

Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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President
Steve Freeman

Executive Vice-President Keith Harvey

Vice-President for Secondary Schools
Karen Bloom

Vice-President for Elementary Schools
Beth Prostick

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Recording Secretary
Nora Bellsey

Corresponding Secretary
Elleen Parks

Treasurer
James Fiola

Executive Board Minutes

May 11, 2015

I. President's Report - Steve Freeman

A. Administrative Shakeup

Congratulations to Cherise Pemberton on her appointment as the Asst. Supt. for Curriculum and Instruction in the South Country Central School District.

Congratulations to Josh Anisansel on his appointment as the Director of Secondary ELA and Reading in the Farmingdale Public Schools.

Interviews for Director of Elementary Curriculum were held on April 29. Congratulations to Sean Murray on his anticipated appointment to this position. The district has posted an

Elementary Principal position. The closing date is May 19 and a committee will meet on May 28 to interview the applicants.

The interview committee for Exec. Director of Human Resources met on April 29 to interview one candidate. Congratulations to Dr. Michele Natali on her appointment to this position. The district has posted an opening for a MS Principal. The closing date is May 20 and a committee will meet on May 28 to interview the applicants.

The interview committee for Director of Comprehensive Arts was reconvened to interview one candidate. Congratulations to Julia Lang-Shapiro on her appointment.

The interview committee for HS Coordinator of Special Education met to interview one candidate. Congratulations to Dr. Matthew Morand on his appointment.

The positions of Director of STEM and Director of Humanities will not be posted and no search will be conducted. Sean Hurley has been appointed the Director of Humanities and Dr. Deborah Lovrich has be appointed the Director of STEM.

Not to disparage the fine individuals who are being appointed to these positions; the promise that the Board of Education made at its April 14 meeting to recruit administrators with authentic experience and proven track records is being betrayed by David Weiss' marriages of convenience; and under his reign interview committees are little more than charades. The sad reality is that on July 1 many administrative positions will be filled by individuals who have no prior experience in their new roles or subject areas and no time to learn on the job.

- B. On May 19 I urge each of you, your families and your friends to go to the polls and vote "yes" on your school district's budget and for "pro-teacher" candidates for school boards. Our enemies are well funded and are actively working to abolish tenure, limit collective bargaining rights and to reduce hard fought-for health benefits and pensions. While we can never match the funds that these education "reformers" have access to; if we speak with one voice, we will drown them out. Your vote is your voice. May 19 matters.
- C. District Sick Bank

Since its inception 57 days have been donated and 32 days have been granted. While this is a good start only one in ten members has made a donation. As the school year comes to an end I hope each of you sees fit to donate at least one day to the bank to ensure its continuation.

D. Pay Options

Each year you have three pay options:

- 21 payments 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 pay checks 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 pay checks.

To elect an option other than the one you currently have; you must enroll prior to June 30 and and the new option may not be changed until the start of the following school year. The form is available online at: http://www.lbeach.org/Assets/Personnel_Forms/PAY_OPTION_FORM_-_Current_Teachers.pdf

E. Annual Turn-In of Sick Days

If you have accumulated at least 75 sick days and wish to exercise your option of selling back used sick days earned this year (up to 12 or 14 if you worked at Summer School) you must submit a "Request for Payment in Exchange For Accumulated Unused Sick Days" form to Dr. Berger's office. The form is available at

http://www.lbeach.org/Assets/Personnel_Forms/1314_Buy_Sick_Group_A.pdf. The rate is \$94.22 per day. Please be aware that you can now accumulate up to 200 days in your sick day bank. Any days in excess of 200 should be sold back to the district.

F. Packing and Unpacking

If you are directed to pack up your room in anticipation of construction, summer school or summer camp you are entitled to be compensated for your efforts. The rate is \$25.14 per hour. However your claim cannot exceed \$100. The work must be done outside of the school day and a record kept of the dates and times you worked.

G. Summer Study Money

Applications to participate in the Summer 2015 Study Money program must be received by the HR department c/o Lido School by May 15. The application is available online at http://www.lbeach.org/Assets/Personnel_Forms/participation_groupa.pdf

H. Coaching Pay Dates

Spring MS - Second half 6/5

I. Leased cars during Super Storm Sandy

A member recently discovered that if you had a leased car which was totaled during Super Storm Sandy your auto insurance company will reimburse you for the sales tax you pre-paid on the lease. If you are covered by this scenario I suggest that you contact your insurance company to see if you qualify.

