



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

239 Lido Blvd., Long Beach, NY 11561 • 516-897-2175 • [www.lbcta.com](http://www.lbcta.com)

Executive Board Minutes

March 12, 2018

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

## I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

### A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

3/26/18, 4/23/18, 5/14/18, and 6/11/18

### B. State of the Union Speech

With the approval of the Executive Board, my State of the Union Speech will be at the Executive Board meeting on March 26, in the MS Library.

### C. CTA Shirts

Thank you very much to everyone that responded to the LBCTA apparel form. My goal is to have the shirts delivered to you before the end of the month. Shortly after that date, the LBCTA online store will be open and you will be able to purchase additional items individually.

### D. Long Beach AWARE Donation

For the rest of the month of March, Amazon will triple their donations for anything you purchase at Amazon. No cost to you, and if you are a Prime member, it doesn't impact those benefits at all. All you have to do is click on the link at the bottom to register and select Long Beach Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking, Inc. Amazon is **tripling the donation amount** to 1.5% when customers make their first eligible [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) purchase from March 12 - 31.

### E. Mets vs. Chicago Cubs

Please consider joining us on Friday, June 1st for a fun evening at CitiField. [Please click here for more information.](#)

### F. Commissioner's APPR Survey

Back in February NYSUT spent time carefully examining the APPR survey created by SED and believes it may lead to unreliable and invalid data due to the way it has been constructed. As a result they issued the current press release: "The state has had at least six years to listen to the voices of teachers and parents who are angry and frustrated with this broken teacher evaluation system. We don't need anymore surveys or delays. This is the year to fix it. Evaluations must be returned to local control with no state mandates. NYSUT will not be sharing the link to the survey through the Member or Leader Briefings or encouraging any of our mem-



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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bers to participate in it. This message has been communicated to the Commissioner and the Board of Regents.

NYSUT continues to advocate for an APPR fix this year. We need a system that restores trust, helps develop teachers and is free of state mandates. Returning APPR to local control is the only answer.”

As you are aware, in the 2015-16 school year, the Board of Regents placed a hold on the use of student performance measures based on the grades 3-8 ELA and Math State assessments as part of teacher evaluations. This moratorium continues through the 2018-19 school year.

**G. New York State Paid Family Leave**

Earlier this year I presented and discussed the New York State Paid Family Leave. This plan includes Bonding Leaves, Caring for a Close Relative with a Serious Health Condition Leave, and Military Active Duty Deployment Leave. In order to take advantage of this plan, we need to negotiate its implementation with the District. Although the plan is called the New York State Paid Family Leave, this does not mean it is a full paid leave. In fact, for most members it would result in a quarter paid leave. Also to participate every member needs to pay in at the rate of approximately \$86 annually. At the time it was presented, only two members inquired. Due to the lack of interest, and the items listed above we did not pursue the plan. To learn more about the plan please [click here](#) or contact me.

**H. NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Voluntary Disability Insurance Plan**

Please click [Appendix A](#) for more information.

**I. 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.

**J. 2018 LBCTA Scholarship**

This is a reminder 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 2018. 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](mailto: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 2 PM on Friday, March 16. The evaluation of these applications will take place on Wednesday, March 21 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.

**J. Study Money Dates**

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Program: Summer - May 11, 2018. 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: 3/16  
High School Spring: 4/13 and 5/11  
Middle School Spring: 4/27 and 6/8



## 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. Please consider joining us for a Mets game on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Details are in the Public Relations Committee report.
2. I know that you all have the Spring Buddy/New Member party date in your calendars already: **Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**. Sharon Weiss will be reminding all the mentors and mentees. It is a pay date and it will again be at the Ale House in Point Lookout after school. We hope to have a large gathering that afternoon and evening.
3. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Jim Fiola at [jfiola@lbeach.org](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org) or Alison Katulka at [akatulka@lbeach.org](mailto:akatulka@lbeach.org). **Please contact us if you don't have a buddy or mentor.** Please ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you.

