



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

December 4, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 4:23 pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report—Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Dates

1/8/24, 1/22/24, 2/12/24, 3/11/24,
3/25/24, 4/8/24, 5/6/24, 6/10/24

B. Happy Holidays

Everything we do as an Association is to advance the quality of education in our schools. We achieve this by unifying our members, and securing and strengthening the conditions necessary to support teaching as a profession. Thank you for your commitment, and for all you do for the children and families of the Long Beach community. May the peace and joy of the holiday season be with you and your family throughout the coming year.



C. LBCTA Toy Drive 2023

Thank you very much for



little saint nick foundation.
"Kids inspiring and helping kids"

all your contributions to this year's toy drive. This year we were able to donate \$1,450 which represents 145 gift bags to The Little Saint Nick Foundation (LSNF). The LSNF inspires kids in local communities to give back to those kids in need. LSNF does this by providing gift bags to kids as they enter a hospital that are made by other kids. There is a special connection between kids of all ages that you can't duplicate and a simple act of kindness amplifies this connection to a deeper meaning of giving.

D. LBCTA Apparel—Deadline Sunday, 12/10/23

Don't forget to order your complimentary LBCTA apparel. You must be logged into your lbeach account to complete the form. Please click [here](#) to fill out the form.



E. LBCTA Sick Bank

Thank you very much to all who have donated so far. Unfortunately, the bank currently has more requests than days available, leaving the bank at zero. Please consider donating to help fill those requests. The bank runs in our members' generosity.

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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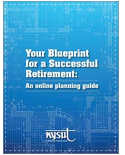
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F. First Eligible Retirement Incentive

If you are considering retiring in June, under the terms of our first eligible retirement incentive, you must notify the district of your intention by January 15, 2024. First eligible means that you are able to retire without an age or service reduction. If you are unsure if you are first eligible, or need more information, you can look at your NYSTRS Benefit Profile or contact NYSTRS directly at; NYSTRS website- <https://nystrs.org/Retirement-Planning> NYSTRS Number - (800) 348-7298.

G. NYSUT Offers Online Guide for a Successful Retirement

NYSUT has a publication for future retirees. "Your Blueprint for a Successful Retirement: An online planning guide" is posted as a resource for planning the next chapter in your life - retirement! [Click here](#). A login for NYSUT.org is required to access the online publication.



H. Long Beach Teacher Center

I am appointing Andrew Rossi to the Long Beach Teacher Center Policy Board to represent Long Beach High School.

I. Aflac and MassMutual Life Insurance

If you wish to discuss any of the AFLAC benefits or get a quote on the Life Insurance, please be sure to reach out to Don and schedule your appointment before December 8. Don Hoyer, Senior District Sales Coordinator donald_hoyer@us.aflac.com Mobile- (516) 241-8672 Please see Appendix A for more information.

J. Sellback of Health Insurance

If you elect to “sell-back” your health insurance you will receive your first half payment as part of your December 8th paycheck. If you did not receive your payment; call the payroll office at 2088 to verify your election. Please keep in mind that even if you “sell-back” your medical insurance you are still entitled to family dental insurance.

K. Study Money—Reminder

There are two more opportunities to participate in the Study Program: Winter – Friday, December 8, 2023 and 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](#).



L. Coaching Pay Dates

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

High School

Winter: First Check: 12/22, Second Check: 2/16
Spring: First Check: 3/27, Second Check: 5/10

Middle School

Winter I: First Check: 12/8, Second Check: 1/19
Winter II: First Check: 2/16, Second Check: 3/15
Spring: First Check: 4/26, Second Check: 6/7

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. I hope everyone enjoys a safe and healthy holiday season.
2. Please join us for our annual LBCTA bowling fundraiser on February 1st at Maple Lanes in RVC. This event is a lot of fun and all proceeds will go to the Bats Out for Lazar Foundation.
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. NYSUT is once again asking that all members please download the NYSUT MAC (Member Action Center) app to your phone. You can find it at the following link: <https://mac.nysut.org/> NYSUT will be utilizing this app to disseminate information to members.
2. Help Fix Tier 6! NYSUT has launched an initiative for Fix Tier 6. Fixing Tier 6 is about justice and dignity in retirement. It's about solidarity and fairness. It's about keeping talented educators in the classroom and recruiting new educators into the profession. We have work to do to make public service retirement fair for everyone and we can't do it without you. If you are interested in joining our Fix Tier 6 Team please email lbctapac@gmail.com. NYSUT is asking everyone to [sign up \(https://fixtier6.org/get-involved\)](https://fixtier6.org/get-involved) to receive updates on how you can get involved to Fix Tier 6. Also, if you are interested in joining our LBCTA Fix Tier 6 team please email lbctapac@gmail.com. We will be in touch with updates and actions you can take.
3. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

