



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

February 29, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

Condolences to Executive Vice President Karen Bloom and her family on the loss of her step-father.

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates—MS Library

3/14/16, 4/11/16, 5/9/16 & 6/6/16

B. Friedrichs v California Teachers Association-

Presentation by Lloyd Berko, LRS

As you know, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia passed away unexpectedly two weeks ago. Many questions have arisen about the impact this will have on the pending case of Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association, whose plaintiffs claim that "free riders" should be able to benefit from union services without paying dues or fair share fees. The outcome could range from a decision in favor or against the plaintiffs, to a postponement to reargue the case next year. If the Court does not reach a majority or decides to move the case to the next term, and is evenly divided, the effect is to uphold the lower court ruling in favor of the union. The court has until the end of June or early July to decide.

C. St. Mary of the Isle Parish

I received a letter from Director Andrew Santos extending his deepest and heartfelt thanks to our members for their generous contributions to the Out Reach Center/Food Pantry.



D. Long Beach Board of Education

For the next two months the School Board will be meeting weekly. At each of these sessions they will be reviewing different budget codes, all of which will represent a rollover budget. This means there will be no new money added to help settle our contract. At the opening of school, we requested our membership to attend two specific Board of Education meetings. The second one is on March 10th. We selected this meeting because the Board of Education will be working on and beginning to finalize their budget. Please join us in this act of solidarity to remind the board who they are negotiating with.

*Long Beach Board of Education Meeting- March 10th, 7:30PM-
LBMS Auditorium*

Keith Harvey

President

Karen Bloom

Executive Vice-President

Amy Powers

Vice-President for Secondary Schools

Beth Prostick

Vice-President for

Elementary Schools

Patricia Van Loon

Recording Secretary

Elleen Parks

Corresponding Secretary

James Fiola

Treasurer

Table of Contents

- I. President's Report
- II. Committees
- III. Executive Vice President
- IV. VP for Elementary Schools
- V. VP for Secondary Schools
- VI. Treasurer's Report
- VII. Building Reports
 - A. West
 - B. Lindell
 - C. East
 - D. Lido
 - E. Pre-K
 - F. Middle School
 - G. High School

The I Refuse Movement



E. 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 14th in the MS Library.

F. The I Refuse Movement

Joining almost all of the locals on Long Island, the Executive Board has unanimously adopted a resolution supporting “The I Refuse Movement” to oppose the state’s overreliance on high-stakes testing. In addition, the association will be co-sponsoring a forum titled “Public Education at the Crossroads - Redefining Testing, Standards, and Curriculum.” The forum will take place on March 15th at the Island Park Public Library at 7:00PM.



G. Long Beach Health Insurance Withdrawal and the NYSHIP decisions

On Nov. 25th, the Appellate Division, Third Department, reversed our favorable decisions in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) insurance buyout cases. I do not believe this decision should affect us because we have HIP, an alternate health insurance coverage other than NYSHIP as an option. However, the District does not share my interpretation and has suggested they might not pay the second half of the payment to members with spouses who also have NYSHIP. Should you and your spouse both have the option to receive NYSHIP, please be prepared that you may not receive your payment in June. We are actively discussing this with the district and look forward to resolving the issue.

H. Sick Bank

Thank you very much to everyone that donated a day to the bank after the last request. If you have not yet done so, please consider donating at least one day to the bank to ensure its continuation.

[Sick Bank Donation Form](#)

I. Scholarships

LBCTA Scholarship

I am pleased to announce that 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 2016. 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 either e-mail at pfallon@lbeach.org or by phone at 897-2062. The closing date for receipt of the completed application and all supporting documents, submitted in duplicate, is 2 PM on Friday, March 18th. The evaluation of these applications will take place on Wednesday, March 23rd immediately after school at the High School. Please contact Pat if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented.



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 one-time \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education. Application deadline for students and members is March 31, 2016 (midnight). For more information go to <http://www.aft.org/about/member-benefits/scholarships>

J. Summer Study Money

Applications to participate in the Summer 2016 Study Money program must be received by the HR department by May 13th. Members with permanent or professional certification may apply for up to \$1,750 in study money per semester. [Request for Participation in Study Program - Group A.](#)

K. NYSHIP Empire Plan eligibility audit underway

Once again the State Department of Civil Service is conducting an eligibility audit of those enrollees with Empire Plan family coverage. Empire Plan participants who are enrolled through school districts and local governments should begin to receive letters at the end of February. It is very important that you follow the instructions and provide the requested information prior to May 4th. If you do not respond, your unverified dependents will be deleted retroactive to Jan. 1, 2016.

If you are not enrolled in the NYSHIP Empire Plan, this does not affect you.

