



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

February 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:18pm by Keith Harvey.

## I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

### A. Executive Meeting Dates

3/14/22, 3/28/22, 4/11/22, 5/9/22, 5/23/22, 6/13/22

### B. Calendar Approval

The 2022-2023 District draft school calendar was presented and approved by the Executive Board. It is anticipated that it will be voted by the Long Beach Board of Education at the 3/8/22 meeting.

### C. State of the Union Speech

The State of the Union Speech will be at the March 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting.

### D. AFLAC Expansion

We will have an AFLAC representative presenting at our March 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting. He will be presenting the benefits of our current plans, Cancer Care and Accident Plans. In addition, the district agreed to expand our policy options and they will also be explaining the two new options of Short Term Disability and Hospital Choice Plans.

### E. NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant

NYSUT will be offering a Pre-Retirement Workshop in the NYSUT Nassau Regional office on Saturday, March 26, 2022. This workshop is available to members who are part of the New York State Teachers Retirement System (NYSTRS) and who plan to retire within the next 2 years. Due to Covid restrictions, registration is limited to 30 people and is available only to NYSUT members, on a first-come, first-served basis. Click the event link to register: <https://nysut.cc/nprs322>

### F. 2022 LBCTA Scholarship

I am pleased to announce that the association will once again be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are children of CTA members. Pat Fallon has graciously volunteered to continue as the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. To be eligible for a CTA scholarship, the student must graduate from their high school in either January or June 2022. They may attend high school in any city or town. A parent must have been a dues paying member of the CTA for at least three full years and currently paying dues unless on family or medical leave. Those interested and eligible may request an application from Pat, by email at [pfallon@lbeach.org](mailto:pfallon@lbeach.org). The closing date for receipt of the



Keith Harvey

*President*

Karen Bloom

*Executive Vice President*

Beth Prostick

*Vice President for*

*Elementary Schools*

Amy Leder

*Vice President for Secondary Schools*

Patricia Van Loon

*Recording Secretary*

Elleen Parks

*Corresponding Secretary*

James Fiola

*Treasurer*

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completed application and all supporting documents, submitted in duplicate, is 2 PM on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The evaluation of these applications will take place on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, immediately after school. Please contact Pat if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented.

**G. AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program**

This program offers four 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members, as well as 10 one-time \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education. Grants can be used for continuing education and also for implementing programs or introducing tools in the classroom, workplace and/or community. [Click Here](#)

**H. 2022 Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund, Len Motisi Memorial Scholarship**

Children of in-service members of NYSUT locals, who are high school seniors, graduating this year, and who will be attending a post-secondary institution on a full-time basis, are eligible. If you would like an application, please contact Keith Harvey.

**I. Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund Grants**

**1. Military Grant**

For in-service members of NYSUT who have been called up to active military service in the United States armed forces and who as a result suffer loss of income. Please contact Keith Harvey for the form.

**2. Burial Grant**

Payable to the individual who incurs the funeral expenses of any member of a participating local who dies while in active service. Please contact Keith Harvey for the form.

**3. Catastrophic Loss**

Dues paying members of NYSUT Locals who are participants in the Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund, and who are in dire need of financial assistance due to: (1) death or serious illness in the immediate family requiring expenditures exceeding \$3,000 “out of pocket” and not covered by insurance, (excluding co-pays and deductibles) (2) sudden personal catastrophe loss, requiring expenditures exceeding \$3,000 “out of pocket” such as loss of home by fire, etc. not covered by insurance. (excluding co-pays and deductibles). Please contact Keith Harvey for the form.

**J. LBCTA Treasurer**

With Jim Fiola’s retirement at the end of this year, comes the need to fill the last year of his two-year term. As per the LBCTA constitution it is my responsibility, with the approval of the Executive Board, to recommend a replacement. Two of the overarching responsibilities of this position are to maintain the finances and the active membership role of the Association. A full list of job responsibilities can be found starting on page 6 of the [LBCTA Constitution](#). Having an understanding of finance and spreadsheet/database usage will be important skills for this job. If you are interested in volunteering for this position or have any questions, please contact me by the close of business 2/18/22.

