



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

239 Lido Blvd., Long Beach, New York 11561 • (516) 554-2830

*President*  
Steve Freeman

*Vice-President for Secondary Schools*  
Karen Bloom

*Recording Secretary*  
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*Executive Vice-President*  
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*Vice-President for Elementary Schools*  
Beth Prostick

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*Treasurer*  
James Fiola

Executive Board Minutes

December 8, 2014

## I. President's Report - Steve Freeman

### A. Expansion of Charter Schools

At its November 25, 2014 meeting the Board of Education the Board approved tuition payments of over \$22,000 per student plus transportation costs to two charter schools; one in Hempstead and one in Roosevelt. Four Long Beach elementary school students have opted to attend these schools at a cost of more than \$100,000 per year. These funds come directly from our school district's budget; reducing the amount available for district programs. This is a troubling trend especially as Governor Cuomo is calling for an increase in the number of charter schools; a sentiment inexplicably seconded by Board of Regents Chancellor Merryl Tisch. Cuomo and Tisch seem intent on starving the public school system and privatizing education for the benefit of their Wall Street cronies. We cannot let that happen.

### B. Merry Taxmas

Congressional Scrooges have let the \$250 educator expense deduction expire. Barring a last minute change of heart the deduction will not be allowed on your 2014 return.

### C. Congratulations to Todd Kaminsky on his election to the NY State Assembly and best wishes to Harvey Weisenberg for a long and healthy retirement. We are confident that Todd will maintain Harvey's staunch advocacy of public education and the teaching profession.

### D. First Eligible Retirement Incentive

If you are considering retiring next June under the terms of our first eligible retirement incentive; you must submit your irrevocable letter of resignation (effective June 30, 2015) to Dr. Berger c/o Lido School by January 15, 2015. First eligible means that you are able to retire without an age or service reduction. You do not have to use time awarded under Article 19 to determine eligibility. If you are unsure if you are first eligible, or need more information, please contact me weekdays from 8-11 AM at X2175.

### E. 2015 Empire Rates

Health insurance rates will rise on average by 4.5% in 2015:

Family \$21,706.32. Individual \$9,660.60.

If you take family coverage your cost will increase annually by \$170.40 on a pre-tax basis.

If you take individual coverage your cost will increase annually by \$60.31 on a pre-tax basis.

### F. FICA 2015

The wage base is increasing from \$117,000 in 2014 to \$118,500 in 2015. This represents an annual increase of \$93 in payroll taxes.

### G. 403(b) Tax-deferred Annuities

Now is the time to begin thinking about your 2015 403(b) contributions. The maximum 403(b) contribution rate increases to \$18,000. An additional \$6,000 can be contributed by those age 50 and above. Visit OMNI online at [www.omni403b.com](http://www.omni403b.com) for more information or to change your contribution rate. Click on "Participants" and then enter NY and Long Beach City S. D. in the "Employer Plan" box. The 2015 maximum 403(b) employer-funded contribution rate is \$53,000. This rate is used when sheltering retirement incentive and sell-back of sick days monies.



