



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

February 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:18pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

3/8/21, 3/22/21, 4/12/21*, 4/26/21, 5/10/21,
5/24/21, 6/14/21

B. State of the Union Speech

With the approval of the Executive Board, my State of the Union Speech will be at the Executive Board meeting on March 22.

C. COVID Update

1. Local Infection Rates- It is great to once again report that the 7-day average infection rates are still declining.

The Nassau County 7-day average infection rates; 1/11/21- 8.7%, 1/25/21- 6.6%, and today 2/8- 5.4%. We are hopeful that these numbers are a result of our communities making responsible decisions and that they will continue to trend in this direction. The teachers would love to see the students return to fulltime once numbers reach a safe level. These numbers can be tracked on the *NYS Dashboard* - [VIEW PERCENTAGE POSITIVE RESULTS BY COUNTY](#)

2. Travel Related Quarantines - Travel requirements have not been changed for people that have been vaccinated. Please review Dr. Gallagher's email from 2/3, if you are planning on traveling outside of New York if you have any questions.

3. COVID Quarantine - Can I return to work? Employees need to satisfy three conditions to return to work after recovering from COVID:

- 10 days after symptom onset; AND
- Symptoms are improving; AND
- Fever-free for at least 72 hours without use of fever reducing medicines.

4. NYS CARES Act - The Department of Labor issued a document on 1/20/21 with updated guidance on sick leaves as a result of COVID. Worth noting is that the NYS COVID leave can be used a maximum of 3 times, and that the 2nd and 3rd time can only be used for a positive COVID case and not close contact. Also clarified was if an employee takes it upon themselves to be retested at the end of their isolation period



Keith Harvey

President

Karen Bloom

Executive Vice President

Beth Prostick

Vice President for

Elementary Schools

Amy Powers

Vice President for Secondary Schools

Patricia Van Loon

Recording Secretary

Elleen Parks

Corresponding Secretary

James Fiola

Treasurer

Table of Contents

- I. [President](#)
- II. [Committees](#)
- III. [Vice President](#)
- IV. [Vice President for Elementary Schools](#)
- V. [Vice President 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. [NYSUT Benefits](#)

(after having COVID), and tests positive, they shall be deemed to be subject to a second mandatory order of isolation from the Department of Health. Please note that an employee is not recommended to be tested to discontinue isolation or quarantine.

School Infection Rates- Local School infection rates can be tracked on the [COVID-19 Schools Report Card](#)

D. LBCTA Sick Bank

Thank you to everyone that has donated since our last meeting. Since its inception, almost 400 days have been donated. Unfortunately, there are currently more requests than donations, leaving the bank at a negative balance. Please remember that the bank runs on the generosity of the membership. I hope each of you sees fit to donate at least one day to the bank to ensure its continuation. Donation form [link](#).

E. Election of Officers and Delegates

Thank you very much to Chris Brown, Jennifer Garrett, and Claudine Clark for volunteering to serve on the Board of Elections. Please see the committee reports for this year's election procedures of officers and delegates.

F. LBSD 2021-2022 Budget

The Long Beach Board of Education is currently reviewing the school budget for next year. As in year's past, they will be assessing all aspects of the budget in anticipation of adopting and putting the budget out for a vote to the community in May.

G. 2021 Scholarships

1. LBCTA Scholarships - The association will once again be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are children of CTA members. Pat Fallon has graciously volunteered to continue as the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. To be eligible for a CTA scholarship, the student must graduate from his/her high school in either January or June 2021. He/she may attend high school in any city or town. A parent must have been a dues-paying member of the CTA for at least three full years and currently paying dues unless on family or medical leave. Those interested and eligible may request an application from Pat, by email at pfallon@lbeach.org. The closing date for receipt of the completed application and all supporting documents, submitted in duplicate, is 2 PM on Friday, March 12. The evaluation of these applications will take place on Wednesday, March 17 immediately after school. Please contact Pat if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented.

2. AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program - This program offers four 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members, as well as 10 onetime \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education.

<https://www.aft.org/member-benefits/scholarships/robert-g-porter-scholars-program>

3. 2021 Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund, Len Motisi Memorial Scholarship -

Children of in-service members of NYSUT locals, who are high school seniors, graduating this year, and who will be attending a post-secondary institution on a full-time basis, are eligible. If you would like an application, please contact Keith Harvey.

H. FLEX Spending Reminder

Reminder Flexible Benefits may be used for unreimbursed medical or dental expenses or dependent care. For this year only, employees can carry over 100% of unused funds remaining in the FSA. There has also been an increase in the maximum age for children from 13 to 14 in relation to dependent day care.

I. 2021-2022 Calendar

The 2021-2022 District draft school calendar was discussed and approved at the last meeting by the Executive Board. The School Board will be reviewing it and adopting it at an upcoming meeting. You will be notified once the School Board has acted on it.

J. Study Money Dates

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Money Program: 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](#).



K. Credit Swap

1.5 credits for Hofstra University – Contact Greg Milone at 516-445-9823 if interested.

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. Board of Elections – Jennifer Garrett

1. The following positions will appear on this year’s ballot: President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President for Elementary Schools, Vice-President for Secondary Schools, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, NYSUT Delegate (2) and AFT Delegate (3). If you are interested in running for any of these positions, you must notify me in writing by March 15th at jgarrett@lbeach.org. You will be notified when your letter of intent is received, and you will be supplied with a copy of the petition (paper and digital) that you can use to secure the necessary 35 signatures in order to appear on the ballot. Candidates must submit petitions to me with signatures of thirty-five (35) members of the association who support your candidacy by March 30th. No person may be an officer of the LBCTA unless he or she has been granted tenure and has been an active member for two consecutive years immediately prior to election. In addition, no person may be President of LBCTA unless he or she has previously been an officer of the LBCTA, a member of the Executive Board, an elected delegate, or a member of a standing or special committee within the previous 5 years. Thank you!

C. New Member Committee – Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka

1. Have a Wonderful Winter Recess. We are hopeful to gather for an event this year. We might have to split into smaller groups, but it would be worth it.
2. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Jim Fiola at jfiola@lbeach.org or Alison Katulka at akatulka@lbeach.org. **Please contact us if you do not have a buddy or mentor.** Do not be afraid to ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you.

D. Political Action Committee – Jennifer Garrett

1. Locals across Long Island are pulling together as we all continue to face many obstacles and struggles due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a show of unity, **Island-wide Red for Ed Day** is in the works! March 12th will be **WEAR RED for ED!** This day will serve to remind all members that we are all in this together! Additional information to follow!
2. Our next meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday, February 24th at 4:15. Meeting information will be sent out. All are welcome to attend this meeting. If you would like to attend please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com from your personal email if you are interested in attending.
3. 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. Sadly, due to COVID and social distancing guidelines, we will not be doing our annual

bowling event. The PR Committee has been discussing ways we can continue to fundraise for a local cause this spring. We have decided that for this year we will focus on our amazing building themed basket raffles and add a 50/50 raffle.

2. It has been decided that all proceeds this spring will be donated to local food banks.
3. For anyone who would like to create their own basket or have items that can be raffled off in addition to the building baskets we will happily take them. ☺

Please have your building theme to Amy by the end of this week Feb 12th. We would like to start promoting the name of the baskets to members ASAP. A Google form will be sent out which will allow members to purchase raffle tickets towards specific baskets. Venmo will be the choice of preference for all purchases. If you do not have Venmo, you can interoffice cash to Beth Prostick at Lido.

Please have all raffle baskets completed by March 15th so that we have time to promote them with pictures via email and Facebook.

4. We hope to do all the raffles drawings on Thursday, March 25th before spring break.
5. Our next PR meeting will be Wednesday, February 24th at 4:15 pm. Please let Amy or Beth know if you will be attending so we can plan ahead and send you a link for the meeting.

