



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

May 6, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report—Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Dates

6/10/24

B. On behalf of the Executive Officers, I would like to share our condolences to Beth Prostick and her family on the loss of her mother, Elizabeth A. Naudus.

C. Long Beach Board of Education

Please support your local schools by voting YES on the School Budgets. Every vote counts! The Long Beach Board of Education voted 3 to 1 on April 16, to adopt the proposed 2024-25 School Budget. I believe the budget is fiscally responsible for the Long Beach Community while maintaining and enhancing many of our programs for the students. Here is a link to the [Budget Presentation](#) and the [Line-by-Line Budget](#).

The Board will put the budget up for a vote to the community on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. The community will have the opportunity to vote on the Budget and two School Board Trustee positions. A motion was made and passed to support the Long Beach School Budget.

D. Take a Look at Teaching Grant (TALAT)

The LBCTA just received the third phase of our TALAT grant. This three-year grant encourages and supports students looking to enter the field of education. Our multi-year plan engages students in activities involving educational pedagogy, lesson planning, leadership skills, and classroom visits. Thank you to Robin Gonzalez and Lisa Ranneklev for taking the lead with the TALAT grant this year.

E. LITBF Scholarship Winner

I am pleased to announce that Maeve Graham, daughter of Christine Graham, and Dean Parenti, son of Lori Parenti are the recipients of this year's LITBF Scholarship.



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
Ellen Parks
Corresponding Secretary
Jonathan Bloom
Treasurer

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F. LBCTA Sick Bank

Thank you very much to all who have donated so far. Unfortunately, the bank currently has more requests than days available. Although many of our members are donating targeted days, not all requests are currently being filled. Please consider donating to help fill those requests. Here is the link to the [donation form](#).

G. Your NYSTRS Planning and Account

The links below have been provided by our NYSTRS Delegate, Lisa Rundo. These links will help you set-up your online NYSTRS account. This account will allow you to properly monitor and plan for your retirement. [Flyer link](#) [Video link](#)

H. 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](#). The current rate is \$100.77 per day. Teachers must not have been absent more than 6 days during the school year to be eligible for this payment.

I. LBCTA Sick Bank

Since its inception, hundreds of days have been donated. Unfortunately, there are currently more requests than donations, leaving the bank at a negative balance. Many of our members have chosen to utilize the option of targeting days directly to members. This has been very beneficial, but has left some requests unfilled. Whether you donate to the bank, or to targeted members,

J. Pay Options

Each year you have three pay options:

- 21 equal bi-weekly payments (September through June)
- 25 payments; 21 payments (September through June) + 4 payments on the last day of school
- 26 payments; you will receive 1/26 of your annual salary every two weeks from the first pay date in September through the last pay date in June when you will receive the remaining paychecks as separate checks, all dated June 30, which you may deposit at any time from June to August. Direct deposit will not be available for the last six paychecks. All deductions will be spread out over the 26 paychecks.

To elect an option other than the one you currently have, you must enroll prior to June 30 and the new option may not be changed until the start of the following school year. The new form will be available soon.

K. Packing and Unpacking

Teachers who are moving and/or packing due to an alternative use of their room or a room transfer shall be paid \$26.89 per hour, up to a maximum of 4 hours. The work must be done outside of the school day and a record kept of the dates and times.

L. Eyeglass Reimbursement



We are in year two of a two-year cycle for eyeglass/contact purchases. Members have \$400 to spend on glasses/contacts. Such coverage may be used for the members and their family. Completed [claim forms](#) with receipts attached must be sent to the HR department in Administration.

M. Study Money—Reminder

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Program: Summer – Friday, May 10, 2024. 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](#).



N. LBCTA Financial Statement

Thank you very much to Treasurer Jon Bloom for his work in completing the annual audit by an independent certified public accountant. The audit has been published and was reviewed with the Executive Board.