*Season's Greetings from the Koch Brothers*

- H. Coaching Pay Dates - Winter 1  
 HS teams MS teams  
 First half: 12/19 First half: 12/19  
 Second half: 2/13 Second half: 1/16
- I. Winter/Spring Study Money  
 Applications to participate in Winter/Spring Study Money program must be received by the HR department by December 12. Members with permanent or professional certification may apply for up to \$1,750 in study money per semester. The application is available online at [http://www.lbeach.org/Assets/Personnel\\_Forms/participation\\_groupa.pdf](http://www.lbeach.org/Assets/Personnel_Forms/participation_groupa.pdf).
- J. Sell-back of Health Insurance  
 If you have elected to “sell-back” your health insurance you should have received your first half payment as part of your December 5 pay check. Call Lisa Durkin at X3923 to verify your election if you did not receive your payment. Keep in mind that even if you “sell back” your medical insurance you are still entitled to dental insurance.
- K. Conference Funds  
 As of November 18, 2014 the following amounts were available to fund Group A conference requests:  
 Lindell - \$2,171 West - \$1,966 East - \$627 Lido - \$2,171 PreK - \$500  
 MS - \$2,311 HS - \$3,700.  
 Should a principal deny your request stating that no funds are available; please contact me.
- L. New Members - Jim Fiola  
 If you have any questions, please email Jim Fiola or Alison Katulka at [jfiola@lbeach.org](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org) or [akatulka@lbeach.org](mailto:akatulka@lbeach.org).  
 Alison and I are attending the mentor meetings to speak to the new members about any issues or concerns they have and will make each monthly meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday Jan.20th at 3:45 in the East School library. All new members are encouraged to attend even if they have a union buddy and not a mentor. We hope you and yours have a great two weeks of togetherness with your family and friends. Happy New Year! Please do not be afraid to ask for help if you need it. We (and many others) are here for you.
- M. Political Action - John Anfossi  
 Thank you to Mike Glasstein for meeting with me and discussing what the responsibilities are associated with this position of PAC Chair.  
 Thank you to President Freeman and Exec. V.P. Harvey for their guidance, sharing of documents, files, etc. and for sharing their visions for the future of this position.  
 Thank you to those building reps who were able to assist and forward the information regarding staff rosters, sign in sheets, e-mails addresses and phone numbers.  
 I am in the process of creating a PAC Committee to assist in updating member information and improve communications via e-mail, cell phone and associated apps.  
 I attended the Nassau NYSUT PAC Committee meeting on December 3 in Woodbury. I learned that NYSUT is in the process of revamping its communication methods. At that meeting NYSUT shared its happiness in the support members showed by electing Todd Kaminsky to the assembly. They also discussed the upcoming Committee of 100 meeting dates.  
 Within the next few days an e-mail will go out to the membership asking for updated information such as addresses, private e-mail addresses, cell phone numbers. The PAC Committee will then follow up on all info provided or not provided. The goal of the Committee is to have this communication network system in place and available for the association’s future correspondence needs.  
 There will be a PAC Committee in early January at a date to be announced.  
 Happy holidays to all.
- N. I wish each of you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season and a “Happy New Year”.

II. Chief Negotiator’s Report - Steve Freeman

- A. We met on November 18 and while significant progress was made; no agreement was reached. We will meet again on Monday, December 15 and hopefully we will all celebrate a “green” X-mas.
- B. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio in announcing a settlement with city school administrators which would increase their pay by 18% over the life of the nine-year contract said ““This is a good contract, a fair contract.” “It means that you will get what you deserve for what you're doing.” He went on to say “These employees have been working since 2010 without a contract.” “That

was wrong, that was unacceptable and that ends now.” How refreshing his sentiments are in an era of acrimony and finger pointing which characterizes most public sector negotiations.

