



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

October 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:17pm by Keith Harvey.

## I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

### A. Executive Meeting Dates

11/8/21, 11/22/21, 12/13/21, 1/10/22, 1/24/22, 2/14/22, 3/14/22, 3/28/22, 4/11/22, 5/9/22, 5/23/22, 6/13/22

### B. How to Re-Register Your Teaching Certification-NYSED

Every five years educators must register their Professional and Permanent Certification on the NYS TEACH system. This process started five years ago so the time has come for many to re-register. Re-registration will be available within six months of the end of your current registration period. Dr. Marr from the LBCTC has created a How To to help you with this process: [Click here](#).

Please remember it is your professional responsibility to maintain your certification.

### C. Release Time for Vaccine Shots and Boosters Shots

Under this new law, employees will be granted up to four hours of excused leave per injection that will not be charged against their sick bank. This can be used for the initial and booster shots. COVID Vaccine is an option on the AESPO dropdown menu and there is a form in your main office to complete.

### D. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

LBCTA membership has generated support, awareness, and tens of thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society's, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in the recent years. A very special thank you to the PR committee lead by Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for organizing all this year's events. Please see the PR Committee report for this year's totals. If you would still like to make a donation, please use the following link. Team LBCTA 11561- [Donation Link](#)

### E. Long Beach PTA

Once again, I am proud to announce the LBCTA has 100% teacher participation in the LBPTA. While all our teachers are members it is also important that we actively participate in the PTA. It is extremely important that the CTA and PTA have an open and working relationship. On behalf of the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association, I want to thank the PTA for all they do to help support and advance the quality of education in the Long Beach Public Schools.



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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## **F. School Board Recognition Week**

In honor of School Board Recognition Week (10/18-10/22) I would like to say thank you to the past and present Long Beach Board of Education members for the countless hours they have volunteered to help formulate goals consistent with the needs of children. The CTA looks forward to recognizing our school board members at the 10/26 meeting.

## **G. District Committees**

The Association and its members look forward to working with Dr. Gallagher and our Administration to establish goals and to help meet the needs of our students. It is important that our voices are heard on these committees. Please consider joining one. The committees for this year are Equity, Curriculum and Technology, RTI/AIS, PDP and SCD, Mental Health & Wellness, Health and Safety. All meetings will be held virtually this year via Zoom.

## **H. FLEX Spending**

If you wish to participate, you need to complete and submit the forms by November 12th. Just as a reminder, for the 2022 year, you may incur expenses for an additional 2 ½ months and have 90 days to submit your claims. Please keep this in mind as you complete the application as this is a “use it or lose it” plan. Please reference Dr. Natali’s email from 10/12/21 for additional information regarding the benefit debt card and retirement options.

## **I. Study Money Dates**

Those who applied were approved for Fall Study Money on the October 12th Board of Education agenda. There are two more opportunities to participate in the Study Program: Winter – December 10, 2021, 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](#).

## **J. Annual Turn-In of Sick Days**

If you have accumulated at least 75 sick days and wish to exercise your option of selling back unused sick days earned this year (up to 12 or 14 if you worked at Summer School) you must submit a “[Request for Payment in Exchange for Accumulated Unused Sick Days](#)” form to the HR Department. The teacher must not have been absent more than 6 days during the school year for which he/she shall claim eligibility for this payment.

## **K. Summer School Sick Days**

You should have seen the addition of your sick days in your 10/1/21 pay stub.

## **L. Coaching Pay Dates**

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

### **1. High School**

Fall: First Check: 10/1, Second Check: 10/29

Winter: First Check: 12/23, Second Check: 2/18

Spring: First Check: 4/12, Second Check: 5/13

### **2. Middle School**

Fall: First Check: 10/1, Second Check: 10/29

Winter I: First Check: 12/10, Second Check: 1/21

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

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

## **M. NYSUT Pocket Calendars**

If you would like a 2021-22 NYSUT pocket calendar, please contact one of your Building Reps.