O. Coaching Pay Dates

Below are the payroll dates for coaches for 2023-24 school year:

High School

Spring: Second Check: 5/10

Middle School

Spring: Second Check: 6/7

P. Hofstra Credits

Robyn Tornabene has a certificate for 1.5 credits to Hofstra University. If you are interested in purchasing those credits, please email Robyn at rtornabene@lbeach.org.

II. Committees

A. Grievance Committee—Karen Bloom

1. There are no grievances to report at this time.
2. Please contact me if you have any issues that you feel are a violation of our contract.

B. New Members—Alison Katulka

1. School district budget and Board of Education voting will take place on May 21st.
2. Please join us at the LBCTA End of the Year Celebration on May 16th at The Ocean Club.
3. Please contact me if there is someone in need of a union buddy at akatulka@lbeach.org.

C. Political Action Committee—Jennifer Garrett

1. BOE elections and budget season is here! The proposed district budget maintains programs with a low tax levy increase of 1.50%. This is significantly below the district's allowable cap of 2.6%. Similar to previous years, for this year's budget vote, PAC will endorse the budget via a postcard mailing continuing with the expanded target group. For our social media campaign, we will share a post that also utilizes the postcard design. This will be posted to the LBCTA social media accounts. Please feel free to share the image. Also, in conjunction with PR, PAC will run an ad in the Herald. Each of these items has been implemented successfully in the past and received positive feedback. In addition, our LBCTA Newsletter will be mailed to all NYSUT members residing in the 11561 zip code. The newsletter highlights just some of the many great happenings and fundraising events that we accomplished this year. Thank you to all that submitted suggestions for the newsletter. It was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Ali Katulka and Patty Van Loon for all their assistance and technology expertise.
2. There are 2 open seats on our BOE. Alexis Pace and Sam Pinto are seeking re-election. Harold Webb and Kristin McChesney are also running. PAC was contacted by multiple candidates for endorsement.
3. Long Beach Board of Education Candidates Forum hosted by LBCCPTA: Monday, May 13th @ 7pm, on Zoom. Meeting ID: 826 2946 9038 Password: 217330
4. School Board and School Budget votes are May 21st. Please get out to vote and support your school budget. Every vote counts!
5. 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.

D. Public Relations Committee—Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Congratulations to our Talented Writers classes and those who contribute to and design the literary magazine, Fragments. The students have earned several awards and high honors as recognition for their work. For the first time, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association awarded

Fragments: The Chakras a Silver Crown. Congratulations to Creative Writing and Talented Writers teacher, Rachell Koegel. Ms. Koegel is also the supervisor of Long Beach High School's literary magazine, *Fragments*.

2. Save the date! The Long Beach Art Show, Car/Tech Show & Wellness Fair 2024 will be held on Saturday, May 11th. Doors open at 10 am. The Wellness Fair will take place from 10-1pm. There will be vendors, raffles and giveaways! A Zumba Master class will take place at 10:30am. As part of the District Art Show, student art work will be displayed from 10-2pm.
3. Long Beach Board of Education Candidates Forum hosted by LBCCPTA: Monday, May 13th @ 7pm, on Zoom. Meeting ID: 826 2946 9038 Password: 217330
4. Look for our LBCTA Vote Yes on the budget ad in the Herald. Don't forget to get out and vote on May 21, 2024.

E. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. Our end of the year party is in 10 days. Our RSVP deadline has passed. If you are still interested in attending, you must e-mail me at eparks@lbeach.org.

F. Long Beach Teacher Center—John Marr

1. The Teacher Center was just informed that after much confusion about a reduction of the grant, that the LBTC will receive the same funding as this year of \$41,768. The Policy Board has approved the continuation application for next year and we look forward to offering a wide variety of Professional Learning both over the summer and into next year.
2. If you are interested in running a course over the summer, please contact the director at lbtcc@lbeach.org or submit a proposal on Frontline Education.
3. The Center is almost finished writing up the procedure to submit for posters on Super A3 sized paper. This is effectively an 11x17 paper, and we look forward to expanding our offerings next year. Please expect an email from the Director in June with details.
4. Please be aware that there is a new mandated trainer reporting class that must be completed by all teachers by April 1, 2025. As more information of how to complete this requirement becomes available we will be sure to notify you.
5. Have a wonderful May!

