



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

March 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report—Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Dates

3/25/24, 4/8/24, 5/6/24, 6/10/24

B. 2024-2025 Long Beach School Budget(s)

At the February 26, Board of Education meeting there was a new [“Compromise Proposal”](#) presented to close the \$3.8 million gap and the additional \$4.3 million in cuts to Foundation Aid in next year’s budget. This new proposal restored the elementary program cuts presented in option 3 and postponed the closing of East for one year. In addition there were a few secondary cuts because of decreasing enrollment. The majority of the BOE members were in favor of this new proposal based on the current and limited information available regarding next year’s foundation aid. The next BOE meeting on 3/12 will focus on Transportation, Technology and Athletics, followed by a meeting on 3/26 to focus on Special Education. The final three meetings will be;

- 4/16- BOE Budget Adoption
- 5/14- Budget Hearing
- 5/21- Budget Vote & Board Election

We must continue to rally together as an association, and as an educational community to lobby our legislators and the Governor to restore our funding! Thank you to the LBCTA PAC for coordinating these efforts.

Please remember nothing has been decided yet.

C. Executive Vice President of Elementary - Succession

Congratulations and thank you to Beth Prostck for her years of service to the Long Beach School District and the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association. With Beth’s recent announcement for retirement, we will need to fill the one year remaining in her term as Vice President of Elementary Schools. As per the LBCTA constitution, “The Executive Board shall fill the vacant Vice Presidential positions from their membership. Such officers will serve for the remainder of the term.” If you are an executive board



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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member and interested in filling this position, please let me know ASAP, but no later than the close of business on Thursday 4/4/24. The Executive Board will fill the vacancy at the 4/8/24 meeting, and the one year term will begin on 7/1/24.

D. LBCTA Sick Bank

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

E. State of the Union Speech

The State of the Union Speech will be at the 3/25/24 Executive Board meeting.

F. AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program

The program offers four 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members, as well as 10 one-time \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education and/or fund their proposed ideas to strengthen and grow their union. Application window is Dec. 1 - March 31. All scholarship winners will be notified by June 30. [Click Here](#)

G. 2024 LBCTA Scholarship

The evaluation of these applications will take place during the week of March 18th. Please contact Elena if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented.

H. Study Money—Reminder

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Program: Summer – Friday, May 10, 2024. Members with permanent or professional certification may apply for up to \$1,750 in study money per semester. The application is available online at [Request for Participation in Study Program— Group A](#).

I. Coaching Pay Dates

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

High School

Spring: First Check: 3/27, Second Check: 5/10

Middle School

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. Please save the date, April 5, 2024 for our Spring New Member gathering at EGP Land and Sea. An RSVP form will be sent via email.
2. Please contact me if there is someone in need of a union buddy at akatulka@lbeach.org.

C. Political Action Committee—Jennifer Garrett

1. In response to the 2024-25 New York Executive Budget released by Gov. Hochul, the LBCTA has rallied together as an association for our students and schools. We must demand the state fully honor their commitment to fund education. **We must continue to fight to restore proper funding for our schools!**

Once again, many thanks to everyone for their overwhelming support with our letter writing campaign.

While it is encouraging that the Governor's office has recently indicated she might be open to rethinking her proposal, WE CANNOT LET UP THE PRESSURE!

To further lobby our legislators and the Governor to restore our funding, NYSUT is asking all members to come out on Saturday, March 16th, in a show of solidarity and support for a Fund Our Future Rally in Hauppauge, where we will demand the state restores the disastrous proposed cuts to foundation aid.

Again, please consider joining us on Saturday, March 16th, in a show of solidarity and support for this Fund Our Future Rally. I also ask that you please spread the word in your buildings. We are hoping to have a showing from each building. Please check your personal email for an email from PAC with all necessary information and registration link.