## **N. SED Extends COVID 19 Certification Deadline**

The Board of Regents voted to extend the application deadline for the COVID 19 Certification. This special certification helps candidates who were unable to complete the required exams because of the pandemic. The certification is good for two years.

## 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

I am pleased to announce that the new contract agreement has been fully approved. Below is the timeline of events for approval.

- a. **Meeting of the Executive Board-** Monday, September 27- Approved
  - b. **General Membership Special Meeting-** Tuesday, September 28, at 4:00PM- Approved
  - c. **School Board Meeting/Approval-** Tuesday, October 12- Approved
- 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. At this point it looks like this may happen in early December.

### 2. Permanent Substitute Contract

An email was sent to all permanent substitutes on October 7 requesting proposals for the upcoming negotiations. If you are a permanent substitute and have not completed the form please do so prior to 10/29/21.

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

1. We hope that everyone is off to a great start. Welcome to the teachers brand new to Long Beach. For the returning new member teachers, if you had a mentor, he/she will now become your union buddy as you are guided toward tenure. We have a few new members who need buddies, so please be patient with us in assigning you a Buddy. If you have already worked with someone who you would like to be your buddy, please let Alison or me know. 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).
2. Please come to the **Fall New Member/Mentor party** this Friday **October 29<sup>th</sup> at EGP in Island Park. We hope to see you there!**
3. Don't be afraid to ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you.

### D. Political Action Committee – Jennifer Garrett

1. Our first LBCTA newsletter will be distributed this week! Thank you to The New Member Committee and everyone that helped to make this possible. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future issues please share them to [LBCTAPAC@gmail.com](mailto:LBCTAPAC@gmail.com)
2. It is important that PAC has a way to contact members to disseminate information in a timely fashion. Please email [LBCTAPAC@gmail.com](mailto:LBCTAPAC@gmail.com) with an **active** personal email address so the contact list can be updated.

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

1. The outpouring of love and support we have received from our union members, community members, family, and friends towards raising money for breast cancer has been incredible. The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at Jones Beach was a truly special and memorable day. To date, Team LBCTA 11561 has raised over \$6700. Thank you to everyone who donated, bought a shirt, wore pink, and/or walked with us. Your commitment and dedication to this cause has been truly heartwarming. It means the world to us!
2. We are so excited to share with you an amazing event that has been created and organized by some of our incredible students, Isabella Silvestri, Hailey Barshak and Daniella Isaacs. To help raise money towards the LBCTA Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Fundraiser, LBHS will be hosting a Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Out Football Game. Please come and show your support by attending the LBHS Varsity Football Game against Sewanhaka HS at **2:00 pm on October 30<sup>th</sup>**. T-shirts will be sold at the game for \$15 each. There will also be raffle baskets to choose



from at the game. The winners will be picked at half time. Come cheer on our Football Team and Cheerleaders who will be decked out in their pink attire.

All proceeds will be donated to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Click [here](#) for the flyer. A special thank you to Arnie Epstein for coordinating this event with the student and teachers.

3. Save the date for our annual Bowling Fundraiser! Thursday, February 10, 2022!

#### **F. Teacher Center – John Marr**

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center is currently seeking instructors to run 11 PD classes to begin in November. Based on the needs assessment given last year, teachers are interested in the following topics:

Differentiating Instruction, Creative Problem Solving in the Classroom  
Google Workspace, Digital Teaching tools, Conflict Resolution skills for students  
Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Developing student communication skills  
Mindfulness, Project Based Learning

2. Please contact the director at [lbtcc@lbeach.org](mailto:lbtcc@lbeach.org) or fill out a proposal sheet on [Frontline Professional Growth](#), formerly My Learning Plan, if you would like to run a class on one of these topics or something else. The center currently offers an \$800 stipend for a 10-hour class.

#### **III. Vice President – Karen Bloom**

A. We would like to thank the School Board and the Central Administration for working with us to settle a contract as quickly as possible. We look forward to working together throughout the school year.

#### **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**

We met on 10/7 for our first Health & Safety Meeting. The following items were discussed.

