



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

November 23, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:20pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

12/14/20, 1/11/21, 1/25/21, 2/8/21, 3/8/21,
3/22/21, 4/12/21*, 4/26/21, 5/10/21, 5/24/21,
6/14/21

B. Superintendent's Conference Day

Thank you very much to the PDP Committee for all their hard work putting together a great virtual conference day. The opportunity to reflect on best practice and participate in mindfulness activities could not have come at a better time.

C. SRP Recognition Day—November 17, 2020

SRP Recognition Day acknowledges the contributions of School-Related Professionals in helping to educate the whole student. Long Beach SRP members perform a variety of key roles in schools working

as bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, food service workers, teaching assistants, aides and in dozens of other job titles. Thank you to all our SRP workers for everything you do in and out of the classrooms. You are an essential component to the success of our students!

D. COVID Testing in Schools

Effective the week of November 16, 2020, schools in yellow zones must test 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff over the two-week period immediately following the announcement of a yellow zone designation. *NYS has not placed Long Beach in the Yellow Zone at this time.* If the results of the testing reveal that the positivity rate among the 20% of those tested is lower than the yellow zone's current 7-day positivity rate, testing at that school will no longer be required to continue.



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

Table of Contents

- I. President
- II. Committees
- III. Executive Vice President
- IV. VP for Elementary Schools
- V. VP for Secondary Schools
- VI. Treasurer's Report
- VII. Building Reports
 - A. LBVE
 - B. West
 - C. Lindell
 - D. East
 - E. Lido
 - F. Pre-K
 - G. Middle School
 - H. High School
- VIII. New/Old Business
NYSUT Benefits

A positivity rate in a school that is lower than in the yellow zone is a sufficient demonstration that in-person instruction is not a significant driver of local viral spread. However, if the results of the testing over the first two weeks reveal that the positivity rate among in-person student, staff and faculty is higher than the Yellow Zone's current 7-day positivity rate, the school will be required to continue to test 20% of the in-person population on a bi-weekly basis.

The current positivity rate for zones can be found at, <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>.

Below is a link to the micro cluster-metrics for the zones and tiers:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-details-covid-19-micro-cluster-metrics>

E. Toy Drive 2020

This year we will not be able to have our traditional a toy collection. Instead of collecting actual gifts we will be collecting money through gift cards, cash and Venmo- @Keith-Harvey-20. Cash and gift card donations can be given to your union reps or sent directly to me at the Middle School.

F. First Eligible Retirement Incentive

If you are considering retiring in June, under the terms of our first eligible retirement incentive, you must notify the district of your intention by January 15, 2021. First eligible means that you are able to retire without an age or service reduction. If you are unsure if you are first eligible, or need more information, you can look at your NYSTRS Benefit Profile or contact NYSTRS directly at; NYSTRS website- <https://nystrs.org/Retirement-Planning> NYSTRS Number- (800) 348-7298.

G. Study Money Dates

There are two more opportunities to participate in the Study Program: December 11, 2020, Summer – May 14, 2021. 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](#).

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. You should have received a copy of the newly printed 2020-2021 LBCTA Contract.

C. New Member Committee – Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka

1. We would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday.
2. We are currently deciding on a gift for our new members since we cannot hold a Buddy Party. If you know of a new member in need of a CTA Buddy, please contact Jim Fiola or Ali Katulka.

D. Political Action Committee – Jennifer Garrett

1. Communication, knowledge and action are vital to ensuring a strong union. Please consider joining the LBCTA Political Action Committee. Keep informed, strengthen member engagement, and take action on important issues.
2. Our next meeting will take place virtually. The date is TBA. As always, please feel free to share your ideas on how LBCTA PAC can better serve our members. You can email your thoughts to LBCTAPAC@gmail.com.

E. Public Relations – Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. We just want to thank everyone one last time for all your incredible efforts towards our Making Strides fundraising. We raised a total of \$5,651.57 placing us at #24 out of over 400 teams. Together in six years we have raised close to \$33,000 in the fight against Breast Cancer.
2. Sadly, this year’s annual bowling event will not be possible due to COVID. We are looking for new and creative virtual ideas for our spring fundraiser. Please email Amy or Beth if you have an idea to share. Once we gather more information, we will be holding a virtual PR meeting. Date to be announced.
3. Congratulations to Jordan Hue and the entire Theatre Department for an amazing job on your production of *The Night of January 16th*.

F. Social Committee – Elleen Parks

1. Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!
2. We cannot wait until we can have live social events.
3. Everyone be careful and stay safe!

G. Teacher Center – John Marr

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center will be receiving 80% for its initial funding shortly. As a result, the center will be running classes beginning in January.
2. Moving forward the \$2 service fee for paying for classes online will be paid for by the center. All classes will remain at \$40 payable by cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.

III. Vice President – Karen Bloom

A. We are continually trying to adapt to the ever changing rosters in our classrooms. It is quite challenging to keep up with all of the changes and we hope that things will stabilize soon.

