  - 2. Article III Honoraria- Change the Corresponding Secretary's honoraria from \$3500 to \$3,987.95 per year.These amendments were voted on by the Constitution Committee and the Executive Board and I hope to have your support as well.
- D. Health and Safety Committee  
Please see the Safety Team report below.
- E. District Safety Team  
The February meeting was canceled and no makeup date was issued. Far too often these meetings are being canceled. For 15+ years these committees met monthly, however once the Capital Improvement Project started they were reduced to ever other month and after Sandy they were reduced to just quarterly. Too many items are being over-looked or tabled due to the infrequency of these meetings. Issues such as the school climate survey and the "new" HS traffic pattern have been tabled since the November meeting and the HS main entrance security station and the elementary windows have not been reviewed since the January meeting. I will be requesting that these committees return to a monthly calendar at the next meeting. If you have any health or safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level please e-mail me.

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

- A. It seems that the Double Dose portion of the Foundations program is being taught by teaching assistants in the kindergarten classes rather than a certified teacher. Please let me know how Double Dose is being handled in each elementary building!
- B. I encourage you all to make every effort to attend Board of Education meetings.
- C. Please plan on attending the Candidates Forum on April 27 at 4 PM in the MS auditorium. so you can learn about each candidate running for a position in this year's CTA election.

- D. You will soon be receiving your ballot for this year's election in the mail. Please remember to vote and return it by May 15.
- E. I hope to see all elementary schools represented at the CTA Retirement party. Even if you do not have a retiree in your building, you should think about attending the party to support your colleagues and your union; as well as to have a fun night out.
- F. My sincere condolences to Elleen Parks and her family on the loss of her father.
- G. Elementary Council will meet on May 18 at 3:45 PM in Lido School.
- H. If you have any questions I can be reached at bprostick@gmail.com.

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

- A. We were extremely surprised and confused by Mr. DeVito's statement at the last BOE meeting regarding technology at the HS. This is a constant battle and we have continually expressed our concerns at both the building and district level regarding our lack of access to technology. We would like to see an increase in the proposed budget in the area of technology at the HS for next year to address the scarcity of computer labs and laptop carts.
- B. It is very difficult to get members to serve on district interview committees for new hires. Those who have served on the last few committees feel that their voices were not heard, even after expressing strong opinions regarding the candidates. It seems that the committees are just a formality and the superintendent hires whoever he wants. It would be much more beneficial to take into considerations the opinions of all those involved, including parents, students and teachers rather than dismissing.
- C. Even after speaking with Asst. Supt. Graham, who assured us that he would coordinate with the Directors to align the APPR targets and bands. They APPR are not consistent across departments. In addition some of the targets were arbitrarily chosen without any faculty input. It appears that there was not much collaboration among the directors, as each department has its own methods and targets. In the case of using Regents Exams as post-assessments there is no reason why the departments should not be consistent in their bands and target scores.
- D. We are concerned about the new proposed table of organization. In the current model directors are already spread too thin. How will they be able to address the daily needs of their faculties if they are now being given extra departments to monitor? We hope that the district is considering the addition of chair people or department liaisons in order to address the variety of issues that come up on a daily basis for both students and teachers.
- E. We are still waiting for the traffic pattern at the HS to be addressed. It continues to be a huge safety concern, especially for students walking or biking. Now that the weather is warming up there will be more students on bikes and walking who are exposed to this dangerous situation. We sincerely hope that administration addresses this issue in the near future.
- F. Security at the HS continues to be a concern. There is no buzz-in system and people can walk right into the building without being questioned. We are hoping that a system similar to those in other buildings put in place, before next school year.
- G. Condolences to Elleen Parks and her family on the loss of her father.
- H. The next Secondary Council meeting will be held on Monday May 18 at 4 pm in the HS guidance conference room. The next Publicity Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 4 in the HS guidance conference room.
- I. I would like to encourage all members to attend a BOE meeting whenever possible. We need to stay involved and let our voices be heard! Please also attend the Candidates Forum on Monday April 27 at 4 PM in the MS auditorium to listen to the visions of the candidates before making your choices.
- J. Please consider attending the CTA retirement Party on May 20 to celebrate all of our retirees!

VI. Treasurer's Report - Jim Fiola

A. March Financial Results

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| <u>Revenues</u> |           |
| Union dues      | \$36,735  |
| Ad insert       | 100       |
| Retirees dues   | <u>18</u> |
| Total           | \$36,853  |

|   |
|---|
| Credit Swap<br>1.5 Molloy    Patty Lugo<br>(exp. 12/15) |
|---|

## Expenditures

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| NYSUT                 | \$13,230  |
| AFT                   | 8,010     |
| Stipends and taxes    | 24,419    |
| Payroll-related items | 542       |
| Training              | 1,356     |
| Meeting Expenses      | 362       |
| Donations             | 100       |
| Office Supplies       | 38        |
| Office Phone          | 138       |
| Public Relations      | 300       |
| Election              | 147       |
| Travel                | <u>72</u> |
| Total                 | \$48,714  |



- B. Condolences to Elleen Parks and her family on the loss of her father. I encourage all our members to come to the Candidates Forum on April 27. It will help you make an informed decision for our contested officer and delegate slots. In addition I hope everyone makes a concerted effort to attend the CTA End of the Year party on May 20. We have a very large retirement class this year and they deserve a nice send-off. 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. West School's Annual Literacy Fair was a huge success! This parent-child at home project helps support our strong commitment to improving literacy skills.
2. Kindergarten again hosted West School's Annual Community Day. Thank you to all who participated in making this another memorable event for the entire school.
3. Congratulations to our student council, facilitated by Darice Bynoe, for their week long initiative called Pennies for Patients. A significant amount of money was raised and donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation.
4. Congratulations to Courtney Elliott on the birth of her daughter Lennox Marie.
5. Congratulations to Cheryleann Fontenot on the engagement of her daughter Nicole to Steven Peppe.
6. Thank you to Vivian Fiallo for an informative faculty meeting.
7. Condolences to Elleen Parks on the loss of her father Henry Skopp.
8. Condolences to Bill Calderone on the loss of his mother Margaret Calderone.