2. Thank you to everyone that has emailed to update their contact information with a current personal email address. The response has been great! If you are not receiving PAC emails, please email lbctapac@gmail.com to update your contact information with a current personal email address.
3. We are in the planning stages for the next edition of the LBCTA Newsletter. The second edition of each year reaches an expanded distribution list that includes our NYSUT brothers and sisters residing in the City of Long Beach, Lido Beach, Point Lookout and East Atlantic Beach to keep them informed of all the great happenings in our district. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions for content for the next newsletter please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com. All suggestions are greatly appreciated!
4. 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.

D. Public Relations Committee—Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Meet the cast and crew of LBHS musical Chicago. Tickets are on [sale now](#). The show is March 14-16th. Adults \$10/Students \$5 Seating is general admission.
2. Please consider attending our 2024 LBCTA end-of-the-year celebration honoring our retirees at the Ocean Club in AB on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
3. Please consider attending the BOE meetings. Important information about the entire district is shared and discussed.

E. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. We are pleased to announce that our 2024 retirees will be attending the end of the year party at The Ocean Club on Thursday, May 16, 2024. We look forward to sending more information to all by the end of the month.

F. Long Beach Teacher Center—John Marr

1. Dr. Ostroff will be emailing all teachers a needs assessment survey shortly. This needs assessment is important for the district and the Center as we use this information when writing the continuation application, which will start this month. Please take a few moments to complete the survey.
2. The Long Beach Teacher Center is looking for individuals who would like to run classes over the summer. If you are interested in running a 10 hour course the Center pays \$800. We are also looking for an individual who would like to lead a book study on [Learning Targets](#). As per district guidelines, all courses must be in person or virtual with half the time synchronous.

3. The new printer has arrived! Once it is set up please lookout for my email letting you know when and how you can access our poster making service.
4. If you have any questions or interest in running a program, please contact the director at lbtc@lbeach.org.

G. Pre-K Committee—Molly Drake

1. Postcards regarding Pre-K enrollment and the Pre-K program were mailed to all district residents in late February. The post cards included a QR code linked to registration documents, the Zoom link for the information session and a video showing the Long Beach Pre-K program.
2. The Pre-K information session went very well. Thank you to the administrators and teachers that were in attendance.
3. Pre-K enrollment began on March 7th. It was open enrollment on March 7th and 8th, you can still enroll at the registrar's office at Lido.
4. Pre-K visitation will be held Friday, March 15th at all four elementary schools.
5. Please consider donating a sick day to the sick bank.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

A. I was able to meet with Mr. Pettas to discuss the many issues we are facing in the world of technology. He shared that many of the items are being worked on, and to continue to fill out help desk tickets as needed. He also shared that if you are having difficulty with an issue or ticket, to reach out to him with your specific concerns. Please continue to bring your concerns to our attention if you feel they are not being addressed. I will be meeting with him monthly in order to discuss any items that are still outstanding. In addition, he assured me that there will be a plan in place before we make the switch to our new streaming platform. Feel free to contact me if you would like more specifics about any of the items that were brought forward.

B. 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.

C. Health & Safety Committee

1. We are still waiting to hear what the plan for the Lido Multipurpose room is. In addition, the MS is still having an issue with the mice. We hope that this situation can be addressed as soon as possible.
2. Over the past few weeks, we conducted walkthroughs in each building of our district in order to do a risk assessment. We discussed and identified potential issues that will be addressed in the upcoming months. Thank you to all of the reps who were able to join us and contribute to the process. We could not have done it without you! I will continue to update you as the process continues.
3. The next Health & Safety meeting date is May 6th.
4. 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.
2. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank. The form is on our website at www.lbcta.com.

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

- A. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on April 15, at 4:00 in Lido room L25.
- B. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- C. Send me any issues that you were unable to work out at your building.
- D. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org

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

- A. Sending prayers and thoughts to Sandra Hnis. If you want to donate, you can Venmo Raquel Lopez, @Raquel-L: Lopez-30 or you can send cash to the MS Main office.
- B. Please consider attending the Jay Spitz Math and Music Scholarship at Maple Lanes on April 14th, from 6-9 pm. Pre-registration is required: ryousha@lbeach.org or click on this [link](#).
- C. Please consider attending our 2024 LBCTA end-of-the-year celebration honoring our retirees at the Ocean Club in AB on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
- D. Please consider attending the BOE meetings. Important information about the entire district is shared and discussed.