J. New Members

If you have any questions, please email Jim Fiola or Alison Katulka at jfiola@lbeach.org or akatulka@lbeach.org.

We will continue to attend the mentor meetings to speak to the new members about any issues or concerns they have. The next meeting is Tuesday May 19th 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. Please do not be afraid to ask for help if you need it. We (and many others) are here for you. Alison and I will be meeting over the summer to talk about ways to expand the program. Next year the plan will be not only to piggyback on the mentor meetings, but to have at least quarterly meetings for ALL new members.

K. Food Advisory Committee - Dale Greenstein

Steve Kamlet chaired meeting on May 5. We reviewed the number of meals sold per month and saw that the number fluctuates monthly. However the number of meals sold monthly is on the upswing. We reviewed the student feedback with regard to the new food options. The reviews have been positive and Mr. Kamlet believes that student purchases will increase within a short time. The availability of an adequate supply of pizza for student lunches seems to a problem in at least one building. Mr. Kamlet will continue to check into this problem. Financially Food Services is doing better. The department is in need of less economic support from the district than anticipated. There was discussion of developing a school to work program where "life skills" students would participate in food prep in the HS cafeteria. There is a plan to change the breakfast menu for student in June. Discussion ensued regarding the development of a payment program for staff to purchase meals. This is sorely needed to increase the number of meals staff members purchase. The plan to move the pizza ovens to the serving area in the HS was discussed.

L. Political Action Committee - John Anfossi

There will be a PAC event on May 15 to tell Cuomo and the legislators to "Fix What They Broke". Please consider participating. Thank you to those who attended our candidates forum. Please remember to return your ballots by May 15. Please remember to vote "yes" for your home town school budget.

II. Report of the Chief Negotiator - Steve Freeman

- A. The final retroactive payments for the period of 7/1/14-4/24/15 (1%) will be paid on June 24. Retros for Permanent Subs should also be paid by June 24.
- B. We are scheduled to meet with the Board of Education on May 18. At that time the district will present us with its proposals for a successor agreement to our contract which expires on June 30, 2015.
- C. Please keep in mind that the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law guarantees that all terms and conditions of an expired agreement remain in force until a successor agreement is signed. This means that step increments will occur on July 1, 2015 and lane movements, longevities, etc. will be credited accordingly.

III. Executive Vice-President's Report - Keith Harvey

A. Board of Education

I urge you to vote "yes" on your local school budget and for pro-education school board candidates on May 19. There are three Board of Education meetings on the calendar for the remainder of the year. Each will take place in the MS auditorium:

May 19 10:00 PM - Results of budget vote and trustee election

May 26 7:30 PM - Recognition of retirees

June 9 7:30 PM - Awards of tenure

Please consider attending one of these meetings.

B. Grievances

Library Extended Day- We applaud the district's decision to extend the library hours at the MS and HS. However in doing so the district did not pay the contractual rate for extended day services, it denied librarians the right to this work and hired replacement workers to do the jobs. We will be legally pursuing this issue for an appropriate remedy.

C. Health and Safety Committee and District Safety Team
Please see Vice-President for Secondary Schools - Karen Bloom's report.

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

- A. On May 5 I attended the District Health and Safety Committee meeting. This is a very important committee and I think we need more elementary representation on it. I would like to see at least one teacher from each elementary building attend these meetings when they resume in the fall.
- B. Lack of per diem subs has become an issue in the elementary schools because it leads to the cancellation of services. Perhaps the district should consider employing permanent subs in the elementary schools.
- C. I would like to sincerely thank those who attended the candidates forum on April 27. I hope you found it helpful in making your decisions in this year's election.
- D. I hope you all received your ballot for this year's election. If you did not receive one, please send Jim Fiola your current address so our records can be updated. Please remember to complete the ballot postmarked by May 15.
- E. I hope to see all elementary schools represented at the CTA End of Year Celebration. Even if you do not have a retiree in your building, you should consider attending the party to support your colleagues and your union. It is a great way to celebrate the end of the school year.
- F. Remember you can now donate sick days to a district sick bank. Please consider donating at least one day to your colleagues in need.
- G. Please send me your letter of intent by May 22 if you intend to run for building rep for the 2015-16 school year.
- H. Best wishes to Josh Anisansel and Cheriese Pemberton on the new positions.