### C. Political Action Committee—Beth Prostick

1. Please check your emails and Facebook for weekly/daily information on the Janus case.
2. If you are not receiving my emails, please email me at [LBCTAPAC@gmail.com](mailto:LBCTAPAC@gmail.com) from your personal email account so I can add you.
3. Our next PAC meeting will be held on March 20, at 3:45 in Lido room L25.

### D. Public Relations—Amy Leder

1. Please consider joining us for a fun evening of friendly camaraderie at the Mets vs Chicago Cubs Baseball game on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:10 pm. Tickets in “Coca-Cola Corner” include a bracelet for drink service for 3 hours (1 hour before the game and 2 hours after the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch) plus a food voucher which can be used for a hotdog or burger with fries. Tickets are \$85.50 per person. Checks can be made out to Jim Fiola and the [form](#) and payment sent to Scott Brecher at the HS. Limited tickets are available so they will be given out on first come first serve basis.
2. Don't miss the student production of *Grease* at LBHS this weekend: Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Good luck to Andrew Frey, Justin Marks, and the rest of the Music and Theatre Department. Tickets are available at the door.
3. Congratulations to our Odyssey of the Mind coaches Dayna Obidienzo, Christina Kile, Justin Sulsky and Doug MacConnell and the students for participating in regionals. We have two teams moving on to states.
4. Congratulations to our LARC teachers, Justin Sulsky and Caitlin King. Under their guidance, the LARC robotic teams designed solutions for real-world science and technology challenges by programming their robotics. Teams will be moving forward for the highly sought after International Invitational Round opportunities.
5. We hope to see you all at our LBCTA end of the celebration on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

### E. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

The CTA party honoring our retirees is being planned for Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 5:00 at Bridgeview in Island Park. Please look for the invite that will be mailed out shortly.

## III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

### A. 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.

**B. Health & Safety Committee**

1. Unfortunately, the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was postponed, due to the traffic consultants. They needed a little more time to prepare their presentation. We are looking forward to hearing their report and suggestions for how to improve both the Lido complex and the High School traffic patterns.

2. We are hoping for updates on all of our other outstanding issues at the next meeting.

3. I would like to thank Mr. DeVito for attempting to address the multiple concerns at the high school before moving to a single point of entry. We appreciate the upgrades in safety and look forward to resolving these before moving forward.

4. The next Health and Safety meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 4:00 pm in the high school library.

5. If you have any health and safety issues that are not resolved at the building level, please email me at [kbloom@lbeach.org](mailto:kbloom@lbeach.org).

**C. District Safety Team**

1. We are thankful that the district is looking into giving all buildings the ability to lockdown their classrooms from the inside and to reduce the number of keys used in the high school to lockdown rooms. We are looking forward to hearing the status of the project.

2. In addition, we are hoping to hear the suggestions from the architect as to what he feels is the best way to secure the cafeteria and the library at the high school during lockdowns.

3. The next District Safety Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 4:00 pm in the high school library.

4. If you have any District Safety issues that are not resolved at the building level, please email me at [kbloom@lbeach.org](mailto:kbloom@lbeach.org).

**D. 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](http://www.lbcta.com).

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

A. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on March 19 at 3:45 in Lido room L25.

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

C. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at [bprostick@lbeach.org](mailto:bprostick@lbeach.org).

**V. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report—Amy Leder**

A. Thank you to Mr. DeVito for taking the time to listen to the high school faculty and staff's safety concerns. We appreciate it!

B. Our next Secondary meeting will be on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 PM in HS Guidance Suite.

**VI. Treasurer's Report—Jim Fiola**

A. Please consider joining us at a Mets game in the Coca Cola Corner on June 1<sup>st</sup>. There are a limited number of tickets. Details are in Amy Leder's PR Committee report and on our Facebook LBCTA site.

B. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank and please try to plan to attend a couple of School Board meetings this year.

I hope that you enjoyed your February break and are looking forward to the Easter/Passover break.