B. APPR

1. You should have received something stating who your evaluators will be for this school year. If you did not, please contact your immediate supervisor and let them know.
2. We have spoken to Dr. Romanelli regarding APPR and observations. He has assured us that administrators are here to support us, and that they will be mindful of our current situation.
3. While we are in person and in the hybrid model, there will be no virtual observations. All procedures will remain in place for our APPR. Virtual observations will be conducted during the 2020-21 school year utilizing the Danielson Rubric for fully virtual classes. Once the administrator visits the virtual classroom for an observation, the administrator will alert the teacher of their presence in the classroom.
4. If we go fully virtual, we will follow the guidelines for the fully virtual classes that are happening now.
5. Our APPR handbook is on our website. You can find all timelines, conversion charts & percentages here.
6. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

C. Health & Safety Committee

1. Thank you to Mr. DeVito who has been willing to get air quality reports done on a regular basis. These reports are above and beyond what is required. We will continue to monitor the reports and make sure that each space is functioning properly and that the amount of fresh air coming in is at or above the suggested standard. We are waiting for the most recent testing results to look over.

2. Please continue to keep your building reps aware of any health & safety issues in your buildings so that we can address them as needed.
3. Our first Health and Safety meeting will be tomorrow at 4:00 pm via ZOOM.
4. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

D. Other

1. Have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving! Please take some time to relax and recharge!
2. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible. They are virtual! It's easy!
3. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank. The form is on our website at www.lbcta.com.

IV. Elementary Vice President – Beth Prostick

- A. Congratulations to all our newly elected building reps for the upcoming school year. Lido School reps are Dorothy Lopez, Dana Monti and welcome to Diana Armada. East School reps are Jennifer Diamond, Jennifer Maggio and welcome back Jeanne Richards. Lindell School reps are Sue Simons, Lisa Rundo and welcome to Cathy Barone. West School reps are Cherylanne Fontenot and welcome to Claudine Clarke and Anne LaPenna. Our Lido Pre-K rep is Molly Drake. Thank you to Heather Puckhaber for representing our virtual school. I want to thank everyone for running and supporting our union.
- B. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on December 7, at 4:00 on ZOOM. I will send you the link that morning.
- C. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.
- D. Send me any issues you were unable to work out at your building. I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org.
- E. Have a very Happy Thanksgiving and be safe!

V. Secondary Vice President – Amy Leder

- A. Congratulations to all our newly elected Building Reps. We are thankful for your continued support, time, and dedication to our members.
 1. **MS Building Reps:** Jennifer Garrett - Senior Building Rep, Kaitlin Smith, Stacy Mason, Lauren Behan, and Alison Katulka
 2. **HS Building Reps:** John Bloom - Senior Building Rep, Elena Frishman, Matthew Hartmann, Cornelius Campbell, Greg Milone, Anthony Balsamo, and Lisa Casey
- B. Secondary Virtual meeting date to be announced after the holiday.
- C. Have a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

VI. Treasurer’s Report – James Fiola

A. October Financials

Revenues

Union Dues	\$43,847
Mask Fundraiser	1,042
Retiree Dues	282
Total	<u>\$45,171</u>

Expenditures

NYSUT	\$15,444
AFT	9,155
Officer/Rep Stipends	24,790
Taxes and Ins	7,118
Donations	1,192
Dues	250
Total	<u>\$57,949</u>

- B. I wish you and your families a happy and bountiful Thanksgiving. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank. I would encourage you to virtually attend a few School Board meetings during the year. Your presence is always noted.
- C. **If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please email them to me at jfiola@lbeach.org.**
- D. Union dues for 2020/2021 for full-time members will be \$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 Reports

A. LBVE

1. Congratulations to Kirstyn Golden on her recent engagement.
2. Thank you to Dr. Romanelli and the Superintendent's Conference Day Committee for an informative and productive conference day.
3. Thank you to Cristie Tursi for her assistance with the science grab-and-go bags for the elementary virtual students. We appreciate your help.
4. Wishing everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

B. West School

1. Congratulations to Claudine Clark and Ann LaPenna, who have joined Cheryle Fontenot as our new Building representatives for West.
2. Thank you to Paul Romanelli and the Superintendent Conference Day Committee for an informative and stress-free day.
3. Monday, November 17th was School Related Professionals (SRP) Recognition Day. West School would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the LBSEA members.
4. Congratulations to our own 5th grade teacher Jessica Donato on her recent engagement!!!!
5. We would like to thank EVERYONE who donated to the Mustache for Long Island Kids an organization which raises money for children's cancer research. Students and staff made video clips telling jokes to form a video hug. Thank you to Sam Pinto for sharing the video with the event information and details. As a school, we raised over \$800.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to the sick bank.
7. A SAFE and HEALTHY Thanksgiving break to EVERYONE.

C. Lindell School

1. Condolences to Jenna Pierson on the loss of her grandmother.
2. Welcome back to Brooke Connochie from her maternity leave.
3. Thank you to our custodial staff for continuously and consistently keeping our school safe and clean.

4. Congratulations to Cathy Barone, our new building rep.
5. Please consider donating a sick day to our district sick bank.
6. Happy and healthy Thanksgiving to all. Please remember to stay safe.