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

A. We are extremely disappointed in the way the appointments of the secondary directors of STEM and Humanities were handled. Although Mr. Weiss publicly stated that these positions would be posted and candidates would be interviewed; he chose to appoint the current science and social studies directors to these new and very different positions, without even having them interviewed by a committee. If a teacher requests to move from a math to a science position he or she would

need to apply, interview, teach a demonstration lesson and then be appointed. In addition, their tenure would not be granted in that new position. Why are teachers held to such different standards than administrators?

- В. We hope that after the last Health and Safety meeting the district is seriously considering reconfiguring the traffic pattern at the HS. There appears to consensus among all parties including parents, students, teachers and bus drivers that the problem must be addressed. In addition we hope that a security "mantrap" is constructed, similar to those in other buildings, before the start of the next school year. This was also discussed at the meeting and we are waiting to see the plans the architects have developed to address the situation.
- C. The publicity committee met and placed an ad in the Long Beach Herald encouraging community members to get out and vote "yes" for our school budget. Thanks to Ellen and Beth for their help with the ad. Please remember to go vote on May 19 if you live in Long Beach!
- D. The next Secondary Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 1 at 4 PM in the HS guidance conference room.
- I would like to encourage all members to attend Board of Education meetings whenever possible. E. We need to stay involved and let our voices be heard! Please remember to send in your ballots postmarked by May 15 for the CTA election.
- F. Please consider attending the CTA End of the Year Celebration on Wednesday May 20 at Bridgeview!
- G. Please remember to donate a day to the District Sick Bank!
- Η. If you would like to run for Building Rep for 2015-16 you must send me your intent to run by Friday, May 22.
- Health and Safety ١.

Purpose & Scope

Steve Jacob discussed the difference between the Health and Safety Committee and the Health and Safety Team. He explained that the Committee was designed to investigate complaints and how to solve these problems while the Team is more about preventative measures. This includes Board of Education involvement and violence prevention as well as emergency responses and safety plans. Mr. Jacob reminded people to address issues at the building level first, before bringing them to the Committee. He also shared a few issues that were recently brought to his attention: If you need a new key fob, or need to change the times or locations it is programmed for you must see your main office secretary. Parking permits are issued through the Department of Human Resources. If you need a replacement contact them.

Building Construction Update

The district is at the point where it is addressing all outstanding issues at each building. Please give a list of anything you have that has not been completed and/or needs to be fixed to your principal ASAP. These concerns will be shared with contractors.

High School Traffic Flow

There was a lengthy discussion about the issues surrounding the current traffic pattern. It appears that all parties involved agree that the problem needs to be addressed. Mr. DeVito shared that a study was done years ago which led to their current pattern. However, we pointed out that things have changed and issues such as student drop off and exiting into traffic no longer exist. He also stated that the district could change the pattern if necessary. We suggested returning back to the old way of entering so that all vehicles would enter from Lagoon Drive. There could be have two gates: one for cars and the other for buses. Since we have two lanes in the back of the building as well as a student drop off lane, this should address the concerns that previously existed when dropping students in the morning. Mr. DeVito agreed that this was a good option and said that he would meet with Mr. Stroud to discuss implementation for the fall.

Lindell and East Windows

There was a discussion about whether or not the windows actually open. It was explained that they do; it is just very difficult to open them and that they only open a small amount due to safety regulations. We are still waiting to hear about the new locks and slides on the windows as the architects were not present to discuss. Lindell has no fans, but does have a ventilation system that is supposed to brings in fresh air to the classrooms. Mr. DeVito stated that if there are rooms in either building that are very hot or have ventilation issues; teachers should request a fan and the district would provide one.

Outstanding Items/New Business

We asked that next year the committee returns to monthly meetings. Mr. DeVito plans to schedule four meetings next year (October, January, March and May) and believes that number is sufficient. He also said that if we need to add another one he would be open to that. It was

brought to my attention that the nurses have not had their biohazard material picked up all year. It seems that there was some confusion about renewing the contract due to the lack of a Nurse Liaison who previously was in charge of contracting out such services. Mr. DeVito assured us that it would be taken care of ASAP.