**K. Study Money Dates - Reminder**

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Money Program, Summer - May 13, 2022. 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](#).

**L. Coaching Pay Dates**

Below are the payroll dates for coaches for 2021-22 school year:

**1. High School**

Winter: Second Check: 2/18

Spring: First Check: 4/14, Second Check: 5/13

**2. Middle School**

Winter II: First Check: 2/18, Second Check: 3/18

Spring: First Check: 4/29, Second Check: 6/10

## 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. Negotiation Committee - Chief Negotiator's Report – Keith Harvey

#### 1. LBCTA

We are in the final stages of preparing the contract for print. I hope to have copies for all members soon.

#### 2. Permanent Substitute Contract

I am pleased to announce that we have reached an agreement with the Long Beach Board of Education for a Permanent Substitute contract settlement. The next step is to prepare the new contract for printing. We are in the process of discussing how and when the business office will flip the switch for the new rates and when retro will be paid.

### C. New Member Committee – Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka

1. Enjoy the Winter Recess! Please read the upcoming minutes for an announcement of the date of the Spring New Member/Buddy/Mentor gathering. We will be announcing a date shortly.
2. 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. Don't be afraid to ask questions. There are many people here who will help you.

### D. Political Action Committee – Jennifer Garrett

1. We are in the planning stages for the next edition of the LBCTA Newsletter. Again, if you have any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions for content for the next newsletter please email [LBCTAPAC@gmail.com](mailto:LBCTAPAC@gmail.com). All suggestions are greatly appreciated! Thank you to those that have already emailed with suggestions.

### E. Public Relations – Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Save the date for the LBCTA 5th Annual Bowling Fundraiser event at Maple Lanes RVC on Thursday, April 7th, 4-6 pm. Once you form your team, you can register online by clicking on this [link](#). Each team can have up to six members. The cost will be \$40 per bowler. There will be food, drinks, and raffles at the event. Registration will close on March 18<sup>th</sup>.  
All proceeds will go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. St. Jude is leading the way the world understands, treats, and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. The mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment.
2. We are so excited to partner up again with students from our new LBHS Varsity Girls Flag Football team. All money raised will be donated to St. Jude. More information on the event will be available this spring.
3. Under the guidance of Denise Collins, West Elementary submitted 45 pieces of artwork for the NYS Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Art and Essay Exhibit. To view the entire 2022 exhibition, including the outstanding artwork from West students, click the link below: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nysogs/collections/72157720317163362/>
4. Congratulations to our Athletic Director, Arnie Epstein, who was named NYSAA Athletic Director of the Year for Section VIII (which includes all of Nassau County). Thank you, Arnie, for your dedication to our faculty and students!
5. Save the date for the LBHS Musical Production of *The Adams Family*. The show will be held on March 10-12 at 7pm at LBHS.
6. Congratulations to Rachel Koegel and our Talented Writers. 15 students earned 24 Scholastic Writing Awards.
7. Congratulations to Lynn Volosevich and the Boys Swim Team. County Championships were a huge success, finishing up with 8 State Qualifiers, 9 top 10 finishes and a County Champion.



8. NYSUT has posted some certification webinars. Please see the list below and click on the link to register: <https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/certification/webinars>
  - a. **CTE Certification Guidance**  
Thursday, February 17th from 4:30 to 5:30 pm This webinar walks participants through the certification options for Career & Technical Education (CTE) teachers, from entry level certificates (Transitional A or Initial) to the Professional certificate. Requirements for each type of certificate will be discussed, as well as answers to the most frequently asked questions about CTE certification.
  - b. **Students with Disabilities (Special Education) Certification Guidance**  
Wednesday, March 2nd from 4:30 to 5:30 pm This webinar will explain the certificate options available to Students with Disabilities (Special Education) teachers or those considering special education.
  - c. **Certification Guidance Related to Expiring Certificates and Changing Assignments**  
Thursday, March 3rd from 4:30 to 5:30 pm This webinar explores available options if a certificate is about to expire and useful information to know if you are considering obtaining an additional certificate to change teaching roles.
9. Please continue to share with us all the wonderful things occurring in our district.