D. East School

1. Welcome back to Jeanne Richards as a building rep for East School.
2. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.
3. We wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

E. Lido School

1. Thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for organizing, even virtually, the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser activities. Kudos to all who participated in our “Wear Pink Day” initiative.
2. Thank you to all Lido School members for voting online in our November School Rep Elections. Congratulations to Diana Armada, Dorothy Lopez, and Dana Monti!
3. Many thanks to the Superintendent’s Virtual Conference Day facilitators for a productive day.
4. Congratulations to Kirstyn Golden, Elementary Guidance Counselor, on her recent engagement.
5. Wishing a speedy recovery to Dana Monti!
6. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
7. Wishing all a happy, healthy, and restful Thanksgiving!

F. Pre-K

1. Get well wishes to Dana Monti! You are missed at Lido!
2. We are happy to be back in our building! Thanks to the students, families, technology, and school staff that supported our period of remote instruction.
3. Thank you to Dr. Romanelli and the staff that lead our professional development on Superintendent’s Conference Day. It was a great offering to choose from.
4. Thank you to the PTA for organizing picture day.
5. Thank you to the PTA for our virtual yoga visits.
6. We have added a virtual Pre-K AM session class taught by Megan Lyons.
7. Thank you to the Pre-K staff for contributing to the Weekend Food for Families Project. We adopted four local families!
8. 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.
9. Have wonderful and restful Thanksgiving!

G. Middle School

1. Thank you Dr. Gallagher, Dr. Romanelli and the Superintendent's Conference Day committee for organizing a productive virtual day. A special thank you to all the instructors that volunteered to offer the many helpful sessions.
2. Thank you to everyone for successful Parent Teacher Conferences. We appreciate the support we received from Administration in creating an effective process in light of our current situation. Feedback was positive! **Thank you** to Mr. Biesma for asking for our input! Thanks again to Barbara Vahey for the overall organization with Canyon Creek. Special thanks to Tricia Henry, Christine Bulik, and Patty Van Loon for their help creating the necessary databases needed to make PTC’s such a success!

3. Thank you to Mr. Gartung, National Junior Honor Society, and all that donated to our holiday food drive. Many boxes of food were collected and donated to the local food bank.
4. Get well wishes to Lorie Beard.
5. Congratulations to Steve Bialick on the birth of his daughter, Emma Paige.
6. Condolences to the family and friends of Rena Barsh-Rudolph.
7. As per ARTICLE VIII, section 4, parts A and B of the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association Constitution and By-Laws, I am appointing John Marr as an alternate Building Representative for the remainder of the 2020 - 2021 school year.
8. 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.
9. Wishing ever a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

H. High School

1. Thank you to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for another successful Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser. Thank you to all who donated to this wonderful cause.
2. Thank you to Arlys Digena and Christine Graham for the Key Club Food Drive for Thanksgiving.
3. Congratulations to the newly elected building committee members: Anthony Balsamo (ENG), Jonathan Bloom (SS), Neal Campbell (SPED), Lisa Casey (SS), Elena Frishman (SPED), Matt Hartmann (ENG), and Greg Milone (SS)
4. Thank you to Dr. Romanelli, the Superintendents Conference Committee and everyone who facilitated a workshop. Your efforts helped to create a helpful and informative Virtual Superintendent's Conference Day.
5. Congratulations to Jordan Hue, the cast and crew of the recent drama production of *The Night of January 16th*.
6. Cleaning logs for each classroom are displayed in each classroom. Cleaners should be signing the log to indicate that the room has been cleaned and disinfected pursuant to the cleaning checklist. Staff members whose log is not being signed should notify the head custodian and CC Mr. Myers.
7. Thank you to the Building Administration for handling the contact tracing that goes along with suspected cases.
8. COVID testing and quarantine rules are constantly changing. Each situation will be handled on a case by case basis. If you should have any questions regarding your need to get tested or whether you need to quarantine, please contact Dr. Natali. If you prefer to have a building representative contact Dr. Natali, please let one know.
9. Staff would like to see the district require students to wear student ID cards during the school day.
10. Additional training is needed to assist teachers with the planning and implementing of meaningful and secure online assessments.
11. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.
12. Thank you to EVERYONE for all of your efforts to follow health and safety protocols. Please remember these protocols are keeping us safe.
13. Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving.

VIII. New Business

A motion was made by Patricia Van Loon to make donation to the LB Aware Feed a Family Weekend. It was seconded by Karen Bloom. It passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Patricia Van Loon to make donation to the LBCTA Toy Drive. It was seconded by Elleen Parks. It passed unanimously.

At 5:37 pm, a motion was made by Karen Bloom to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Stacey Mason.

In Attendance:

Long Beach Virtual Elementary (LBVE): Heather Puckhaber

West: Claudine Clark, Cheryleann Fontenot

Lindell: Susan Simons, Cathleen Barone, Lisa Rundo

East: Jeanne Richards, Jennifer Diamond, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Diana Armada

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Lauren Behan, Alison Katulka, Stacey Mason, Kate Smith

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Anthony Balsamo, Neil Campbell, Lisa Casey, Matthew Hartmann

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC): John Marr

Retiree: Frank Volpe

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

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