### III. Executive Vice-President’s Report - Keith Harvey

- A. May the spirit of the holiday season be with you and your loved ones. Enjoy your Holiday Recess. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.
- B. Board of Education  
Please consider attending a minimum of 2-3 Board of Education meetings each year. Look for the dates on the signup sheet in your faculty room.
- C. Global Compliance Network (GCN)  
I cannot stress enough what a great disappoint GCN continues to be. I question the district’s requiring all employees to complete these trainings, considering that the majority of the information presented does not pertain to a school setting. In my opinion the use of this product to discuss serious topics such as DASA, Sexual Harassment, Hazard Communications and Blood Borne Pathogens diminishes the importance of these topics and is a waste of valuable time during the school day. Some of the comments I have received about the GCN include; “Why does the district waste my time with these ridiculous videos?”, “If I delivered information like this (in my classroom) I would be fired.” and “These videos feel like punishment for something I did not do.” I’ve yet to meet a teacher who values the GCN trainings and I urge the district to reconsider using them in the future. In the past our highly qualified faculty and administrators have delivered training on these topics at faculty meetings. I hope the district will reconsider which of these trainings are actually State and/or Federally-mandated and provide real training for them.
- D. Biometric Signatures/Timepiece  
And then there were none ... Although some schools are continuing to ask teachers to scan in, it appears that no buildings are using the biometric scanners for attendance purposes. Before Timepiece was purchased the district knew it could not function the way it wanted and yet it still went through with the installation. In an era of intensified fiscal constraints I question how the district can justify a waste of funds like this.
- E. APPR  
If you are not receiving a State Provided Growth Score and you do not know what your SLO is; you should contact your director or principal ASAP. SLO’s are for teachers whose classes are less than 51% ending in a state exam.
- F. Grievance Committee  
Health Insurance Withdrawal -We are currently in the process of writing a MOU to resolve this issue. I believe that all teachers will be paid the current and past rates as described in the contract.  
Extra Teaching Assignments at the High School- We are in the process of signing an agreement that which will temporally resolve the issue.  
Special Education Case Managers- It was alleged that on Superintendents Conference Day the special education teachers were told that there is a State mandate requiring them to act as case managers for their students’ IEPs and that they would now be responsible for supervising and evaluating their colleagues’ work. It was also alleged that they were told they would not be given time to complete this new assignment during the school day and it should be done from home. Ms. Cantore has assured me that this was a miscommunication and that she will send an e-mail to all special ed teachers clarifying these issues by December 9.
- G. Constitution Committee  
Thank you to V.P. Beth Prostick, Patty Van Loon and Dr. Jen Garrett for volunteering to serve on the Constitution Committee. The committee has met twice to review our constitution and consider possible amendments. We hope to bring you a report shortly after the New Year. Our next meeting is Thursday December 11 at 4:00 PM in room 213 of the MS.
- H. Health and Safety  
The last meeting was canceled but has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 8 at a location TBA. All are welcome to attend. The following issue will be addressed:
- Update on the HS traffic pattern
  - Update on the windows/ventilation - West, Lindell and East
  - Contained security station at HS main entrance (Man Trap)
  - Lack of handicapped accessible nurses office at East School
  - School Climate Survey - NSCC what’s next?

If you have any health or safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level please e-mail me.

I. District Safety Team

The last meeting was canceled but has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 8 at a location TBA. If you have any safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level please contact me.

III. Vice-President for Elementary Schools' Report - Beth Prostick

- A. I am looking forward to our next Superintendents Conference Day committee meeting. I believe we will be going through the surveys so we can assess the day properly.
- B. We would still like more elementary representation for our Publicity committee. We are working on publicizing all the wonderful things teachers do for our community. If you are interested in serving please contact Karen Bloom.
- C. Please remember to donate a new toy to our Annual Toy Drive. Each faculty room should have a box to collect the toys.
- D. Elementary Council meeting will be held on January 26, 2015 at 3:45 PM at Lido School.
- E. I wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday and a joyous New Year!
- F. If you have any issues or concerns you can contact me at bprostick@gmail.com.

IV. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report - Karen Bloom

- A. The traffic pattern at the HS continues to be a safety concern, especially for students walking and or on bikes who try to dodge between the cars and buses. We sincerely hope that administration reconsiders this traffic pattern.
- B. Security at the HS continues to be an issue. There is no buzz-in system and people can walk right into the building without being questioned. In addition, there are many students roaming the building after school.
- C. We are still awaiting solutions for the many HS inclusion classes at that are extremely large as well as have very high percentages of special education students in them. We hope that the administration will help to rectify the situation and ensure that this does not happen again next year.
- D. There has still been no solution for the AIS issue that was created by Dr. Lovrich. The teacher is attempting to meet the needs of the extremely diverse learners; but it is next to impossible to do so effectively.
- E. We have an extreme lack of technology at the HS. It is very difficult to book time in a computer lab as there are only two for the entire building. In addition there is a shortage of laptop carts so integrating technology is extremely challenging.
- F. We are still awaiting clarification on our APPR targets and procedures for this current school year. Dr. Graham has told me that he will oversee the curriculum directors, to ensure consistency among the departments. However, this does not seem to be the case. Many of us still have not been informed of our targets and it seems that each department is setting them differently.
- G. The Publicity Committee met and we have taken out a half page ad in the Long Beach Herald next week wishing the community a happy holidays. Thank you to all teachers who have donated their time, money and gifts this holiday season.  
We will be conducting a special Polar Bear fundraiser on Friday, January 16! Details to follow. A big "thank you" to the reps who attended our publicity meeting and for all of your help with the Long Beach Herald ad.
- H. Thank you to all who contributed to the American Cancer Society. A very special "thank you" to John Rooney who donated \$500 to help us exceed our goal of \$2,000!
- I. Please donate new, unwrapped toys to our 2014 Toy Drive by December 15<sup>th</sup>. There are collection boxes in each building. If you can't find one, give the toys to a building rep. We are also collecting toiletries for the Food & Friendship Inn. Please bring in any that you may have to a building rep.
- J. The next Secondary Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 26 at 4 PM in the HS guidance conference room.
- K. We would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday vacation!!