VI. Treasurer’s Report—Jonathan Bloom

A. February Financial Results

Revenues

Union Dues	\$42,360.66
Charity Fundraising	\$7,390.00
Retirees	\$126.00
Union Apparel	\$60.00
Bowling	\$20.00
TOTAL	\$49,956.66

Expenditures

NYSUT Dues	\$16,327.15
AFT Dues	\$10,001.55
Charity Donation	\$7,650.00
Payroll Taxes and Fees	\$440.25
Bowling Fundraiser Costs	\$1,177.00
Apparel	\$7,885.37
Telephone	\$135.97
Office Supplies	\$105.55
Meeting Expenses	\$122.09
TOTAL	\$43,844.93

- B. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank. I would encourage you to attend a few School Board meetings during the year. Your presence is always noted.

For Tax purposes, the 2023 Dues were \$1026.92

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Congratulations to Noelle Bach and Drew on the birth of their daughter, Evelyn Mae.
2. We loved having our Scholastic Book Fair! Thank you to the PTA and all of the volunteers who made it happen.

3. Thank you to families who signed up to be classroom mystery readers. Students are enjoying the surprise and the additional read aloud time.
4. Save the date for our Spring New Member party on April 5th at EGP Land and Sea.
5. Save the Date for the LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

B. Lindell School

1. PARP was a great success thank you to the PTA. The faculty and students enjoyed shopping at the book fair and dressing to the theme each day of Books and Beats, A Perfect Pair:Unleashing Creativity Everywhere!
2. Congratulations to Dr. Pullara on her recent tenure.
3. Our third grade enjoyed their annual Happy Hearts Dance - thank you to our Third grade teachers and Dr Pullara, Ms. McGovern and PTA for a wonderful event.
4. 100th Day of School Celebrations were throughout the building - thank you to all staff and faculty for making our 100th Day of School an enjoyable one!
5. Lindell got active with our annual Wellness Day. Thank you to Ms. Miller and Ms. Mooney and the Wellness Committee for a very active, educational and productive day.
6. Students participated in Global Play Day - where activities were centered around play and socialization.
7. Congratulations to Noelle Bach and her husband on the birth of their daughter Evelyn May.
8. Congratulations to RoseAnn Pinto and her husband on the birth of their daughter Savannah Grace.
9. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

C. East School

1. Thank you to the PTA for the first week of fun PARP activities. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful book fair, the secret readers, all of the dress up themed days, and the BMX assembly. Fun was had by all.
2. Please join your colleagues and teachers from across Long Island on Saturday, March 16th at 10am to rally against school funding cuts. The rally will take place at the Hauppauge County Building.
3. Welcome Lisa Hourigan to our East School family. We are very happy to have you.
4. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.
5. A shout out to all of the 5th grade students for participating in this year's Dancing Classrooms event. A special thank you to the teachers, especially Ms. Adriana for working with the students all year to make this a fun and successful evening.
6. Save the date for our End of Year Celebration on Thursday, May 16th at the Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach.

D. Lido School

1. Congratulations to Noelle Bach on the birth of her daughter, Evelyn Mae.
2. Thank you to the Lido PTA for the fun Author Visit and class book. The students enjoyed the virtual visit from Aaron Pickus and Marissa Sala Pickus as they read their book, The Little Matzah Ball Who Wanted to be a Meatball.
3. Kudos to the PTA for organizing the Lido Family Bingo night and PARP Activities.
4. Condolences to Dorothy Lopez on the loss of her father.
5. Welcome back Maris Lynch!
6. We are still having issues with mice in classrooms.

