



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

March 14, 2016

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

## I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

### A. Executive Board Meeting Dates—MS Library

4/11/16, 5/9/16 & 6/6/16

### B. State of the Union Speech

Good afternoon sisters and brothers. I have had the privilege of being your president for the past nine months and today I have the opportunity to deliver my first state of the union. I know there are many people and special interest groups that have made it a goal to attack us and public education as a whole. That's why I want to say thank you to the Executive Board and our membership as a whole for all that you do to make Long Beach Public Schools a better place for our children and it's workers.



Many of the challenges we face locally come to us from the federal and state level. When I reflect on topics like APPR, State Testing, NYSHIP's Memo, Common Core and the Tax Cap it make me extremely proud to work in Long Beach and alongside all of you. It makes me proud because despite all of these challenges we still persevere and come up with creative solutions to ensure our students are receiving the highest quality education.

As an association it is extremely important that we contribute to our community to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. We see this when our elementary faculty returns in the evening to participate in events like M.U.S.T. Night, Bedtime and Books, Wild West Night, Family Fun Night, P.A.R.P. We see this when our middle school faculty volunteers for afterschool mentor programs. We see this when our high school faculty volunteers to assist in making events like Morning Madness possible. And we see this when our guidance counselors and nurses come in early and stay late to ensure the social, mental, and physical needs of our students are met.

What we do as an association is not just limited to the halls of academia. It's also the faculty lead fundraising that allows us to donate hundreds of presents and thousands of dollars to groups like Project Challenge, the MLK Center and the Circulo De La Hispanidad, St. Mary's Food Pantry, Sloan Kettering's Pediatric Cancer Center and hundreds of other organizations through our various "Denim for a Cause" events.

It is not only important that we participate in these activities but also that we come together to discuss and celebrate these acts of solidarity. It is the

Keith Harvey

*President*

Karen Bloom

*Executive Vice-President*

Amy Powers

*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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celebrating that allows us to unite during these volatile times to generate creative solutions to make these changes work for us and our students.

Unfortunately volunteering and donating will not solve all of our problems. There are still many concerns about the implementation of Common Core and the linkage of State Test scores to teacher's ratings. But through our hard work and lobbying we have seen changes this year with the delinking of teacher evaluations and test scores and the consolidation of the grade 3-8 tests. However these are only temporary fixes and that is why we once again endorsed the "I Refuse Resolution." I am pleased to announce that the LBCTA will be co-sponsoring a Community Education Forum to discuss these and other topics that are having a major impact on our educational community. The forum will take place on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00PM in the Island Park Library.

Another challenge we face is NYSHIP's over-reaching memo which created a policy that violates our contract. As you know the memo stated you could no longer receive payment, in lieu of an insurance policy, if your spouse also has NYSHIP. Please know that we are taking this seriously and we are in the process of filing charges against Civil Service and are prepared to file a grievance with the district if necessary. Please know that filing these charges may cause a delay with your "withdrawal" payment in June.

One of the biggest challenges we face is the Tax Cap. As you know the Tax Cap is 2% or the CPI, whichever is lower. Unfortunately this year the CPI is lower at approximately .12%. This means the district only has the ability to increase their operational budget by just under \$200,000. This is having a major impact on negotiations and is making it difficult to project the financial stability of the district. Luckily the district has healthy reserve funds and areas of revenue which gives them the ability to settle an equitable agreement, but this does not mean they have the willingness to settle an equitable agreement. In essence, that is what negotiations is, showing the district they have the capacity to pay and then convincing them to have the willingness. That is our challenge as a negotiation team and an organization, transferring the district's capacity to pay and making it a willingness to pay. To that extent, your negotiation team has been meeting regularly to evaluate the current proposals while trying to build a culture of trust in negotiations. We have also asked you to participate in two Board meetings in an act of solidarity to show the board that we are unified as a group. I believe with the continued dedication to our students, countless contributions to the community, the work of your negotiation team and our solidarity we will be able to shift the district's ability to willingness.

It has been pleasure serving you these first nine months and I look forward to continuing to work for you in the future.