V. Treasurer's Report - Jim Fiola

A. November Financial Results

Revenues

Union dues	\$36,692
Retiree dues	387
Vending Machine	167
Total	\$37,246

Expenditures

NYSUT	\$13,272
AFT	8,102
Taxes and Ins.	239
Meeting Expenses	1,069
Office Supplies	33
Training	619
Telephone	69
Travel	30
Total	\$23,433



- B. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanzaa. Best wishes to all for a safe, fun and Happy New Year. If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please e-mail them to me at [jfiola@lbeach.org](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org).
- C. Union dues for 2014/2015 for full-time members will be \$954.76. The break-out is \$370 local, \$358 NYSUT, \$218.76 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$95.48 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.

VI. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Congratulations to the Christmas Angel honorees Sandy Schneider and Donna Fee.
2. Thank you to Barbara Hirsch and our entire West School staff for supporting our Toy Drive.
3. Our very generous staff continues to spread good will to our school community through Thanksgiving and Holiday food drives, gift cards and donations.
4. Thank you to all our teachers for creating special holiday in-class activities and crafts that support curriculum and make memories.
5. Thank you to West School PTA again. The Book Fair was a great success.
6. Bravo! Our Winter Concert was delightful thanks to Vanessa Krywe, Noelle Policastro, Craig West and special guest Barbara Russo.
7. Welcome to Randi Baier.
8. Welcome back to Edenia Aristy and Laura Borawski.
9. Best wishes to Chrysti Busching.
10. Happy New Year!

Credit Swap

- 1.5 St. Johns - Ellen McElroy
- 1.5 Molloy - Jeanne O'Shea
- 1.5 Molloy - Christine Graham
- 3 C.W. Post - Betsabe Montoya
- 1.5 Hofstra - Liz Sherlock

B. Lindell School

1. A warm welcome to our new resource room teacher Chrystie Busching and our new social worker Michelle Donovan.
2. We are pleased to welcome Lauren Kaufman full time at Lindell.
3. Lindell is looking forward to working with Dr. Jen Pullara, our new Literacy Coach.
4. Thank you to Barbara Russo, Craig West, Noelle Policastro and the students in grades 3-5 for presenting a joyous musical assembly for the holiday season.
5. Our book fair was a great success! Thank you to the PTA for providing this great event to all our students.
6. Thank you to all our teachers for your good will and generosity to our community through your donations for Thanksgiving dinners, the LBSEA/CTA Holiday Toy Drive and Holiday Family Gifting.

7. Best wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

C. East School

1. Good luck to Jenn Pullara on her new position at Lindell School. We will miss her.
2. We are concerned by the long and tedious process and paperwork to obtain services and appropriate placement for students in need.
3. We have a real concern regarding the lack of staff to deal with students in crisis and the impact this has on the safety and right of a sound educational environment to the other students.
4. Happy, healthy and peaceful holidays to all!