7. Save the date for our LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club on **Thursday, May 16, 2024**.
8. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

E. LBMS

1. The previously reported mouse sightings throughout the building are now quickly on the rise. We appreciate all previous attempts to rectify this situation although we look forward to additional measures to address the issue and finally bring it under control.
2. A very special thank you to everyone helped to make our Black History Through Music Celebration Assembly such a success. Special thanks to Ms. Espinet for her continued efforts in organizing this special event, along with Ms. Farrell and our LBMS Singers, Coach Pichichero and our LBMS Cheerleaders, Mr. Capobianco, Mr Kramme, Mr. Lobenstein, Mr. Marks, Ms. Nurse, Mr. Neri, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Teemer, Ms. Colbourne, Mr. Myles, and Mr. Simmons. A special shout out for a fabulous job to all of our student performers.
3. Kudos to Kristen Conklin and all 8th grade Science Research students who competed in The Long Island Science and Engineering Fair (LISEF).
4. Sending continued love and healing prayers to Sandra Hnis. Sandra suffered a catastrophic medical emergency and remains in intensive care at Northwell Manhasset hospital, however, she continues to show improvement each day.
5. Eliana Abigail Hnis was born on Sunday, 3/3/24 at 1:30 AM and is doing well.
6. Please note the family is asking for prayers and support during this very difficult time. If you would like to donate, you can Venmo Raquel Lopez, @Raquel-Lopez-30, or you can send cash to the MS Main Office. You can also visit the family created GoFundMe to make a donation at <https://gofund.me/990b0b9c>
7. Congratulations Melissa Delaney on the birth of her son Liam Patrick Delaney.
8. Congratulations to Justin Marks on the birth of his son Parker Remsen Daniel Marks.
9. The Spring New Member party will take place on April 5th at EGP Land and Sea.
10. Save the date for our LBCTA End of Year Celebration at The Ocean Club on Thursday, May 16, 2024.
11. 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.

F. LBHS

1. Sending thoughts and strength to Sandra Hnis and her family. Please consider making a donation at Venmo Raquel Lopez, @Raquel-Lopez-30.
2. Congratulations to all who participated in and supported the Challenger Basketball games.
3. Congratulations to Mr. Malizia, Mr. Allen and our DECA students that competed last week in Rochester NY in the DECA state competition.
4. Thank you to the student government for hosting the many exciting and important activities for students including Class Olympics, Slime A Teacher and the P.S. I love you day. It was great to see all of the school spirit on display.
5. Congratulations to all of the winter athletes for their season and postseason accomplishments.
6. Congratulations to the LBHS swim team & wrestling teams for making the NYS Championships.
7. Congratulations to Mrs. Koegel and the Fragments Club for being named a First Class magazine in the 2023 NCTE Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) contest.
8. Congratulations to all the athletes and coaches involved in the Winter Sports Awards Night.

9. Teachers are still very concerned about the District's decision to eliminate after school review sessions for IB, AP & Regents exams. Many students rely on this extra time to be successful on their exams.
10. Please consider serving on a district committee.
11. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.

VIII. New Business

A. A motion was made to make a donation to Morning Madness. It passed unanimously.

At 4:53 pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Elleen Parks.

In Attendance:

West: Julie deBruin

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Cathy Barone, Susan Simons

East: Jennifer Diamond, Melissa Canner, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dana Monti, Lori Parenti

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Alison Katulka, John Marr, Sena Miller, Grace Parisi

LBHS: Lisa Casey, Camila Gamboa, Andrew Rossi, Rachel Yousha

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.

Check out all your union membership has to offer!

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that can save you money, assist you in protecting your family, and help you plan for the future.

Legal Service Plan

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

Financial Counseling Program

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone & virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more

For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan -- provided by the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. Plan participants receive unlimited access to toll-free advice weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) as well as a toll-free hotline for urgent legal assistance outside of these hours.

Meanwhile, the Financial Counseling Program -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone or virtual consultations with a Stacey Braun Certified Financial Planner. *



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Mar/Apr 2024