### **C. Summer Study Money**

Applications to participate in the Summer 2016 Study Money program must be received by the HR department by May 13<sup>th</sup>. Members with permanent or professional certification may apply for up to \$1,750 in study money per semester. [Request for Participation in Study Program - Group A.](#)

### **D. Coaching Pay Dates**

#### High School

Spring: First check: 4/15/16

Spring: Second check: 5/13/16

#### Middle School

Winter II: Second check: 3/18/16

Spring: First check: 4/29/16

Spring: Second check: 5/27/16

### **E. Federal Tax Deduction for Teachers**

Teachers who use their own funds to purchase school books, supplies, computer equipment or other materials for their classrooms can deduct up to \$250 (\$500 if married filing joint and both spouses are educators, but not more than \$250 each) from their adjusted gross incomes when filing their 2015 Federal tax return. You do not have to itemize in order to receive this deduction.

## F. Credit Swap

Jackie Kupferman - 1.5 credits from LIU Post  
Heather Puckhaber - 1 credit Molloy College  
Dana Monti - 1.5 credits for Hofstra

Patty Van Loon - 1.5 credits for LIU  
Migdalia Schneider - 1 credit Molloy College

## 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

Our next negotiations meeting is April 5. It was stated to me that the School Board requested a two month break from negotiations so they could reevaluate the current proposals. It is my hope that in their reevaluation they will find a way to honor their dedicated employees.

### C. New Members—Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka

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.

We will also be attending the mentor meetings to speak to the new members about various issues. The next meeting is at 4 pm on March 22nd in the East School library. **The Spring New Member/ Buddy (Mentor) gathering will be Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Ale House in Point Lookout.** We hope to see all of you there! I hope you are enjoying your career here at Long Beach. Please do not be afraid to ask for help if you need it. We (and many others) are here for you.

### D. Political Action Committee—Beth Prostick

1. The Political Action meeting was held on Wed., March 9. After discussing the need for a social media connection to the members, we decided we will open up a private Facebook page for informational purposes. Hopefully, it will be up and running soon.
2. We will begin the interview process for the upcoming School Board election on March 21<sup>st</sup>. We will hold another interview if the need arises.
3. Please use the list of names I handed out to gather the personal emails from the teachers in your building so they can be added to our email list.
4. You will soon receive an email with a link to a Google form to place your LBCTA sweatshirt order.
5. Please contact me at [bprostick@gmail.com](mailto:bprostick@gmail.com) if you would like to join the committee.

### E. Public Relations

At our last meeting we discussed our upcoming spring ad in the LB Herald. We would like to participate in an event that will continue to raise money toward cancer research and/or Make A Wish Foundation. One idea is doing a paint night with our very own art teacher, Ali Katulka. I am in the process of looking into venues to host such an event. Any ideas or suggestions are always welcomed.

### F. Social Committee

The LBCTA End of the Year party, which honors our retirees, will take place on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. A planning meeting will take place Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at Lido at 4:30pm.

### G. Teacher Center

The Long Beach Teacher Center has been approved to be part of a \$10,000 NEA grant focused on helping ENLs in the classroom. An application to be part of this grant will be emailed to faculty in the next week or so. Training will take place Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8-1pm. A stipend will be provided. Please check the application when emailed for additional details. At this time, the center is looking for instructors for NEXT school year. If you are interested in running professional development, please contact us at [lbtc@lbeach.org](mailto:lbtc@lbeach.org).

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

#### A. APPR

1. We will be meeting on Thursday to continue our APPR negotiations. We are hoping to finalize our plan in the next few weeks.
2. All lead evaluators have been assigned and you should contact your immediate supervisor or building principal if you are not sure who your lead evaluator is.
3. If you have not yet received information about your SLO's and/or targets, please contact your immediate supervisor. If you have no director, you can speak to your building principal.
4. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

#### B. Health & Safety Committee

1. The next meeting scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. We have not yet received the new date. This is the second time the meeting was cancelled this year. We have only met once this year, back in October. I have expressed my concerns and I hope that the district will reschedule shortly. 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).

#### C. District Safety Team

1. The next meeting scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. We have not yet received the new date. This is the second time the meeting was cancelled this year. We have only met once this year, back in October. I have expressed my concerns and I hope that the district will reschedule shortly. If you have any 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 consider donating days to our District Sick Bank, as we have little to none left.  
[Sick Bank Donation Form](#)
2. Thank you to those members who were able to attend the Board Meeting last week. Our presence was noticed. Please continue to attend whenever possible.