G. Pre-K Committee—Molly Drake

1. Thank you to Dr. Ostroff for reviewing the NYS UPK Quality visit with the Pre- K staff. The feedback was helpful.
2. Thank you to Dr. Radice for reviewing the EOY Pre-K assessments.
3. Condolences to Beth Prostick and her family on the loss of her mother.
4. Please support your local school budgets on Tuesday, May 21st!
5. Hope to see you at the LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

- A. Thank you to Dr. Gallagher and Mr. DeVito for continuing to keep us involved in conversations surrounding the budget and the upcoming school year. We are in full support of passing the budget and urge people to go out and vote on May 21st.
- B. We are still awaiting an email from Mr. Pettas regarding our changes in streaming access in the upcoming months. We met again and hopefully it will come out soon.
- C. We look forward to continued discussions regarding an alternative high school and credit recovery for our students, as this is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed before next school year.

D. APPR

1. There is a potential bill being presented that would eliminate the use of student test scores to be used in teacher evaluations. More information to come!
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.

E. Health & Safety Committee

1. We had a follow up meeting for our Workplace Violence Risk Assessment. We began to discuss some of the remediations that will need to take place throughout the district in order to address the concerns that were brought up as we performed the walkthroughs in each building. However, we will need to reconvene to finish the conversation, as we did not have enough time to address all buildings.
2. Our last Health & Safety meeting for the year was held today. We discussed the following items:
 - a) Security at Night Events: We discussed charging the outside organizations a fee so that we do not need to provide all of the funding. Mr. Garcia will come up with the needs, and then the board will decide how to proceed.
 - b) Public Polling Places While Schools are in Session: We discussed the use of school during the day while students are there. Most schools seem to have areas separated from the rest of the building so the concern is not as high. Oftentimes, we have a conference day so that students are not there anyway. Mr. DeVito said that they will discuss and get back to us.
 - c) Proposed Revisions to School Safety Plans: There are multiple changes being made to the school safety plans which should be discussed at each building. A few that we highlighted were; the addition of Multi-Disciplinary Behavioral Assessment Teams, not using any sort of props during emergency drills and making it clear that it is a drill, making floor plans readily available, assuring that drills do not take place until training has occurred each year and informing parents prior to having drills. There are many more updates that each building should assure is happening for the start of next school year.
 - d) Testing of Panic Buttons: All lockdown buttons were tested over break. At each location, any issues were identified and will be addressed.
 - e) Workplace Violence Prevention: Dr. Natali discussed a new training that will need to take place regarding this topic. Once the risk evaluations are completed, they will be shared at each building. She is looking to see if this can be added to our GCN training.
 - f) Mice: We discussed that mice are still an issue in both the MS and Lido. The custodial staff is putting down traps, however, some of them are glue traps. We asked that they please try to check these traps each morning before teachers and students arrive in order to prevent any unnecessary anxiety when finding a live mouse stuck on a trap.
 - g) Lido Multipurpose Room: We discussed a possible new solution to the existing issue. Hopefully it can be addressed as soon as possible.
3. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

F. Other

1. Save the date for our end of the year party on May 16th at Ocean Club!
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.

IV. Vice President for Elementary Schools’ Report—Beth Prostick

- A. The election for Elementary Building Representatives will take place on May 21, 2024. You will receive your electronic ballot in your email.
- B. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on June 3, at 4:00. Place TBD at a later date.
- C. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- D. Send me any issues that you were unable to work out at your building.
- E. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org.

V. Vice President for Secondary Schools’ Report—Amy Leder

- A. The Secondary Building representative election will occur on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 7:45 to 10:30 am. You will receive your electronic ballot in your district email.
- B. Please consider attending our 2024 LBCTA end-of-the-year celebration honoring our retirees at the Ocean Club in AB on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
- C. Don’t forget to get out and vote on May 21, 2024
- D. Happy Mother’s Day!