VI. Treasurer's Report - Jim Fiola

A. April Financial Results

Revenues	
Union dues	\$36,383
Retiree dues	9
Total	\$36,392

Expenditures	
NYSUT	\$13,230
AFT	8,010
Payroll related items	105
Training	178
Scholarships	3,000
Meeting Expenses	680
Professional Services	1,850
Year End Celebration	206
Office Phone	69
Public Relations	273
Travel	37
Total	\$27,638



There were three in the cell and the little one yelled roll over, roll over

- B. I encourage all our members to attend our End of the Year Celebration at Bridgeview next Wednesday, May 20. It is a chance to honor the retirees for their many years of service. If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please e-mail them to me at jfiola@lbeach.org. This is important not only for future elections but also to ensure that the NYSUT database is accurate in order for you to receive important information about member benefits.
- 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." (The 2014 union dues for tax purposes was \$944.36.) 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. West School

- 1. West School's Catapult Contest reached new heights. This parent-child at home project helps support our strong commitment to creative thinking and problem solving.
- 2. The Kindergarten musical "Tikki Tikki Tembo" was another memorable event thanks to our musical director Vanessa Krywe in collaboration with the entire Kindergarten staff and parent volunteers.
- 3. The PTA sponsored 5th Grade Beach Party Dance was well attended and fun for all!
- 4. Thank you to SEPTA and the West School staff for attending the SEPTA awards night. We recognize the achievements of our very special students!
- 5. Thank you to the HS National Honor Society students for visiting our Kindergartens.
- 6. Thank you to our PTA for the Spring Boutique and for the Flower Sale.
- 7. Congratulations to Arlyne Skolnik on the birth of her granddaughter Madison Rose.
- 8. The lack of availability of per diem subs leads to the cancellation of classes.

B. Lindell School

- 1. Thank you to Carol Cintorino for designing our Move It Forward Assembly and fundraiser to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
- 9. Kudos to Mary Miller and Michelle LaBiento for coordinating staff and students in our Move It

- Forward activity spectacular for the benefit of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
- 10. BROADWAY BOUND! Under the direction of Barbara Russo, Michelle LaBiento, and Kindergarten teachers: Felice Dolger, Adrian Gioulis, Tracy Polete, Iris Resnick and the Kindergarten TAs, Lindell's Kindergarten students artistically sang, danced and flipped through each month of the year. Congratulations to one and all for an outstanding performance.
- 11. Bravo to the students in grades 3-5 for an entertaining and impressive spring concert. Congratulations to our teachers: Mrs. Russo, Mr. West and Ms. Pollicastro for guiding and developing the musical skills of our students.
- 12. Congratulations to our Lindell students on their SEPTA awards.
- 13. Congratulations to Lauren Kaufman on being selected as Literacy Coach to our elementary Schools.
- 14. Congratulations to Dr. Kaitlin Fuentes on her engagement.
- 15. Thank you to the Lindell PTA for providing another successful annual Mother's Day plant sale.
- 16. The lack of availability of per diem subs leads to the cancellation of classes.

C. East School

- Congratulations to Sean Murray on his appointment as Director of Elementary Curriculum Instruction and Assessment.
- 2. Congratulations to Caitlin Fuentes on her engagement.
- 3. Wishing a speedy recovery to Suzanne Richez.
- 4. Kudos to the PTA for another successful Plant Sale and Mother's Day Boutique.
- 5. Many thanks to the Fifth Grade Parent Committee for their hard work on the annual Fifth Grade Special Person Dance.
- 6. The lack of availability of per diem subs leads to the cancellation of classes.

D. Lido School

- 1. Kindergarten teachers beautifully prepared their students in honoring their mothers by hosting a Mother's Day Tea Party. They were assisted by Andrew Frey, Music teacher and Lynda D'Alessio.
- 2. Kudos to Lido PTA for beautifying the Lido Habitat, sponsoring the Plant Sale and the Mother's Day Boutique.
- 3. Congratulations to the SEPTA award winners and all who attended to support the students' academic success.
- 4. Congratulations to Dr. Caitlin Fuentes on her recent engagement!
- 5. Many thanks to the C.O.A.S.T. Program for hosting an informational luncheon.
- 6. Wishing Suzanne Richez a speedy recovery!
- 7. The lack of availability of per diem subs leads to the cancellation of classes.

E. Pre-K

1. We are concerned about the safety of our playground. It has been almost 2 years and best solution has been placing "CAUTION" tape around the slide. Over time this tape presents its own hazard. We hope something permanent can be put in place over the summer.