D. Lido School

1. Kindergarteners enjoyed their Thanksgiving Feast and so did the faculty at their staff luncheon.
2. Students eagerly participated in the school food drive.
3. Condolences to Kathy Polchynsky on the loss of her mother.
4. Congratulations to Marilyn Pilo on her recent marriage.
5. Best wishes to Lauren Kaufman on her full time position at Lindell School. She will be missed!
6. Lido students in grades 3-5 were excited to attend the MS musical "Once Upon a Mattress." It was fabulous!
7. Many thanks to Lido PTA for sponsoring the book fair.
8. Congratulations to Ian Butler on the birth of his daughter Averie.
9. Based on the student needs of the entire Lido Pre K/Elementary complex, a full time psychologist would be beneficial. Our current psychologist is split with another school.
10. Many thanks to all who contributed to the LBCTA Toy Drive. Kudos to Barbara Hirsch, Lynda D'Alessio, and Stefanie Meyer for coordinating the drive this year.
11. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season! Best of luck in the New Year 2015!

E. HALB

1. HALB staff is sad to see our colleague and friend Randi Baier leave, but we wish her much success in her new position at West.
2. Best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season!

F. Middle School

1. Welcome back to Michelle Frank.
2. Congratulations to the cast and crew of "Once upon a Mattress" under the direction of Jean-Marie Marciano and Ilyssa Leeper. You were fabulous! The Art and Wood club did a great job on the sets under the guidance of Laura Swan and Brian Pross.
3. Get well wishes to John Emmons.
4. We would like to thank our building administration for meeting with grade levels to keep everyone informed about scheduling.
5. Our Peace Club did a great job with our Thanksgiving Food Drive!
6. Our climate committee has implemented the Random Acts of Kindness program.
7. We wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

G. High School

1. Congratulations to the directors, cast, musician and crew for a wonderful production of the school drama, *A Christmas Carol*.
2. Congratulations to Kaitlyn Linker on her recent engagement.
3. Congratulation of Ian Butler on the recent birth of his daughter.
4. The faculty was pleased to learn of Mr. Stroud's announcement that faculty meetings will now be held on a monthly basis.
5. Many departments are still waiting to learn about their SLO results and their expected growth measures for students.

6. We are still waiting for building administration to outfit properly our faculty room and to ensure that it is not shared with counseling services.
7. Teachers are upset that they were not a part of the decision-making process involving course offerings for next school year. Contrary to past practice decisions were made this year to cut courses before giving students an opportunity to express their interest in taking a particular course.
8. The faculty was alarmed at learning that there will be no AP courses offered next year in subject areas that have IB courses.
9. Staff morale was recently negatively impacted by disappointing administrative comments suggesting that student performance on AP exams was a factor considered in determining whether an AP course would be offered the following year. In a school where students are encouraged to challenge themselves and to self-select into higher level courses (with no prerequisites required to enroll), we strongly believe that grades should not be a factor the administration uses when making course offering decisions.
10. The temperature of the building remains inconsistent. It is extremely warm in some areas while very cold in others.
11. We are still greatly concerned about the state of technology in the building. There is a serious lack of access to computers and a need for tablet integration into our classrooms.
12. There is still great concern for the safety of students, staff and residents under the current traffic pattern.
13. We would like uniformity across subject disciplines regarding common planning. There is still some lack of clarity regarding the frequency of these meetings as well as the expectations of the work to be done in these meetings.
14. We would like to see the district rectify the situation Science AIS. Students who are re-taking courses and students who are currently enrolled in courses and need extra support are being co-seated.
15. The lack of cleanliness in the building is still of great health concern.
16. We are troubled by the state of the inclusion program at the HS. Many classes have large number of students in them as well as a high percentage of classified students. We believe that the class caps for these classes need to be re-examined in order to effectively meet the needs of the students.
17. Best wishes to all staff and their families this holiday season!

## VII. New Business

- A. Nora Bellsey made a motion to make a donation to the Leela Fund to assist a member of the LBSEA whose home was destroyed by a fire last week. The motion passed unanimously.