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)

**B. February Financial Results**

| <u>Expenditures</u> |          | <u>Revenues</u> |          |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| NYSUT               | \$14,969 | Union Dues      | \$40,443 |
| AFT                 | 9,060    | Bowling Event   | 3,200    |
| Taxes and Insurance | 466      |                 |          |
| Donations           | 6,000    | Total           | \$43,643 |
|                     |          |                 |          |
| Total               | \$30,495 |                 |          |

C. Union dues for 2017/2018 for full-time members will be \$1,014.36. 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 2017 union dues for tax purposes for full-time members was \$1,004.80.**

**VII. Building Reports**

**A. West School**

1. Congrats to Randi Simon and her husband Matt on the birth of their baby boy, Andrew Brett.
2. Welcome to Zoe Irwin, who will be filling in for Randi in her absence.
3. Congratulations to the 2nd graders on a successful Author's Day this past week. This is a day celebrating our young authors of West.
4. Thank you to EVERYONE who braved the weather on March 2nd to support the West School Supermarket Bonanza. A good time was had by all!
5. Thank you to Darice Bynoe and our Student Council on collecting and donating hats, scarves, and gloves and donating them to Warm Hearts Long Beach. Warm Hearts is a local program run by our own Jeannie Larson and her husband Chris, which donates these items to the food pantries in Long Beach. Your kindness is appreciated.
6. If you have not done so please consider donating at least one sick day to our Sick Bank this year.

**B. Lindell School**

1. VIP Day for grades K-2 welcomed "Very Important People" to our school. Congratulations to Ms. Rynecki, Mrs. Krywe, the students and staff on a job well done!
2. Kudos to the Student Council for a very successful Read Across America week.
3. Please consider donating a day to the sick bank.
4. Thank you PTA for a fun and interactive Brain Show. The students were engaged and eager to participate.
5. Congratulations to Dana Runfola on the birth of her twin boys, Charlie and Shane!
6. Congratulations to Danielle Adams on the birth of her baby girl, Avery Marie!

**C. East School**

1. Congratulations to Melissa Zimmerman on the birth of her son, Dylan James.
2. Congratulations to Justin Sulsky, Doug MacConnell and all the members of the OM Team! They are moving on to States in April.



3. Save the date for the CTA End of the Year party where we will also celebrate our retirees on May 10th at Bridgeview.

**D. Lido School**

1. Many thanks to Brendan Scully and his custodial staff for a speedy clean up after the most recent snow storms.
2. Students participated in Read Across America week. A Dr. Seuss book was highlighted each day and students dressed to exemplify the story content.
3. Thank you to Lido PTA for organizing and launching the PARP program. Each student received a book to kickstart the program.
4. Students are enthusiastically engaged in March Math Madness activities. Kudos to Mary Doheny for updating and adding to the Math Museum.
5. Thanks to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating.

**E. Pre-K**

1. Welcome to Alexandra Clark, our new Pre-K Teacher.

**F. Middle School**

1. We are concerned with the lack of security in the back of the building after school. We appreciate the addition of a security guard at the back door until 3:30. We feel this position should extend until 4:00. Mr. Romanelli is looking into this and has been in contact with Summit Security. We are hopeful additional security can be added in a timely fashion.
2. In celebration of Black History Month, Laura Swan and her art students unveiled their "One Love" African Textile Paper Quilt. Councilwoman Anissa Moore was in attendance and lead students in a "Good Morning" exercise in Swahili.
3. Kudos to Mrs. Kile, Ms. Obidienzo and Odyssey of the Mind teams for winning first and second place in their regional tournament. A special thank you to Susan Kasper for volunteering to assist with Odyssey of the Mind and the students.
4. Kudos to Mr. Knyper, Ms. Katulka and Mrs. Swan and their students for creating LOVE banners that were sent to the students of Stoneman Douglas HS to show our support.
5. Welcome back to Christina Dillard.
6. Special thanks to Lindsay Pichichero, Nicole Vasheo, and Barbara Vahey for organizing our Sunshine Social event on March 9th. A great time was had by all.
7. Please consider attending our next PAC meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 in Lido room 25.
8. Please consider attending our State of the Union address on March 26<sup>th</sup> in the Middle School Library at 4:00.
9. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

**G. High School**

1. Condolences to Rich Rogers and his wife on the loss of her uncle .
2. Condolences to Michael Corrigan on the loss of his uncle.
3. Condolences to Liza Landa on the loss of her father.
4. Condolences to Karen and Jon Bloom on the loss of Karen's stepbrother.
5. Thank you, Sunshine committee for "Kindness Week." It made a difference and touched a lot of people. Despite the inclement weather, the high school Sunshine Team has been battling back the clouds and is back at it looking to get everyone together. Please set aside Friday March 23, 7 pm at JJ Coopers for a friendly and collegial gathering. Please see Neal Campbell, Elena Frishman and Phil Bruno and update them in all "sunshine" related news.