### B. Lindell School

1. Congratulations to the second grade students and teachers on a fun, creative and informational Science Fair. Thank you for hosting the first grade classes.
2. Congratulations to the third grade teachers and students on a highly successful Living Museum, Where Biographies Came to Life. Thank you for hosting the first and second grade classes.
3. Our condolences to Elleen Parks and her family on the loss of her father.

### C. East School

1. Condolences to Ellen Parks and her family for the loss of her father.
2. We are happy to announce the installation of our lift in the gym. The lift is for individuals with special needs.
3. Kudos to the Second Grade for a successful Earth Day Celebration.

D. Lido School

1. Congratulations to Diana Armada and her husband Nestor on the birth of their daughter Olivia Grace.
2. Congratulations to Pat Anajovich on the birth of her grandson Isaac.
3. Congratulations to Mary Peppe on the engagement of her son Steven to Nicole Fontenot.
4. Many thanks to Lido PTA for donating seeds, soil, and planting materials to use with the students. They are very excited to transplant their class grown plants to the Lido Habitat.
5. Students enjoyed participating in Career Day activities. Many thanks to the community members who took time from their busy schedule to inform Lido students about their careers.
6. Condolences to the family of John Buglisi on his loss.
7. Condolences to Elleen Parks on the loss of her father.

E. HALB

1. Congratulations to Gizelle Conroy and family on the birth of their beautiful son Landon.

F. Middle School

1. We are happy to hear that work will begin on the 100s hallway next week!
2. Most of fans are operational and in use!
3. Repairs on the golf netting should be starting soon.
4. Condolences to Megan Kalner and her family on the loss of her grandmother.
5. Condolences to Elleen Parks and her family on the passing of her father.
6. Sending get well wishes to Susan Epstein. Hope you're back soon!
7. Congratulations to Gizelle Conroy and family on the birth of her son, Landon Shea.
8. Congratulations to Lynn Marcell on the engagement of her daughter, Lauren.
9. Condolences to Ryan Buglisi on the passing of her husband.

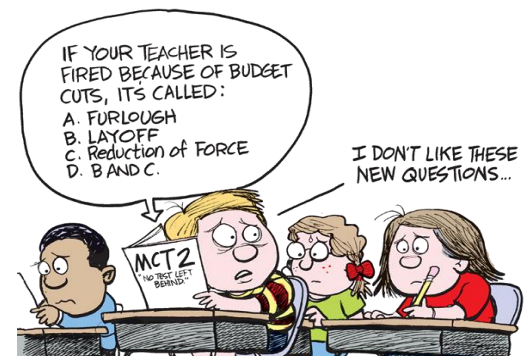
G. High School

1. We are all concerned with recent legislation regarding common core and evaluations.
2. We are all concerned with lack of information regarding directors.
3. There is a lack of uniformity between departments regarding computation of 20% of teachers' APPR growth scores.
4. We are all shocked that Michael DeVito declared that he was surprised at the woeful state of technology in the HS. Although the tech support people are very responsive; things break often because of outdated equipment. There seems to be no replacement plan in place.
5. There are lots of discussions regarding the distribution of coverages.
6. There is still no faculty room.
7. The traffic pattern remains dangerous.
8. We are all concerned about the NIKE reorganization.
9. There are gasoline fumes in main office.
10. We encourage everyone to attend the Candidates Forum on April 27 in the MS auditorium at 4 PM.
11. Temperatures in building are still inconsistent.
12. Condolences to Eileen Parks and her family on the loss of her father.
13. Condolences to Ryan Tormey and her family.

VIII. Meeting dates

April  
27 LBCTA Candidates Forum, 4 PM MS Auditorium  
28 Board of Education, 7:30 PM MS Auditorium

May 2015  
1-2 NYSUT RA, Buffalo  
5 Health & Safety, 11 AM Lido Multipurpose Room





- 11 LBCTA Executive Board, 4 PM MS Library
- 12 Board of Education, 7:30 PM LB Public Library
- 20 End of the Year Celebration, 4:30 PM Bridgeview



In attendance:

HALB - Gari Ann Harris  
 Pre-K - Liz Fichtelman  
 West - Mary Ann Colucci, Cheryleanne Fontenot  
 Lindell - Migdalia Schneider, Heather Puckhaber  
 East - Barbara Lewy  
 Lido - Dorothy Lopez, Marilyn Pilo  
 Middle School - Patty Van Loon, John Anfossi, Jill Cherlin, Jenn Garrett  
 High School - Amy Powers, Jonathan Bloom, Eric Heck, Perry Bodnar, Jay Spitz, Adriane Glassbreg  
 Officers - Steve Freeman, Keith Harvey, Karen Bloom, Nora Bellsey, Jim Fiola, Beth Prostick, Elleen Parks and Dale Greenstein

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  | Saturday, May 2 | Residence Inn<br>9 Gerhard Road<br>Plainview, NY 11803                    |
| Ronkonkoma | Friday, May 1   | Courtyard by Marriott<br>5000 Express Drive South<br>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:**

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