## VIII. Meeting dates

### December

9 Board of Education. 7:30 PM East School Cafeteria

### January

12 Executive Board, 4 PM MS Library

13 Board of Education, 7:30 PM MS Auditorium

27 Board of Education, 7:30 PM MS Auditorium

29 ED18, 4:30 PM Mineola

### May 2015

20 End of the Year Celebration, 4:30 PM Bridgeview

### In-Service Opportunities

Long Beach Teacher Center  
[www.lbeachtc.org](http://www.lbeachtc.org)

The NYSUT Education and Learning Trust (F2F and online) [www.nysut.org.elt](http://www.nysut.org.elt)

SCOPE Education Services (F2F and online) [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us)

Dellecave Education Institute (F2F)  
[www.dellecave.org](http://www.dellecave.org)

PBS TeacherLine (Online)  
[www.pbs.org/teacherline](http://www.pbs.org/teacherline)

Nassau TRACT (F2F)  
[www.mylearningplan.com](http://www.mylearningplan.com)

Nassau BOCES (F2F and online)  
[www.mylearningplan.com](http://www.mylearningplan.com)

C.I.T.E. (F2F)  
[www.citeonline.com](http://www.citeonline.com)

NYS Teacher Center Academy (Online)  
[www.rockteach.org](http://www.rockteach.org)

## In attendance:

HALB - Gari Ann Harris

West - Mary Ann Colucci, Cheryle Fontenot

Lindell - Migdalia Schneider, Jane Quinton

East - Lori Montgomery

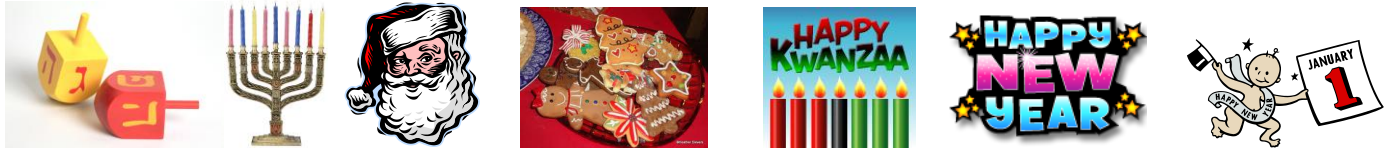
Lido - Marilyn Pilo, Cheryl Carroll, Dorothy Lopez

Middle School - Patty Van Loon, John Anfossi, Jessica Vetter, Jenn Garrett, Jill Cherlin

High School - Jonathan Bloom, Elena Frishman, Eric Heck, Perry Bodnar, Jay Spitz, Adriane Glassberg

Officers - Steve Freeman, Keith Harvey, Karen Bloom, Nora Bellsey, Jim Fiola, Beth Prostick, Elleen Parks and Frank Volpe and Dale Greenstein

Respectfully submitted by Nora Bellsey, Recording Secretary.



New York State Teachers' Retirement System

- I. Thinking about retiring this year? If you will be eligible to start receiving Social Security benefits at the end of the school year, contact the Social Security Administration to determine what you need to do. If you will be age 65 or older when you retire; Medicare will become your primary health insurance on July 1. Action on your part is necessary to enroll if you are not currently receiving Social Security payments. Failure to register may lead to you being uninsured for two months or longer.

II. Video Consultations:

One-on-one video consultations enable members to meet with a NYSTRS representative to ask questions about specific situations and receive printed estimates of their retirement benefits via a live video hook-up.

Consultations are available most Mondays-Fridays at the following locations:

Nassau BOCES	Suffolk BOCES	Suffolk BOCES
71 Clinton Road	762 Deer Park Road	15 Andrea Road
Garden City	Dix Hills	Holbrook

You now have two ways to book a video consultation:

Online using your MyNYSTRS account. After logging into your account, select "Schedule Appointments." Or by calling NYSTRS at (800) 348-7298 X6100.

TRS members with questions  
may call your teacher-members  
on the New York State Teachers'  
Retirement System Board of  
Directors or email  
[united@nysutmail.org](mailto:united@nysutmail.org):

*David Keefe (Retiree Representative),  
516-741-1241;  
Tim Southerton, 631-273-8822;  
Paul Farfaglia, 315-431-4040;  
or Jolene DiBrango 585-267-3420.*