D. Public Relations Committee—Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Save the date for our annual bowling event on Thursday, February 1st at Maple Lanes in RVC. We will be donating to the Bats Out for Lazar Foundation. Please register your teams using this [link](#). Deadline to register is January 12th. In addition to our building raffle basket donations, we are looking for donations that can promote our staff's craft, skills and talents. If you have a business or item you would like to promote and can donate it to be raffled off, we would love to help you. Please contact A. Leder to donate.
2. Wishing everyone a restful holiday season with your loved ones.



E. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

F. Long Beach Teacher Center—John Marr

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year! The Teacher Center is currently looking for individuals to run professional development classes for this year. The strength of NYS Teacher Centers comes from the commitment of our members to step up and provide high quality professional development that can be utilized in our classrooms to help students. Running a class is an empowering and at times intimidating experience. Please contact the Director at lbtc@lbeach.org and he will be happy to help you develop your class and walk you through this exciting experience.
2. The Long Beach Teacher Center is currently in need of representatives from various buildings to help be part of the conversation at Policy Board meetings. The Policy Board meets once per month on the third Tuesday of each month at the middle school library from 4:15-5:15. Please contact the Director if you would like to be part of a supportive committee devoted to supporting teacher professional development. This is a great first committee for educators, new and experienced!

We currently need the following representatives:

- East School: 1 member
- Lido School: 1 member
- Lindell School: 2 members
- West School: 1 member
- High School: 1 member

G. Pre-K Committee—Molly Drake

1. Thank you for updating the Pre-K report cards on SchoolTool. It would be helpful to meet with the directors to discuss the indicators on the Pre-K report card.
2. Thank you for the LBCTA swag!
3. Looking forward to the bowling fundraiser!
4. Enjoy the holiday season and many blessings in the new year!

H. LB Teachers Federal Credit Union

1. The LBTFUCU has open positions for a Credit Union Board Member (volunteer). Time commitment is one hour a month. Interested individuals should be willing to conscientiously attend and participate in our monthly board meetings. The board members oversee and vote on the general management and policy decisions of the Long Beach Teachers Federal Credit Union. Financial experience is not necessary. Training can be provided.
2. The LBTFUCU has an open position for an Internal Auditor (paid). The Credit union is looking for a CPA with 5 or more years of experience. Familiarity with working with credit unions is highly preferred. Applicants will work with Credit Union board and Supervisory Committees. Non district and retired CPAs are welcome to inquire.
3. Interested parties should email Jim Fioal at jfiola@lbeach.org.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

- A. Last week, Monday, midday, Mr. Pettas made the decision to shut down all streaming capabilities for teachers, without any communication, prior warning or a plan to address the change. This led to interrupted instruction, lack of proper resources and much frustration. Although he attempted to reverse it the next day, this led to a variety of other issues and multiple days of damage control that we are still dealing with this week. We truly hope that in the future, Mr. Pettas puts a plan in place to address the change and clearly communicates it to teachers BEFORE implementing new procedures.
- B. We are looking forward to continued discussions regarding the PLAN Pilot as well as the Alternative School at the High School. These are initiatives that will require much planning and attention in order to be successfully implemented.

C. APPR

1. You should have received something stating who your evaluators will be for this school year. If you did not, please contact your immediate supervisor and let them know.
2. 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.

D. Health & Safety Committee

1. The next meeting date is January 29th. The spring meeting will be May 6th.
2. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

E. Other

1. Keep your eye out for the Bowling Fundraiser! Save the date...February 1st!
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.
4. Have a happy, healthy & relaxing Holiday Break with your families and friends!

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

- A. Thank you to all who donated to our annual toy drive.
- B. Save the date for our Bowling Fundraiser on February 1. Please begin thinking about the theme for your school basket. Please register your teams using this [link](#).
- C. The Long Beach Teacher Center is looking for a second representative from East, Lido, and West School. The Teacher Center is also looking for two reps from Lindell. The meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the LBMS Library. Meetings last approximately an hour.
- D. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- E. Have a very happy holiday and a joyous new year!