VI. Treasurer’s Report—Jonathan Bloom

A. February Financial Results

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Union Dues	\$41,844.11	Meeting	\$1,820.75
Retirees	\$81.00	Training	\$415.53
Retirement Party	\$340.00	Payroll Taxes and Fees	\$226.92
TOTAL	\$42,265.11	Greeting Cards	\$21.71
		TOTAL	\$2,484.91

- 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.
- C. We are looking forward to the LBCTA End of the Year Fundraiser at The Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
- D. Wishing everyone a wonderful Mother’s Day.

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Thank You to the West PTA for an amazing Teacher Appreciation Day luncheon to kickoff Teacher Appreciation Week!
2. Thank you to our reading staff for coordinating our Poem in Your Pocket day and to all the staff and students who participated.
3. Congratulations to Mrs. Krywe, Mrs. LaPenna, Ms. Way, Ms. Watcher and the Kindergarten on their successful play. The students did an amazing job! Thank you to all those who assisted with set and costume design.
4. Thank you to all who supported Autism Awareness Day by purchasing shirts.

5. School Board and Budget Voting Tuesday, May 21st. Please remember to go out and vote in your district.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

B. Lindell School

1. Congratulations to all the Special Olympic Athletes who competed at Plainedge HS on May 4th. Kudos to Andrea Hinke, Dayna Griffin and all the staff who supported our students. It was a magical day.
2. A special thank you to the Lindell PTA for a super special superhero luncheon.
3. Lindell enjoyed planting for Earth Day. Thank you to PTA for coordinating such a wonderful event to culminate classroom activities.
4. To celebrate Earth Day our Kindergarten classes orchestrated a fabulous show inviting families to watch and enjoy.
5. Grades 3-5 enjoyed “March Madness,” a Robotics Final Competition which was engaging and creative. Congratulations to all!
6. Congratulations to Anna McGovern on her new position as the Principal of Hewitt Elementary School in Rockville Centre. Your students and staff are truly going to miss you. You will forever be part of the Lindell Family.
7. Welcome back to Roseann Pinto.
8. Condolences to Marissa Koller on the passing of her grandfather.
9. Condolences to Beth Prostick on the passing of her mother.
10. We are looking forward to the LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
11. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

C. East School

1. Condolences to Beth Prostick on the loss of her mother, Elizabeth A. Naudus.
2. Condolences to Gabby Febrizio on the loss of her grandmother, Marie Febrizio.
3. Congratulations to Katherine Meyers on her marriage to Noah Wiesner.
4. Congratulations to all the Long Beach students who participated in The Special Olympics at Plainedge High School this past Saturday. Long Beach had one of the largest teams that participated. LB had many winners and all the kids were smiling ear to ear the entire day!
5. Thank you to Sara Hagen, Katherine Dascher, and Matt Hartman for organizing our 2nd Annual Lazar Day - a day to pay tribute to Lazar LaPenna.
6. Congratulations to Mr. MacConnell and the Odyssey of the Mind teams who qualified for the world finals.
7. Thank you to the PTA for their generosity. We are grateful for the teacher appreciation luncheon and the week-long treats.
8. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the End of Year Celebration Thursday, May 16th.
9. Please consider donating a day to the CTA sick bank.
10. Please go out to vote on May 21st to support your local school district’s budget.

D. Lido School

1. Thank you to Dr. Hernandez and Mr. Webel for all the treats to start off Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.
2. Thank you to Lido PTA for the delicious luncheon and tote bag in honor of Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.