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

- A. Thank you to all who attended the March 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.
- B. Elementary Council will meet on April 4<sup>th</sup>, in Lido Room L25 at 3:45pm.
- C. Please consider donating one or more sick days to your colleagues in need.
- D. If you have any questions I can be reached at [bprostick@gmail.com](mailto:bprostick@gmail.com).

### V. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report—Amy Powers

- A. Our next Secondary meeting will be Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> in the LBHS Guidance Suite at 3:45 pm.
- B. Sadly I do not have any new information on when a Site Based meeting will take place to discuss our safety concerns with the current HS traffic pattern. There was mention that the district hired an outside consultant to investigate the traffic pattern. I have been told this person came for one day to assess parking availability on Blackheath Road but the safety of the traffic pattern was not an item explored. Given that it was difficult for an ambulance to make its way onto Blackheath when needed a few weeks ago after an accident, we are surprised that the safety of our students was not addressed immediately.
- C. Thank you to everyone who came out to our last Board Meeting. As always, please continue to attend future board meetings. Let's use the power of our 1 to 1 to remind all members the importance of getting out to vote this May!
- D. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank. We currently have a member in need of days.
- E. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at [amylo609@aol.com](mailto:amylo609@aol.com).

## VI. Treasurer's Report—Jim Fiola

### A. February's Results

<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	
NYSUT	\$13,230	Union Dues	\$36,580
AFT	8,010		<hr/>
Taxes and Ins.	438	Total	\$36,580
Meeting Expenses	455		
Donations	150		
Phone	115		
Professional Fees	1,900		
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Total	\$24,298		

B. Enjoy the upcoming Easter Recess. Thank you to all who attended the March 10<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting. Also please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank. [Sick Bank Donation Form](#)

**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).**

Union dues for 2015/2016 for full-time members will be \$985.36. The break-out is \$384 local, \$368 NYSUT, \$225.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$98.54 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column "MDED-03." We are determined to keep your dues as low as possible while still meeting our local obligations and making charitable contributions to the Long Beach community.

**The union dues for 2015 tax purposes were \$967.04**

## VII. Building Reports

### A. West School

1. Supermarket Bonanza evening fundraising event was sold out! Thank you to the West School PTA for this great success. This was truly a community event as many local businesses, parents, and staff donated generously to fill the prize baskets.
2. Leaping Lizards game night was designed to encourage our students to put down the technology. Parents and students were encouraged to participate in games while stimulating social and communication skills.
3. Congratulations to our NYSSMA students!
4. Congratulations to the students who placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition.
5. The year-long Denim for Dollars fund raiser for West School families in need continues. Each staff member contributes \$2 to wear denim on Fridays.
6. The shortage of substitute teachers is of great concern. Academic services are cancelled to provide coverage for teacher absences.
7. We encourage all staff to continue to donate to our sick bank. [Sick Bank Donation Form](#)
8. Thank you to our colleagues who attended the March 10<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting as a show of support for our negotiating team!

## B. Lindell School

1. The lack of available substitute teachers is of great concern. Permanent substitute teachers would offer more consistency for our students.
2. Thank you to everyone who attended the March 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Your presence was appreciated.
3. Fun Fitness Day was a well-organized meaningful day which helped our students learn the value of a healthy lifestyle. Thank you to the Fun Fitness Committee.
4. The Book Fair provides an excellent resource that excites and engages our students in the joy of reading. Thank you to our PTA for providing this wonderful opportunity.
5. It is very distressing that multiple runs of report cards are necessary to correct the many computer program glitches. The system fails repeatedly. We hope that all glitches will be corrected before the next round of report cards are due. We also hope the new system, which will be in place next year, will be adequately vetted before we have to use it.
6. Congratulations to Jeanne Donohue on the birth of her granddaughter, Rosemary.

## C. East School

1. We would like to offer our condolences to our principal, Kathy Connolly, for the passing of her father in law, Arthur Connolly.
2. Thank you to our PTA for a fabulous book fair and for two weeks of outstanding PARP activities.
3. We continue to be concerned about the shortage of substitute teachers.