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

- A. Save the date for our annual bowling event on Thursday, February 1st at Maple Lanes in RVC. We will be donating to the Bats Out for Lazar Foundation. Please register your teams using this [link](#). Deadline to register is January 12th. In addition to our building raffle basket donations, we are looking for donations that can promote our staff’s craft, skills and talents. If you have a business or item you would like to promote and can donate it to be raffled off, we would love to help you. Please contact A.Leder to donate.
- B. The Long Beach Teacher Center is looking for a second representative from the high school. The meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the LBMS Library. Meetings last approximately an hour.
- C. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

VI. Treasurer’s Report—Jonathan Bloom

A. November Financial Results

| <u>Revenues</u> | | <u>Expenditures</u> | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Retirees | \$36.00 | NYSUT Dues | \$16,375.40 |
| Wrkrs Comp. Overpayment | \$8.00 | AFT Dues | \$10,037.88 |
| Union Dues | \$42,567.28 | Meeting Expenses | \$3,553.89 |
| TOTAL | <u>\$42,611.28</u> | Taxes and Fees | \$255.24 |
| | | Professional Dues | \$250.00 |
| | | PTA Dues | \$292.00 |
| | | TOTAL | <u>\$30,764.41</u> |

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Thank you to Dan Bailey and Bryan Rosen for organizing a terrific turkey trot. The students had a ball!
2. Thank you to all who donated to the CTA toy drive.
3. Save the date for our annual bowling event. It will be held on Thursday, February 1st at Maple Lanes in RVC. This year we will be donating to the Bats Out for Lazar Foundation. Please register your teams using this [link](#).
4. The Long Beach Teacher Center is looking for a second representative from West School. The meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the LBMS Library. Meetings last

approximately an hour. Please contact lbtc@lbeach.org if interested.

5. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Bank.
6. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, relaxing holiday season. And happiness and peace in the new year.

B. Lindell School

1. Thank you to the Lindell PTA for hosting the Scholastic Book Fair .
2. Much appreciation goes out to all who donated to the CTA toy drive and providing holiday cheer to the Little Saint Nick Foundation.
3. Lindell SEL families practiced “attitudes of gratitude” by reading the book “My Gratitude Jar” By Kristin Wiens and adding ideas of what they are thankful for.
4. Thank you Mary Miller and Rachel Ray for organizing a school wide Turkey Trot. Inclement weather didn’t hold us back as we trotted and chanted in the gym and around the first floor.
5. Third grade students made creative character balloons and held a Balloons Over Broadway parade for the school.
6. The lack of available printers is creating more technology problems throughout our building. Teachers being asked to share printers is causing more problems than a solution. Every teacher needs their own working printer.
7. Save the date: Thursday, February 1st is our annual bowling event. Get your teams together. Please register your teams using this [link](#).
8. The Long Beach Teacher Center is looking for two representatives from Lindell School. The meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the LBMS Library. Meetings last approximately an hour. Please contact lbtc@lbeach.org if interested.
9. Thank you to those members who have donated to the sick bank. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank if you haven't already done so.
10. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a peaceful new year!

C. East School

1. Thank you to all who donated to the LBCTA Toy Drive. The donations you made went directly to the Little Saint Nick Foundation.
2. We encourage you to attend at least one school board meeting.
3. The Long Beach Teacher Center is looking for a second representative from East School. The meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the LBMS Library. Meetings last approximately an hour. Please contact lbtc@lbeach.org if interested.
4. Have a healthy and happy holiday season. We will see you in 2024!

D. Lido School

1. Thank you to those members who donated to the LBCTA Toy Drive.
2. The students were excited to buy gifts for their families from the Holiday Boutique hosted by the 5th grade parents.
3. Wishing a speedy recovery to our Assistant Principal, Chris Webel! Many thanks to Christine LaMarca for filling in during his absence.
4. Welcome to Jasmin Salazar and Ben Swan who are filling in for Christine LaMarca’s ENL teaching periods during this time.
5. Welcome back to Kylee Nicholls.
6. Students and teachers enjoyed participating in the first Balloons Over Lido Thanksgiving Parade. It took place around the basketball court for friends and families to cheer on as students marched around with their balloon creations. Kudos to the students and Keely McEachern for leading this engaging and fun STEM Challenge.

7. Save the date for our LBCTA Annual Bowling Fundraiser at RVC Maple Lanes on Thursday, February 1, 2024. Please register your teams using this [link](#).
8. Save the date for our LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club on Thursday, May 15, 2024.
9. The Long Beach Teacher Center is looking for a second representative from Lido School. The meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the LBMS Library. Meetings last approximately an hour. Please contact lbtcc@lbeach.org if interested.
10. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
11. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, restful, and safe holiday break! Happy New Year!