6. Congratulations to Dr. Morand and the rest of student government on a spirited first half of class olympics. We eagerly await the conclusion to the event!
7. Thank you to all the teachers and staff who participate in the jeans for scholars program every Friday!
8. Please continue to fill out help desk tickets and CC Mr. Myers.
9. We hope the district will resolve our two way communication system with the main office in a timely manner. Many rooms do not have this capability and we hope that the district will look into ways to allow teachers to lock their classroom doors from the inside. We appreciate the efforts in ensuring we have a secure building.
10. The water collection bags in the science room ceilings pose issues in the classroom, especially after inclement weather. We hope that the district looks into ensuring that a permanent solution is put into place.
12. The cleanliness of the building is a continual health and safety issue, especially during Flu Season. We hope we can work out a plan that will add mopping classrooms, and disinfecting desks and surfaces on a routinely/weekly basis.
13. We hope that the district will continue to meet the needs of students who require ICT for courses necessary for graduation and look to ensure this option is available for elective courses next year.
14. Thank you for the continuing open dialog between the administrative team and the building committee.
15. Please consider donating days to the sick bank. The forms are in the main office.

#### **VIII. New Business**

A motion was made to cancel the April 9th Executive Board meeting. The discussion brought to light that there would only be two school days between the March 26th meeting and the April 9th meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

At 5:00pm, a motion was made by Cheryleann Fontenot to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Lisa Rundo.

#### **In Attendance:**

West: Cheryleann Fontenot, June Schecter

Lindell: Susan Simons, Heather Puckhaber, Lisa Rundo

East: Jeanne Richards, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Marilyn Pilo

Pre-K:

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Alison Katulka,

LBHS: Anthony Balsamo, Jonathan Bloom, Chris Brown, Neil Campbell, Jay Spitz

Retiree: Frank Volpe

Officers: Keith Harvey, Karen Bloom, Amy Leder, Patricia Van Loon, Elleen Parks

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

# Your monthly bills won't stop if you become unable to work

Insurance is the type of product that you hope you never have to utilize. In the event that you need to use it, though, it's important to have the insurance product that best meets your individual needs.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed voluntary Disability Insurance Plan -- provided by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -- provides valuable income replacement benefits to help meet your living expenses if you become partially or totally disabled and are unable to work.



**Disability insurance can be customized to fit within your budget and still provide peace of mind until you are able to get back on your feet and return to work. Applications for the new NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Disability Insurance Plan are now available, with coverage effective dates on or after Jan. 1, 2018 from the Plan Administrator, Mercer Consumer.**

For more information and/or to get an application, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call **800-626-8101** for specific information about this program.

## Call to Action: Proposals requested for NYSUT *Educator's Voice*



New York State's classrooms are among the most diverse in the nation. In recognition of this, NYSUT is currently soliciting article proposals on "**Culturally-Responsive Teaching**" for consideration in its annual edition of *Educator's Voice*, a *Journal of Best Practices in Education*. **The deadline for proposals is June 15, 2018.**

Do you have a project or practice that works well in your classroom, something you are passionate about and would like to share with other educators across the state? This is a great opportunity to write about it and become published in NYSUT's member journal, a publication created by NYSUT members for NYSUT members. No previous experience is needed nor do you need to be a professional writer to be published in *Educator's Voice*.

Once accepted, authors receive a great deal of editorial support and writing guidance throughout the year-long publication cycle. The result is a professional, research-based publication that can be shared with your colleagues and used for professional development. Authors or author teams can collaborate across schools or with partners in higher education; at least one author must be a NYSUT or affiliate member.

For more information and/or to download the author submission form, visit <http://www.nysut.org/educatorsvoice>.

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