## D. Lido School

1. Thanks to Mary Doheny, Carolyn Ciccone, Lynda D'Alessio, and Theresa Taplin for creating a child centered interactive Lido Math Museum.
2. All students are enjoying their participation in PARP related activities.
3. Kudos to Lido PTA for a fun filled Pajama Night!
4. Kindergarten students and their parents enjoyed participating in the Books and Buddies event.
5. The lack of available substitute teachers is of great concern. Permanent substitute teachers would offer more consistency for our students.
6. To meet the social emotional needs of our students in Pre K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we would greatly benefit from having a full time psychologist and social worker at Lido. It is difficult to manage the demands of Pre K - 5<sup>th</sup> with the additional responsibility of the Pre K students.
7. Great appreciation to members who donated sick days to the LBCTA-District Sick Bank. Please consider donating if you haven't done so yet. [Sick Bank Donation Form](#)
8. Much appreciation to all members who attended the most recent board meeting.

## E. Pre-K

1. Thank you to our PTA for sponsoring a "Laugh-A-Lot" poetry assembly with Darren Sardelli.
2. Thank you to Cristine Zawatson for holding a family night and discussing "Bucket Filler".

## F. Middle School

1. Condolences to Barbara Vahey on the loss of her father.
2. Best wishes to Cristina Camacho for a speedy recovery.

3. We are pleased that the necessary repairs were made to our music department classrooms in a timely and efficient manner.
4. Mr. Romanelli has received a list of members without locking cabinets in their classrooms. He has informed us that a custodian will assess those classrooms and provide hasps or keys to locking cabinets.
5. Kudos to Julia Lang-Shapiro, Director of Media, Visual, and Performing Arts, Long Beach Art teachers and students for the impressive Art show at the Long Beach Public Library. Please stop by and look at the K-12 show of student artwork which will be up until March 31<sup>st</sup>.
6. Please consider joining one of our committees. Please check [www. lbcta.com](http://www.lbcta.com) for meeting times and locations.
7. Please make sure our PAC has your current **PERSONAL** email address. Email [bprostick@gmail.com](mailto:bprostick@gmail.com) or contact a union rep to add/update your contact information.
8. Thank you to President Harvey and our officers for encouraging our members to attend our most recent Board of Education meeting. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend.
9. Kudos to Bill Papetti on his successful Pi Day scavenger hunt.

### G. High School

1. Condolences to Annette King on the loss of her father.
2. Thank you to those staff members who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the March 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting. Please make efforts to join us at future meetings.
3. Congratulations to all staff, students and parents involved in the Morning Madness Fashion Show.
4. Congratulations to Rosemary Amorini and the math department on a successful Pi Day.
5. There is still great concern for the safety of students, staff and residents under the current traffic pattern. We believe that more than enough time has been provided for the issue to be studied at the site based committee.
6. Several science classrooms (Rooms 301, 335, 337) have been experiencing ceiling leaks. The leaks have been an ongoing issue and continue to leak in areas over student lab stations and classroom desks. We are hopeful that the roof of the building will be addressed.
7. We are hopeful that Administration will continue to upgrade the state and access to technology for students and staff.
8. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.

[Sick Bank Donation Form](#)

### VIII. New Business

A motion was made by Jonathan Bloom to support the Friends of Todd Kaminisky. It was seconded by Karen Bloom. The motion passed.

At 5:30pm, a motion was made by Cheryleann Fontenot to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jill Cherlin.

**In Attendance:**

West: Cheryleann Fontenot

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Migdalia Schneider

East: Barbara Lewy, Mary Jane Rochford

Lido: Cheryl Carroll, Marilyn Pilo

Pre-K: Elizabeth Fichtelman

HALB: Gari Ann Harris

LBMS: Alison Katulka, Jill Cherlin, Camila Gamboa, Jennifer Garrett, Stacey Rice

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Anthony Balsamo

Active Member: Perry Bodnar

Retiree: Frank Volpe

Officers: Keith Harvey, Karen Bloom, Beth Prostick, Amy Powers, Patricia Van Loon

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.