F. Middle School

- 1. The LBCTA End of the Year Celebration is Wednesday, May 20 at 5 PM at Bridgeview. Come out to celebrate our retirees!
- 2. As our retirees get ready to start the new chapter of their life we would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication throughout their years in Long Beach. Best of luck to John Rooney, Grace Reimenschneider, Phyllis Boriello, Lynn Marcell and Steve Freeman!
- 3. Wishing Joshua Anisansel and Cheriese Pemberton all the best as they leave Long Beach to

In-Service Opportunities

Long Beach Teacher Center www.lbeachtc.org

The NYSUT Education and Learning Trust (F2F and online) www.nysut.org.elt

SCOPE Education Services (F2F and online) www.scopeonline.us

Dellecave Education Institute (F2F) www.dellecave.org

PBS TeacherLine (Online) www.pbs.org/teacherline

Nassau TRACT (F2F) www.myleamingplan.com

Nassau BOCES (F2F and online) www.mylearningplan.com

C.I.T.E. (F2F) www.citeonline.com

NYS Teacher Center Academy (Online) www.rockteach.org

- explore new opportunities!
- 4. Congratulations to Lauren Deisu and the cast and crew of Phantom Tollbooth on their outstanding performances.
- 5. The MS PTA Cinco de Mayo luncheon was wonderful and very much appreciated by faculty and staff!
- 6. The teacher appreciation breakfast was fabulous! Thank you Michele Natali, Keith Biesma and John Emmons.
- 7. Congratulations to Nicole Vasheo and Jillian Fernandez on a beautiful NJHS induction ceremony.
- 8. Condolences to Joane Tom and family on the loss of her mother.
- 9. Condolences to the family of Lynn Litt, a former MS teacher who recently passed away.
- 10. We had a wonderful turn-out of faculty and staff at the SEPTA awards. Thank you for taking the time!
- 11. Remember to get out and vote for your local school budget on May 19!
- 12. Please try to attend a school board meeting before the end of the school year!

G. High School

- 1. Congratulations to Jenna Schebler on the birth of her daughter.
- 2. Congratulations to Dr. Matthew Morand on his appointment as Director of Special Education.
- 3. Best wishes to Dr. Pemberton and Mr. Anisansel in their new positions.
- 4. We are still waiting for a resolution regarding the lack of uniformity regarding the computation of teachers APPR scores across disciplines.
- 5. With the upcoming move to a Humanities and STEM director there is great concern about the handling of day to day departmental operations. We are anxious to hear more from the district regarding these directors' job descriptions and any plans to ensure that individual department's needs are properly addressed.
- 6. With the departure from the district of the Mathematics and English directors, We are concerned about the seamless transfer of teachers' APPR calculations. The departing directors have access to pretest data and the formulas used to calculate student growth and teacher performance scores. We are hopeful that steps are taken to ensure the transfer of this information to the proper parties.
- 7. There is a need for greater staff training of Special Education teachers in the area of IEP goal writing. Building administration is aware of the situation and is looking into ways to address this.
- 8. We are still waiting for building administration to properly outfit our faculty room. Mr. Stroud has informed us that we he will look for a more suitable location for next year.
- 9. The temperature of the building remains inconsistent. It is extremely warm in some areas while very cold in others.
- 10. 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 in our classrooms.
- 11. There is still great concern for the safety of students, staff and residents under the current traffic pattern.
- 12. The lack of cleanliness in the building is still of great health concern.
- 13. We are concerned about the number of students in the hallways throughout the day. Due to the lack of available teachers for hall duty assignments and the number of study halls student presence has recently increased and we are concerned that this is becoming an academic and safety issue.
- 14. We are hopeful that the district will address the state of the inclusion program at the HS. This year many classes had large number of students in them as well as a large percentage of classified students. We believe that the class caps need to be re-examined in order to effectively meet the needs of the students.
- 15. We are eager to learn more about proposed plans for NIKE for the next school year. While details of this plan are still being formulated we are concerned how the needs of all students involved will be met.
- 16. Congratulations to all those involved in the recently held SEPTA Awards dinner.
- 17. Please attend the LBCTA End of the Year Celebration on May 20 at Bridgeview.

VIII. Meeting dates

May

- 12 Board of Education, 7:30 PM LB Public Library
- 20 End of the Year Celebration, 4:30 PM Bridgeview
- 26 Board of Education, 7:30 PM MS auditorium

June

- 8 Exec. Bd., 4 PM MS Library
- 9 Board of Education, 7:30 PM MS auditorium

In attendance:

West - Mary Ann Colucci

Lindell - Migdalia Schneider, Heather Puckhaber, Jane Quinton

East - Lori Montgomery, Lori Montgomery

Lido - Marilyn Pilo, Dorothy Lopez, Cheryll Carroll

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

High School - Amy Powers, Jonathan Bloom, Eric Heck, Perry Bodnar

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

Respectfully submitted by Nora Bellsey, Recording Secretary.









New York State Teachers' Retirement System

I. 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 the "My Tools" tab and then "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:

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