F. Social Committee – Elleen Parks

1. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we currently are unable to plan any social gatherings. We are hopeful to celebrate our retirees at some point in the future.

G. Teacher Center – John Marr

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center has received its 2020-2021 grant confirmation. The Center is currently looking for individuals who are interested in running 10 hour professional development classes. If you are interested, please fill out a request on MLP or contact the Director directly at lbtc@lbeach.org.

III. Vice President – Karen Bloom

- A.** We will continue to work together to make sure that the health and safety of both students and staff are of the utmost importance. Hopefully, we will start to see an improvement in our numbers as the spring approaches, so that we can revisit our current hybrid model.

B. APPR

1. While we are in person and in the hybrid model, there will be no virtual observations, unless both parties agree! 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.
2. If we go fully virtual, we will follow the guidelines for the fully virtual classes that are happening now.
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.

C. Health & Safety Committee

1. We are still waiting for the latest air quality results from the high school. Mr. DeVito said he would have Brendan Scully follow up with a copy of the report.
2. We still have no new updates on School ID's at the high school, but supposedly they are in the works.
3. We are waiting for further clarification regarding the numbers listed for each room in both the MS and HS. This number only takes students into account, not teachers or other support staff. There are many classes that have two teachers and additional aides. Each adult should also have an area that is spaced 6 feet from all other people, as we are continually being reminded to remain vigilant with our distancing. The Screening App has been updated to reflect the newest changes in COVID requirements.

4. Please continue to keep your building reps aware of any health and safety issues in your buildings so that we can address them as needed.
5. Our next Health and Safety meeting has still not been scheduled.
6. 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. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible. They are back to call in! It's easier than ever!
2. 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. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on March 15, at 4:15 on Zoom. I will send you the link that morning.
- B. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.
- C. Have a safe and relaxing vacation.
- D. Send me any issues you were unable to work out at your building. I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org.

V. Secondary Vice President – Amy Leder

- A. Please continue to communicate with your Building Leaders and Building Reps about items that need to be addressed or looked into.
- B. Please continue to maintain social distancing and wear your mask.

VI. Treasurer’s Report – James Fiola

A. January Financials

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Union Dues	\$41,829	NYSUT	\$15,444
Retiree Dues	9	AFT	9,155
Total	<u>\$41,838</u>	Taxes and Ins	179
		Meeting Exp	780
		Donations	300
		Public Relations	548
		Telephone	<u>283</u>
		Total	<u>\$26,389</u>

- B. I hope you all have a great Winter Recess! Stay safe and healthy. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank and try to attend an upcoming School Board Meeting. Thank you for reading the minutes and please encourage your fellow members to do the same.
- 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 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.

2020 union dues for tax purposes for full time members was \$1,018.

VII. Building Reports

A. LBVE

1. Congratulations to Randi Simon on the birth of her son, Zachary.
2. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

B. West School

1. Condolences to former West School teacher Gavin Jones on the passing of his father, Reggie Jones Sr.
2. Best wishes to Rebecca Sangiavanni on her new position at the Middle School. Thank you for your service at West School this year.
3. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.

C. Lindell School

1. Lindell teachers appreciate the desk dividers that have been distributed for one-to-one conference and assessment purposes.
2. Congratulations to Kathy Virgona on the announcement of her retirement!
3. Wishing everybody a healthy and safe winter break.
4. Looking forward to Lindell's Fun Fruit and Fitness Day on 2/12/21.
5. Thank you to teachers and staff for a successful World Read Aloud Day on 2/3.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to our district sick bank.