1. **Updated COVID-19 Protocols:** There are contact tracing charts that were provided by Dr. Gallagher, which were sent to all principals in September. If you have not received one and would like a copy, please ask your building principal. At the secondary level, there will be school-wide notifications of positive cases while at the elementary, the class will be notified.
2. **Avoiding Workers Compensation:** Everyone was asked to please remind all staff to practice safety at all times and to be sure that all necessary trainings are being offered and completed. Please remember to put work orders in to get furniture moved rather than trying to do it yourself. In addition, there was a discussion on the safety of playgrounds. There needs to be a clear distinction between the obstacle courses and the playground areas as there are different safety rules for each.
3. **Student IDs High School:** There was a discussion about students visibly wearing IDs as well as to have options to use the IDs for swiping in, for safety reasons. It was decided that the HS should make it a priority to get IDs for all students as quickly as possible. It was also discussed that our current swipers do not integrate with SchoolTool. Mr. DeVito suggested that the HS admin look for some that are compatible so that we can discuss a possible upgrade or switch. In addition, there was a discussion about whether or not IDs were necessary at

lower grades. All the principals agreed that it was not necessary for Elementary and MS.

4. **Update on Traffic Work:** They are about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way through the project and are moving towards phase 3 in mid-November. There will be all new sidewalks, traffic patterns and crosswalks with clear signage to direct both people and cars on how to safely enter and exit the property. At the HS as well as the Lido Complex, safe passage maps are being made and will need to be communicated to all parties. Mr. DeVito will work with the principals to come up with the maps and plans that will display the safest way in and out.
5. **Update on Pond Work:** A construction fence has been put up to keep both staff and students from entering the area. Although they originally had access, they decided that it was not safe to have anyone in or around the work zone, since it was too big of a liability. We are hoping that this is completed as quickly as possible. We have many classes that rely on the pond for their coursework. They are also bringing in permeable pavers to go around the pond as well as replacing the basketball courts. They are hoping for a mid-November completion but are still waiting on equipment to be delivered.
6. **Air Testing:** As far as testing goes, unless there is construction or a particular problem or complaint, testing is not done on a regular basis. However, all filters throughout the district have been replaced with MRV 13s, so we should be in good shape in most areas. Buildings & Grounds will stay on top of the fluctuating temperatures and will try to adjust accordingly. Since we need a constant supply of fresh air coming in, the air is often correlated with the conditions outside, which is why things can be extra hot or sticky some days, and cold on others. Please continue to inform your custodians of any issues that arise.
7. **Utility Poles and Street Crossing Times:** There was a discussion about adding time to the crossing on the corners where students are to allow for enough time to safely cross. Mr. DeVito explained that they are already in contact with the utility company to address some of the low wires in Lido that the buses will now have to cross under with the new traffic patterns. He will add this request when meeting with them.
8. 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. A big thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for helping to raise over \$6700 for Making Strides this year!
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**

- A. Thank you to all who wore pink for our Pink Out Day! Your efforts helped us to add to our total for Making Strides.
- B. Huge shout out to everyone who made it to the Making Strides Walk on Sunday, October 17. It was a beautiful day to walk for a great cause.
- C. You can send me any issues that you were unable to work out at your building.
- D. 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. Please continue to communicate with your building reps about new and old items that are a concern to you. We encourage you to also keep the lines of communication open with administration about any personal issues and/or items you feel comfortable discussing with them.

**VI. Treasurer’s Report – James Fiola**

**A. September’s Financial Results**

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Union Dues	\$38,620	NYSUT	\$15,196
Making Stride Shirts	1,475	AFT	9,447
Retiree Dues	234	Officer & Rep Stipends	24,930
NYSUT Logo	100	Taxes and Ins	7,495
Total	<u>\$40,429</u>	Total	<u>\$57,068</u>

**B.** Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank. I would encourage you to attend a few School Board meetings during the year. Your presence is always noted. Thank you to all that donated to or walked in the Making Strides Walk at Jones Beach on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for their leadership efforts of this event. Save the date for our Bowling fundraiser event on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**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. 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 Report**

**A. West School**

1. A special thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for all their work in organizing the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign.” Thank you to everyone who walked, donated, wore pink or participated in the fundraising and awareness events. Your efforts and generosity toward the search for a cure are greatly appreciated.
2. Our LBCTA Fall Buddy Party will be on Friday, October 29th at EGP Land and Sea in Island Park from 4:00-6:00 pm. All new members and “buddies” are encouraged to attend!
3. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Bank.