3. Kudos to all the students and staff that participated in the Special Olympics!
4. Congratulations to Ashley Lee on her marriage to Bryan Woo.
5. Condolences to Beth Prostick and family on the loss of her mother, Elizabeth A. Naudus.
6. Looking forward to the LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club on **Thursday, May 16, 2024**.
7. Remember to vote and support your local school budget on **Tuesday, May 21, 2024**.
8. We are still having issues with mice throughout the building despite efforts made by the custodial staff.
9. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

E. LBMS

1. Congratulations to all Odyssey of the Mind teams (advisors Mrs. Donovan and Mr. MacConnell) for their impressive showing at the NYS finals. Good luck to teams moving on to the World Finals!
2. The 2024 Joe Farrell Memorial Scholarship Basketball Tournament was a fun success. The stands were filled with smiling faces enjoying an afternoon of basketball, raffles and treats. Special thanks to Keith Biesma for organizing this event and to everyone that helped or participated to make this day happen.
3. Kudos to Jordan Hue, the cast, and crew of the middle school drama production of *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*. All of your dedication and hard work certainly paid off. The show was great!
4. Kudos to Brian Pross, Ali Katulka, and all student members of the art and wood clubs for creating wonderful set designs for the middle school drama production of *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*.
5. Congratulations to our LBMS students for making it to the top 20 at the Kellenberg Math Tournament. Special thanks to Mr. Papetti for leading this great team!
6. Congratulations to all athletes that participated in the Special Olympics at Plainedge HS on May 4th. Kudos to coaches Dayna Griffin and Andrea Hinke, as well as, all staff who supported our students.
7. Our 7th grade students enjoyed their trip to NYC. They visited the Freedom Tower and saw many other sights! Thank you to our grade 7 advisors, Megan Kalner and Jenn McWilliams for organizing the trip. Special thanks to all chaperones for helping to make the trip a success! Our students enjoyed the day!
8. Special thanks to Ali Katulka and our New Members Committee for our Spring Buddy Party. Fun time was had by all!
9. Sending continued love and healing prayers to Sandra Hnis.
10. Congratulations to Rich Pellegrini on his recent marriage to Renata.
11. Condolences to Beth Prostick on the loss of her mother, Elizabeth A. Naudus.
12. The Secondary Building representative election will occur on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 7:45 to 10:30 am. You will receive your electronic ballot in your district email.
13. School Board and School Budget votes are May 21st. Please get out to vote and support your school budget. Every vote counts!
14. Thank you to the many members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating if you have not done so already.

F. LBHS

1. Condolences to Michael Corrigan on the loss of his mother, Anne.
2. Condolences to Beth Prostick on the loss of her mother, Elizabeth.
3. Congratulations to Talented Writers & Fragments for all of their accolades from the American Scholastic Press Association & the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.
4. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to the Kevin Lawlor Memorial Scholarship Fund.
5. Congratulations to all of the teachers and students involved in the IB Dance Recital.
6. Thank you to the Special Education department for hosting the Autism Awareness Day.
7. Please consider attending the End of Year LBCTA Celebration on Thursday May 16th at The Ocean Club.
8. Please go out and vote in your local School Board Budget and Elections on May 21st.
9. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.

At 5:00 pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Susan Simons.

In Attendance:

West: Claudine Clark, Anne LaPenna

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Cathy Barone, Susan Simons

East: Jennifer Diamond, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Dana Monti, Lori Parenti

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Alison Katulka, Grace Parisi

LBHS: Lisa Casey, Camila Gamboa, Matthew Hartmann, Loren Lang, Brian Petschauer

Pre-K Committee: Molly Drake

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC):

Retiree Representative:

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS THIS SUMMER?

NYSUT Member Benefits offers a variety of endorsed programs & services that can help you enjoy today, while planning for tomorrow.



As a NYSUT member, you have access to participate in a number of programs and services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. These products have been carefully cultivated to provide members with quality programs at competitive prices, including insurance programs to help you protect your family; legal and financial plans to help you plan for the future; and shopping, travel & personal services to help save you money.

Member Benefits also offers a number of benefits available free of charge to members such as the premium Calm service, Peer Support Line, Financial Learning Center, and more.

Participation in our endorsed programs features the added protection of having a trusted advocate on your side. Our staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

No matter what your plans may be, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. Explore all that your union membership has to offer!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.



May/June 2024