**F. Social Committee – Elleen Parks**

1. I'm thrilled to inform our members that this year's celebration of the 2021-22 school year will take place on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at The Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach. Please Save the Date! We are hoping to have many members celebrate this challenging year and honor our 2022 retirees. Please look for the party flyer when we return from vacation.
2. Have a restful winter break!

**G. Teacher Center – John Marr**

1. The LBTC wants to remind teachers that we have suspended the \$40 class fee on all new classes until July 1.
2. If you are interested in teaching a class, please contact the director at [lbtcc@lbeach.org](mailto:lbtcc@lbeach.org).
3. Please note that the Policy Board has cancelled the March meeting as it conflicted with the Spring Symposium, so all new classes should be proposed with a start date of the end of April or May.

**III. Vice President – Karen Bloom**

- A.** Huge congratulations to Arnie Epstein on receiving the NYSPHS Athletic director of the year! We are so lucky to have such a dedicated athletic director!

**B. APPR**

1. You should have received a document stating who your evaluators will be for this school year. If you did not, please contact your immediate supervisor and let them know.
2. Please take an active role in the observation process. Keep in mind that the Danielson Framework that we use is based on best practice and observable measures. You should not see opinions from your evaluation team. Be sure to address issues in your post observation conferences.
3. Our APPR handbook is on our website. You can find all timelines, conversion charts and percentages here.
4. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

**C. Health & Safety Committee**

1. Thank you to everyone for following all regulations and doing our best to keep students and staff safe through this time. We look forward to things moving in a better direction as the spring approaches!
2. We are still waiting for ID's to be given at the HS; materials have been ordered and hopefully they will arrive soon!

3. There have been a few mold and air quality related issues at East School lately. Thank you to Mr. DeVito for attempting to resolve these issues as quickly as possible. We hope that the testing comes back better this time. In addition, we are hoping that some of the underlying issues that are causing many of the problems will be dealt with. We are looking forward to hearing more answers and solutions to the problems occurring there. In addition, we would like to make sure that these areas are monitored closely until we can get a better handle on how this will be addressed more permanently.
4. The temperature issues continue to be a problem, especially at the HS, MS and East. We are hoping to sit down and discuss some specific rooms so that we can try to figure out why the system is not recognizing these problem areas. It has been explained that the thermostats appear to be working, when you look at the sensors and temperatures, However, the readings in the rooms are extreme at times, and do not trigger the proper response. It is very frustrating and difficult to dress accordingly, for both students and staff, as the same room can be extremely cold or hot. This is distracting for all parties involved, and sometimes makes teaching and learning very difficult. We are still wondering why all rooms do not have a working thermostat and hope that can be addressed.
5. Mr. DeVito presented a third 2022-23 capital plan option, which has roughly the same cost as option #2 and includes a new item at LBHS. The details of this plan are posted on the LB website and will be discussed at the next Health & Safety Meeting.
6. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7th, however we asked if the district was willing to change it for us since it is our Bowling Fundraiser. Although they said yes, we are still awaiting a new date. It will include a discussion of Safe Passageways at the HS as well as an update on Capital Projects.
7. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at [kbloom@lbeach.org](mailto:kbloom@lbeach.org).

#### **D. Other**

1. Please try to have a wonderful, restful and peaceful break with your family and friends!
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](http://www.lbcta.com).

#### **IV. Elementary Vice President – Beth Prostick**

1. We will have an Elementary Council meeting on March 7 at 4:15. It will be held in room 26 at Lido.
2. Mark your calendars for our Bowling Event on April 7. Click [here](#) to register your team.
3. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
4. Have a very relaxing winter break.
5. Send me any issues that you were unable to work out at your building.
6. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at [bprostick@lbeach.org](mailto:bprostick@lbeach.org).

#### **V. Secondary Vice President – Amy Leder**

- A. Congratulations to our Athletic Director, Arnie Epstein, who was named NYSAA Athletic Director of the Year for Section VIII (which includes all of Nassau County). Thank you, Arnie, for your dedication to our faculty and students!
- B. Please click on this [link](#) to read the Long Beach E-News - Winter which highlights the great work some of our committees are doing in the district. It's never too late to join a committee.
- C. Please continue to communicate with your building reps regarding any new, old, or current concerns in your building.