E. LBMS

1. As per ARTICLE VIII, section 4, parts A and B of the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association Constitution and By-Laws, I am appointing Darice Bynoe and Dan D'Ottavio as Alternate Building Representatives for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year to fill vacancies at the Middle School.
2. Teachers were disappointed at the abrupt disruption of access to technological services last week without any communication about it.
3. Thank you to our Student Organization (advisors: Mr. Papetti and Mr. Kramme) for planning and organizing a fun-filled Spirit Week for the MS.
4. Congratulations to Mike Vasikauskas on the birth of his son, Ezra.
5. Save the date for our 7th Annual Bowling Fundraiser at RVC Maple Lanes on Thursday, February 1, 2024. Please register your teams using this [link](#).
6. Thank you to all of those who donated to the LBCTA Toy Drive. Your continued generosity is very appreciated.
7. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a very happy new year!

F. LBHS

1. Our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the Berube family on the loss of alumni Michael Berube.
2. Staff at the High School were disappointed at the abrupt disruption of access to technological services last week without any communication about it. Staff is also still waiting for better access to printers and copiers throughout the building.
3. Congratulations to Mrs. O'Shea-Saroka and Mr. Noss along with all of those inducted into the National Honor Society.
4. Congratulations to Mr. Hue and all who were a part of the musical production *Radium Girls*.
5. Save the date for the LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser at the RVC lanes on Thursday, February 1st. Please register your teams using this [link](#).
6. Thank you to everyone who donated to the LBCTA toy drive.
7. The Long Beach Teacher Center is looking for a second representative from LBHS. The meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the LBMS Library. Meetings last approximately an hour. Please contact lbtcc@lbeach.org if interested.
8. Please consider serving on a district committee.
9. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.
10. Wishing Everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season & New Year!

At 4:52 pm, a motion was made by Keith Harvey to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Beth Prostick.

In Attendance:

West: Julie deBruin

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Susan Simons

East: Jennifer Diamond, Melissa Canner, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Dana Monti

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Alison Katulka, John Marr, Grace Parisi

LBHS: Lisa Casey, Camila Gamboa, Brian Petschauer, Andrew Rossi

Pre-K Committee: Molly Drake

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC): John Marr

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

Guests:

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.

Being ready for the holidays can mean a lot of different things:

- Gifts for your loved ones
- Appliances for your home
- Confirming travel plans
- Entertainment for the kids
- Food delivery in case of inclement weather
- Savings set aside for unexpected expenses

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that could help make you as prepared as possible for whatever the holiday season may throw at you.

No matter what your plans may be this holiday season, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. With a number of shopping, travel and discount programs, you are certain to find something of interest that could benefit you or your loved ones.

Speaking of savings, the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to offer all NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) exclusive access to savings of up to 50% at 850,000 locations – including more than 21,200 New York State deals. If you have not already done so, head over to mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com to create your account with your NYSUT ID number, preferred email address, and password.

You'll then be eligible to save on restaurant dine-in or take-out, flowers and gift baskets, Bose products, clothing and shoes, oil changes and vehicle maintenance, sporting events, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, movie tickets, and much more. Members are encouraged to download the MB Discounts & Deals mobile app for the best user experience with this program.

Member Benefits also endorses life insurance programs, auto & home insurance, dental & vision plans, legal & financial services, and other programs to help protect yourself and those you care about most.

Participating in Member Benefits-endorsed programs also offers the added protection of having a trusted advocate on their side. Member Benefits staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

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.

Nov./Dec. 2023



AFLAC Open Enroll 2023-24

*****PLEASE READ & SAVE THE DATE*****

NO HEALTH QUESTIONS: We are very excited to now offer **Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Insurance** - *NO HEALTH questions up to 150,000k* through MassMutual as part of our ever-expanding benefits package here at the Long Beach Schools!

For any questions or to enroll, be sure to reach out to our agent, Don Hoyer, BEFORE DEC 8th.

Don can also review the available Aflac benefits for you: Maternity, Cancer, Heart/Stroke, Accident, Hospital, & Disability etc.

Here are a few details of the Life Insurance product:

- Whole Life Insurance with Chronic Care Rider, Terminal Illness Rider & Paid-up Additions.
- 40% discounted GROUP rate
- **PORTABLE** for **LIFE**
- Group rate **Locked** for **LIFE**.
- Avg 20yr avg DIV/INTEREST of 7.25%. Highest in the industry.
- **GUARANTEED ISSUE up to 150k - NO HEALTH QUESTIONS – THIS YEAR ONLY.**
- Payroll deduction
- Rates begin at **\$2.10 per week** for as little as 10k.
- MAX of 250k per year available

Don Hoyer

Senior District Sales Coordinator

M. 516.241.8672 /// Email. Donald_hoyer@us.aflac.com