D. East School

1. Congratulations to all who announced their retirements. Wishing you all the best.
2. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

E. Lido School

1. Many thanks to Fawwas Persaud and his custodial staff for a speedy cleanup after the most recent snowstorms.
2. Thank you to Andrew Frey-Gould for Lido's schoolwide Zumba class for Global Play Day!
3. Thank you to the S.E.L. committee for Lido's Kindness Week activities!
4. Wishing all a safe, healthy, and relaxing Winter Recess.
5. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

F. Pre-K

1. Thank you to the custodians and grounds crew for the quick and safe clean-up after our snowstorms.
2. Thank you to Mr. Frey-Gould for our fun, filled Zumba dance along on Global Play Day.
3. Thank you to Ms. Golden for our Kindness Week activities.
4. Have a wonderful and safe February vacation!
5. Please consider donating a day to our LBCTA sick bank.

G. Middle School

1. Continued appreciation and thanks to Building Administration, Mary King, Liz McMahon, and Melissa Hartman for their continued handling of the contact tracing. We appreciate all of your time and effort going into this.
2. Again, thank you to EVERYONE for all continued efforts to follow health and safety protocols. Please remember these protocols are keeping us safe.
3. The week of Feb. 1st was National School Counseling Week. A very special THANK YOU to Bob Bajit, Ama Darkeh, and Nilka McDonnell for all that they do each day to support our students and building.
4. Special thank you to our Facilities Department for their hard work to clear the snow and get our building ready for our return.
5. Special thank you to Dr. Patrick Kiley-Rendon and the technology department for continued support and assistance with technology related issues.
6. We expressed concern regarding emails from PPS interns requesting student information. In many cases teachers were unfamiliar with the intern and the emails were originating from outside the district email. Thank you to Mr. Russo and Dr. Kiley-Rendon for hearing our concerns and ensuring interns will now receive lbeachg email addresses. Interns can now communicate with staff with a recognizable email address.

7. Get well wishes to Lorie Beard.
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.

H. High School

1. Condolences to Jeannie O'Shea on the passing of her father.
2. Condolences to Gavin Jones on the passing of his father.
3. Staff have concerns on the possible closing of NIKE and are eager to see the comprehensive plan that will support current NIKE students returning next year, as well as the dedicated staff that supports those students. The decision to possibly close NIKE is not one supported by students or staff. We have serious concerns about terminating a program that has long served a population of students who require additional social/emotional, academic/vocational support. The NIKE students have been placed in an alternative setting because they were not successful in the high school building, but were successful in a smaller, emotionally supportive setting.
4. Staff have raised safety concerns regarding the recent decision to allow students to participate in high risk sports.
5. Building administration shared with staff earlier this school year a map of the building which shows the number of students that can be safely placed in each classroom. We have requested that the map be updated to show the total number of people (students and staff) who can be safely distanced in each classroom.
6. Thank you to the student government on a successful blood drive.
7. Thank you to the buildings and grounds staff for removing all of the snow from the recent snow storms.
8. Thank you to the Building Administration for accommodating teachers who have needed to work from home due to quarantine-related issues.
9. Thank you to the Building Administration for handling the contact tracing that goes along with suspected cases.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Staff would like to see the district require students to wear student ID cards during the school day.
13. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.
14. Thank you to EVERYONE for all of your efforts to follow health and safety protocols. Please remember these protocols are keeping us safe.
15. Have a wonderful and safe winter recess.

At 5:17 pm, a motion was made by Patricia Van Loon to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Alison Katulka.

In Attendance:

Long Beach Virtual Elementary (LBVE): Heather Puckhaber

West: Claudine Clark, Anne La Penna

Lindell: Susan Simons, Cathleen Barone, Lisa Rundo

East: Jennifer Diamond

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Diana Armada, Dana Monti

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Alison Katulka, Stacey Mason, Kaitlin Smith

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Neil Campbell, Lisa Casey, Elena Frishman, Greg Milone

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC):

Retiree: Frank Volpe

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

Come to us for the savings...



DINING &
SHOPPING
DISCOUNTS



TRAVEL
&
TOURS



CAR &
TRUCK
RENTALS

Come back for our Legal Service Plan



ESTATE
PLANNING



HOUSE
CLOSINGS



LEGAL LETTERS
WRITTEN

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.

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

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You

Jan./Feb.'21