## VI. Treasurer's Report – James Fiola

### A. January's Financial Results

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Union Dues	\$40,675	NYSUT	\$16,429
Retiree Dues	63	AFT	10,280
Total	<u>\$40,738</u>	Meeting Expenses	8,829
		Taxes and Ins.	448
		Public Relations	756
		Professional Fees	<u>2,500</u>
		Total	<u>\$39,242</u>

- B.** Enjoy the Winter Recess. Please Save the Date: April 7<sup>th</sup> is the new date for the Bowling Event fundraiser. Click [here](#) to register your team.  
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. **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 2021/2022 for full-time members will remain at \$1,017.96. The break-out is \$397 local, \$378 NYSUT, \$234.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$101.80 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column "Dues-Teachers". 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.

**For tax purposes, the 2021 union dues are \$1,018.**

## VII. Building Report

### A. West School

1. Congratulations to Colleen Iaboni on the birth of her daughter, Olivia Rae.
2. Thank you to the PTA for providing the students with a BIG assembly to culminate our BIG program.
3. Thank you to all the special people who read to our classes in person or virtually as part of our World Read Aloud Day.
4. Please join us, or form a team, for our 4th Annual Bowling Fundraiser Thursday, April 7th, 2022. Click [here](#) to register your team.
5. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.

### B. Lindell School

1. Kindergarten students in Mrs. Pierson's class enjoyed an in person read aloud by Long Beach city Manager Ms. Gayden.
2. Thank you Mr. Romanelli for visiting and celebrating Lindell readers.
3. Lindell students learned about internet safety with the help of the PTA and Katie Schumacher, Don't Hit Send.
4. Congratulations to the Lindell students who won the MLK poster and essay contests. You all make us proud!
5. Many thanks to Mrs. Rundo and the Theater Enrichment program for bringing theater back to life at Lindell. The students' families enjoyed coming in for the after school performance.
6. Mrs. Lonergan and the Lindell Cares Committee have been meeting and are ready to support and help ease the burden of these hard times for some of our families.
7. Lindell's SEL Families met on World Read Aloud Day on 2/2/22 and shared books that represent kindness. The theme of the day was "Sprinkle Kindness Like Confetti." The messages now fill the hallways.
8. Save the date for our annual Bowling Fundraiser! April 7, 2022! Click [here](#) to register your team.

9. Welcome back to RoseAnn Pinto, Crysti Busching, and Danielle Goggin.
10. Congratulations to Crysti Busching on her recent marriage to Dan Cardineau.
11. Please consider donating to the sick bank.

#### **C. East School**

1. Condolences to Jeanine Sofield on the loss of her father.
2. Our students enjoyed their 100th day of school celebration and activities. Thank you to our fabulous first grade teachers for their hard work!
3. Thank you to the PTA for running the Heart Gram fundraiser.
4. During East School's Great Kindness Challenge, students and staff enjoyed the fun and meaningful daily challenges and spirit attire during our SEL-cebration week. Thanks to Kelly McNamara for putting it together.
5. Inconsistencies in classroom temperatures have been noted.
6. Thank you to the Administration at both the building and district level for their attention to the mold issue. Measures are being taken to remediate the situation and get to the root cause. We look forward to the resolution.
7. We hope you can join us on April 7th at the RVC Lanes for our annual LBCTA fundraiser. Click [here](#) to register your team.
8. Please consider donating a day to our LBCTA sick bank.
9. Wishing everyone a relaxing and enjoyable winter recess.

#### **D. Lido School**

1. The students enjoyed literacy activities during World Read Aloud Day on February 2nd.
2. Students participated in games, activities, and a lunch dance party on Friday, February 4th for Global Play Day. Everyone had a great time.
3. P.S. I Love You Day was celebrated on February 11th with a focus on kindness and anti-bullying activities.
4. Save the date for our Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, April 7th, 2022. Click [here](#) to register your team.
5. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
6. Wishing all a safe, healthy, and relaxing Winter Recess.