**B. Lindell School**

1. Congratulations to Debra Tai on her son Ryan’s marriage.
2. Congratulations to Terriann Eidt on her marriage to Ed Ryan.
3. Thank you, Lindell PTA, for providing refreshments after a successful Lindell Walk It Forward event. Students focused on acts of kindness and learned about paying a good deed forward.
4. Our annual, “Wear Pink Day” was a hit and much gratitude to all the faculty that donated to the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser.
5. Our kindergarteners and first graders had an amazing experience learning about fire safety from our very own Long Beach Fire Fighters. We thank the LBFD for visiting Lindell.

**C. East School**

1. Thank you to everyone for their generosity shown for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Fundraiser. East raised \$555.
2. We would like to wish Jeanne Radin-Forkin congratulations and good luck on her new position with the Transportation Department.
3. Welcome to Danielle DeStefano as she joins the main office team.
4. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

**D. Lido School**

1. Students are excited to be participating in Red Ribbon Week activities encouraging making healthy, positive life choices.
2. Thank you to our Lido PTA for hosting a successful Color Run. Fun was had by all who participated!
3. Thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for organizing the Making Strides Against Breast

Cancer Walk at Jones Beach. Many thanks to those members who participated through donations, wearing pink, contributing to our ongoing fundraising efforts, or walking. We appreciate your continued support for such a worthy cause.

4. Thank you to the Negotiations Team of the LBCTA for your tireless efforts in working with the School Board towards the adoption of our new contract.
5. Thank you to Mr. Epstein for the yoga mats. The kids are so excited to use them.
6. Students in K-5 participated in an informative Health and Wellness Virtual Fair sponsored by Northwell.
7. Please join us October 29th for our Fall Buddy Gathering at EGP Island Park for new members and their buddies.
8. Save the date for our Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, February 10th, 2022.
9. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
10. As per Article VIII, Section 4, Parts A and B of the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association Constitution and By-Laws, I am appointing Lori Parenti as a Building Representative for the 2021-2022 school year to fill a vacancy at Lido School.

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

1. Welcome back to Megan Lyons and congratulations on the birth of her son, Brooks!
2. Thank you to all who donated, bought 50/50 raffle tickets, wore pink, and walked to support LBCTA's Breast Cancer walk. A special thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for organizing the wonderful event! Your support is greatly appreciated!
3. Thank you to the Lido Fire Department for the tour of their fire house. Our first field trip was a big success!
4. Thank you to the Pre-K PTA for the pumpkins and decorations for our Fall Festival craft.
5. Thanks to Ms. Golden for a fun filled Red Ribbon Week! Our students are looking forward to the theme of each day.
6. Thank you to Mr. Epstein for the yoga mats. We look forward to using them!
7. We are still experiencing transportation delays, especially in the morning. Some of the buses are arriving much later than others.

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

1. Our 6th grade students and chaperones were able to return to Frost Valley! The trip was a tremendous success. Many thanks to Patty Van Loon, Mike Vasikauskas and Keith Biesma for all the hard work and dedication they put into planning this great trip and a special thanks to all the chaperones that made the trip possible.
2. Congratulations to Mrs. Espinet and her 6th grade Learning Lab students on their Flocabulary video win!
3. Welcome to Devin Thelemann (Math) and Laura Napolitano (Special Ed). We look forward to working with you.
4. Congratulations to Faithe Ferrante and Parker Ramsey on their recent engagement.
5. Congratulations to Dayna Obidienzo on her recent marriage to Chris Griffin.
6. Congratulations to Melissa Megias on the birth of her son, Augustus Joseph.
7. A special thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for all their organizing and fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign. Thank you to everyone who walked, donated, wore pink or participated in the many fundraising and awareness events. Your efforts and generosity toward the search for a cure are greatly appreciated.
8. Please join us October 29th for our Fall Buddy Party at EGP Land & Sea from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm. All new members and buddies are welcome to attend!

## **G. High School**

1. Thank you to Amy Leder, Beth Prostick, The LBCTA Public Relations Committee, and all staff who supported the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser.
2. Thank you to Dr. Morand, Mr. Bragino, and all the club advisors, coaches, and students for hosting a wonderful pep rally and Homecoming Carnival.
3. Congratulations to Laina Beale on the birth of her daughter, Mia Grace.
4. Thank you to LBCTA Negotiating team and the Long Beach School Board for all of their hard work and for the recent settlement of our teacher contract.
5. Thank you to the LBHS Sunshine committee for organizing our recent Sunshine Gathering.
6. The holidays are approaching and Mrs. Hartmann could use some help - so please consider donating to the food/clothing pantry in the H.S., particularly sweatpants, sweatshirts, and boxed food (especially rice and instant oatmeal).
7. Thank you, Mr. Myers, the School Board, and Central Administration for ordering new student ID cards. We are looking forward to their arrival and distribution.
8. HS Staff is concerned about the impact of the district's decision to eliminate the midterm exam week in January. This week was instrumental in allowing for the students to have longer exams that served as valuable practice in preparing students for their Regents, AP, and IB Exams. It is impossible to provide these exams during the regular school day.
9. Thank you, Mr. Myers, for the added presence of security to the 9th grade wing, which helps to prevent students from hanging out in the hallways.
10. Please consider serving on a district committee.
11. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.
12. Please attend the LBCTA Buddy Party after school on Friday October 29th at EGP in Island Park.

At 5:47pm, a motion was made by Jonathan Bloom to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Camila Gamboa.

### **In Attendance:**

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

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

**East:** Jennifer Diamond, Doug MacConnell

**Lido:** Dorothy Lopez

**Pre-K:** Molly Drake

**LBMS:** Jennifer Garrett, Stacey Mason

**LBHS:** Jonathan Bloom, Camila Gamboa, Matthew Hartmann, Greg Milone, Andrew Rossi

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

**Retiree:** Frank Volpe

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.



**BREAST CANCER  
AWARENESS  
PINKOUT FOOTBALL  
GAME**



**2 PM ON OCTOBER  
30TH @ LBMS**

**\*t shirts will be for sale at  
and prior to the game**

Check out what your union membership has to offer!

## Member Benefits Discounts & Deals

Below are the most popular vendors that NYSUT members have shopped with using MB Discounts & Deals this past year -- with a potential savings of almost \$900,000! Have you been missing out?

### EAT

HelloFresh

Burger King

Subway

Domino's

Jersey Mike's Subs

### PLAY

Six Flags Theme Parks

Hersheypark

Sky Zone Trampoline Park

Bronx Zoo

LEGOLAND New York

### SHOP

Samsung

Apple

Dell

Lenovo

Advanced Auto Parts

### TRAVEL

TripBeat

Great Wolf Lodge

Carnival Cruise Lines

Sandals Resorts

Norwegian Cruise Lines

MB Discounts & Deals offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurants, groceries and food delivery, theme park tickets, hotels and flights, oil changes and vehicle maintenance -- with more than 21,000 New York State deals and thousands more nationwide.

You can even refer your favorite local business (restaurant, coffee shop, workout facility, etc.) to join the network and provide NYSUT members with a special discount. Don't miss out... register your account today!

Member Benefits is proud to endorse MB Discounts & Deals along with dozens of other programs and services that may be able to benefit you and your family members. Take some time to explore our website to find out how we can help you make every dollar count!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,  
visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)  
or calling 800-626-8101.