#### **E. Pre-K**

1. Our Pre-K students really enjoyed the school wide activities for Read Aloud Day, Global Play Day, PS I Love You day and Kindness week.
2. Thank you to Mrs. Lynch for coordinating the PS I Love You day shirts for the staff.
3. Our students also enjoyed a visit from LICM to kick off our museum unit.
4. Pre-K in person visitation was successful, thank you to all involved!
5. Thank you to the Pre-K PTA for the book donations for our classrooms!
6. Have a restful and enjoyable February vacation!
7. Save the date for our LBCTA bowling event, 4/7/22. Click [here](#) to register your team.
8. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

#### **F. Middle School**

1. Problems with the heat are ongoing and even worsening in some areas of the building. Many rooms have intermittent or little heat. Classes need to be relocated due to lack of heat in some rooms. We hope this is resolved in a timely fashion.
2. We are concerned with the lack of supervision in the back hall of the building after school. We appreciated the addition of a security guard at the back door until 3:30 although this post seems to have been changed. We look forward to a prompt return of a security guard after school at the back of the building.
3. Special shout out to Mrs. Espinet, Mr. Gallopini, Mr. Myles, and Mrs. Nurse for the Black History Month video series shown during morning announcements. The videos have certainly been enjoyed by all! Thank you!

4. As per ARTICLE VIII, section 4, parts A and B of the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association Constitution and By-Laws, I am appointing Natasha Nurse as a Building Representative Alternate for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year to fill a vacancy in the Middle School.
5. Welcome back to Kate Smith.
6. Save the date for our Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, April 7th, 2022. Make sure to get your teams in! Click [here](#) to register your team.
7. 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.
8. Have an enjoyable, relaxing winter recess!

#### **G. High School**

1. Congratulations to Bill Gibson, Christine Fowler, and Annette King on the announcement of their upcoming retirement!
2. Congratulations to all of those involved in the Beauty & the Beast event at the HS. This event raised over \$6,900 for pediatric cancer research.
3. Congratulations to Arnie Epstein for being named NYSAA Athletic Director of the Year for Section VIII.
4. Congratulations to Christine Graham for becoming a National Board Certified Teacher.
5. Staff is seriously concerned with the lockdown malfunction issues going on in the building. Mr. Myers has advised us that he is just as concerned as we are and he is currently working on this.
6. Staff would like to see the bathroom data sheets utilized and frequent flyers addressed.
7. Temperatures of classrooms vary greatly throughout the building and are still a concern.
8. Thank you to Dr. Kiley-Rendon for creating an opt-in Tech Tip email group for those who would like to be a little more knowledgeable about the technology we are using.
9. Thank you to Dr. Radice for organizing the HS Book fair.
10. Thank you to the student government on a successful blood drive.
11. Thank you to the buildings & grounds staff for removing all of the snow from the recent snow storms.
12. Staff would like to see the District and Building Administration move towards requiring students to wear their ID cards throughout the building so that security and staff can properly identify if an individual belongs in the building.
13. Save the date for the Annual LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser at the RVC lanes on April 7. Click [here](#) to register your team.
14. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.
15. Have a wonderful, restful and safe winter recess!

At 5:45pm, a motion was made by Jonathan Bloom to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jennifer Garrett.



**In Attendance:**

**West:** Claudine Clark, Julie de Bruin, Anne LaPenna

**Lindell:** Susan Simons, Cathy Barone, Heather Puckhaber

**East:** Jennifer Diamond, Doug MacConnell, Jennifer Maggio

**Lido:** Dorothy Lopez, Dana Monti, Lori Parenti

**Pre-K:** Molly Drake

**LBMS:** Jennifer Garrett, Alison Katulka, John Marr, Stacey Mason

**LBHS:** Lisa Casey, Anthony Balsamo, Jonathan Bloom, Camila Gamboa, Matthew Hartmann,  
Greg Milone

**Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC):** John Marr

**Retiree:** Frank Volpe

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

**Guests:** Natasha Nurse

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

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Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org). There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics.

Member Benefits also endorses several discounted shopping programs that can help you save on both everyday and more expensive purchases. Finally, if you ever have an issue or problem when using a Member Benefits program, our staff take great pride in their ability to quickly assist members with any concerns that may arise.

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Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,  
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For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

Jan/Feb 2022