L. Coaching Pay Dates

High School

Spring: First check: 4/15/16

Spring: Second check: 5/13/16

Middle School

Winter II: Second check: 3/18/16

Spring: First check: 4/29/16

Spring: Second check: 5/27/16

M. Committee of a 100

NYSUT's Legislative Department lobbies state and federal representatives to help retain professional enhancements we fought for and won. Support for our public schools comes from the Efforts of hundreds of grass-roots lobbyists. This statewide, grass-roots network of members-volunteers, called the Committee of 100, adds local political impact to NYSUT's effort.

If you are interested in volunteering for this committee please contact me.

N. Credit Swap

Jackie Kupferman - 1.5 credits from LIU Post

Heather Puckhaber - 1 credit Molloy College

Dana Monti - 1.5 credits for Hofstra

Patty Van Loon - 1.5 credits for LIU

Migdalia Schneider - 1 credit Molloy College

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. Negotiation Committee—Chief Negotiator's Report—Keith Harvey

I am pleased to announce that we have rescheduled the recently postponed negotiation meetings.

The new date is April 5th. The district requested the additional time so they can further analyze the current proposals. It is my hope they will return with a realistic proposal that is equitable and sustainable for both parties

C. New Members—Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka

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 don't have a buddy or mentor.

Alison and I were given the opportunity to speak to some of our new teachers at the last mentor meeting on February 23rd. Among the topics discussed were where we are in the negotiation process and attending School Board meetings.

I hope you are enjoying your career here at Long Beach. Please do not be afraid to ask for help if you need it. We (and many others) are here for you.

The Spring Buddy Party will be on Friday, April 8th after school at the Ale House in Point Lookout. Please join us there! It is an opportunity to socialize with your fellow new teachers and the union officers and building reps.

D. Political Action Committee—Beth Prostick

1. Political Action meeting will be held on Wed., March 9th, at 3:45 pm at Lido in room L25.

2. Soon I will be looking to begin the interview process for the upcoming School Board election.

The current committee members will be joining me in this process. I will also need some volunteers to help out in other ways once the election gets closer.

3. Please contact me at bprostick@gmail.com if you would like to join the committee.
4. Once we finalize the logo for the sweatshirts, the order form will open up for our members.

E. Public Relations

Our next Public Relations meeting will be held next Monday, March 7th in the HS Guidance Suite at 4PM. Please continue to encourage all members to come. We would love to see new faces.

F. Social Committee

We are beginning to plan our CTA End of the Year party which honors our retirees. This event will take place on Wednesday, May 25th at 5:00. We need all building reps to check with the retirees in their building to make sure they would be able to attend and want recognition. Also, please reach out to find out who will be writing their biography. This should be one page and sent electronically to Patty Van Loon at pvanloon@lbeach.org by April 30th. The social committee will meet to discuss this event on Monday, March 21st, 4:00 at West School. All are invited with your party suggestions.

G. Teacher Center

The Long Beach Teacher Center is currently seeking an individual who would like to teach an Advanced Smartboard class to both elementary and secondary teachers. The class must be 10 hours and must be complete by the middle of May. The Center pays \$800.00 or the district can provide triple credit (three inservice credits for teaching this one inservice class.) If you are interested, please contact the Center at lbtc@lbeach.org. A co-teaching class has gone up on mylearningplan.com. Please visit mylearningplan.com to see if the times and days work for you. Thank you for supporting the Long Beach Teacher Center.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

A. APPR

1. Keith and I met with Dr. Graham and Dr. Natali regarding our APPR plan. We have identified the areas that need to be negotiated and started discussing ways to move forward.
2. All lead evaluators have been assigned and you should contact your immediate supervisor or building principal if you are not sure who your lead evaluator is.
3. If you have not yet received information about your SLO's and/or targets, please contact your immediate supervisor. If you have no director, you can speak to your building principal.
4. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

B. Health & Safety Committee

1. The next meeting is March 15th, time and place TBA. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

C. District Safety Team

1. The next meeting is March 15th, time and place TBA. If you have any Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

D. Other

1. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank, as we have little to none left.
[Sick Bank Donation Form](#)
2. Please attend Board of Education meetings whenever possible. We are asking that you all try to attend the meeting next week on March 10th. Please do your best to reserve this date.

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

- A. Public Relations meeting will be held on Monday, March 7th at HS Guidance room at 4:00.
- B. Remember to attend the March 10th Board of Education meeting at 7:30pm.
- C. Condolences to the family of Lori Montgomery and Karen Bloom.
- D. Please consider donating one or more sick days to your colleagues in need.
- E. If you have any questions I can be reached at bprostick@gmail.com.

V. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report—Amy Powers

- A. Our next Secondary meeting will be Monday, March 28th in the LBHS Guidance Suite at 3:45 pm.
- B. Sadly, I do not have any new information on when a Site Based meeting will take place to discuss our safety concerns with the current HS traffic pattern. There was mention that the district hired an outside consultant to investigate the traffic pattern. I have been told this person came for one day to assess parking availability on Blackheath Road but the safety of the traffic pattern was not an item explored. Since it was difficult for an ambulance to make its way onto Blackheath when needed a few weeks ago after an accident, we were surprised that the safety of our students was not addressed immediately.
- C. As always, please continue to attend future board meetings. Let's use the power of our IV1 to remind all members the importance of attending the BOE meeting on **March 10, 7:30PM- LBMS Auditorium.**
- D. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank. We currently have a member in need of days.
- E. My sincere and heartfelt condolences to Karen & Jonathan Bloom and Lori Montgomery on the passing of Bruce .
- If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at amylo609@aol.com

VI. Treasurer's Report—Jim Fiola

- A. The February results will be included in the March 14th minutes.
- B. I hope everyone enjoyed their winter recess. Please make every effort to join our members at the March 10th School Board meeting. I don't like to beg, but I am imploring you to attend. It is very important that we show solidarity as we are negotiating our new contract. Also please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank. [Sick Bank Donation Form](#)
- I send my condolences to the family of Lori Montgomery and Karen and Jon Bloom on the passing of Lori's husband, Bruce.
- If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please email them to me at jfiola@lbeach.org.**
- Union dues for 2015/2016 for full-time members will be \$985.36. The break-out is \$384 local, \$368 NYSUT, \$225.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$98.54 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.

The union dues for 2015 tax purposes were \$967.04

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Bedtime and Books evening continues to be a successful West School tradition. Parent workshops and fun activities for the children were developed by teacher volunteers demonstrating valuable techniques that encourage reading and make reading fun!
2. Paramount Person Day for K, 1, and 2 was a well-attended and fun filled way to stimulate literacy skills while honoring those special people in our students' lives.
3. Our PTA sponsored B.I.G. event (Be Into Geography) was a parent-student activity to promote interest in geography. Thank you to our PTA.
4. The year-long Denim for Dollars fund raiser for West School families in need continues. Each staff member contributes \$2 to wear denim on Fridays.
5. The shortage of substitute teachers is of great concern. Academic services are cancelled to provide coverage for teacher absences.

6. Condolences to the Montgomery and Bloom families on the passing of Bruce Montgomery.
7. We encourage all staff to continue to donate to our sick bank. [Sick Bank Donation Form](#)
8. Be sure to attend the March 10th School Board meeting as a show of support for our negotiating team!

B. Lindell School

1. The lack of available substitute teachers is of great concern. Permanent substitute teachers would offer more consistency for our students.
2. The 3rd- 5th grade students enjoyed their participation in a Skype session with author Kate Messner. Thank you to Maria Parada for organizing the event and Kyle, our Technology Liaison for helping us to connect.
3. Our deepest condolences to Lori Montgomery on the loss of her husband.
4. Our deepest condolences to Karen and Jonathan Bloom on the loss of Karen's step-father.
5. Please attend the Board of Education meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7:30 at the Middle School.

C. East School

1. We want to extend our deepest condolences to Lori Montgomery and her family for the passing of her husband, Bruce Montgomery.
2. Thank you to our PTA for the Gingo fundraiser.
3. Thank you to our PTA for successful assemblies for PARP and diversity.
4. Our February 3, 2016 global play day was a huge success.
5. There is a continued concern for the shortage of substitute teachers.
6. Kudos to the first grade teachers for an outstanding 100 Day Celebration.

D. Lido School

1. Congratulations to Wayne Hoffman, Head Custodian, for announcing his retirement at the end of the school year!
2. Second grade students and their parents enjoyed participating in the Smart Stories event.
3. Fourth grade students were proud to share their poems with invited parents during their Poetry with Pizazz event.
4. Students and teachers were engaged in fun related activities celebrating the 100th Day of School.
5. The lack of available substitute teachers is of great concern. Permanent substitute teachers would offer more consistency for our students.
6. To meet the social emotional needs of our students in Pre K- 5th grade, we would greatly benefit from having a full time psychologist and social worker at Lido. It is difficult to manage the demands of Pre K - 5th grade with the additional responsibility of the Pre K students.
7. Great appreciation to the members who donated sick days to the LBCTA-District Sick Bank. Please consider donating if you haven't done so yet. [Sick Bank Donation Form](#)
8. Congratulations to Molly Drake on the birth of her son.
9. Condolences to Molly Drake on the loss of her mother-in-law.
10. Condolences to Karen Bloom and family on the loss of her stepfather.
11. Encouraging all members to make every effort to attend the March 10th Board of Education Meeting at LBMS 7:30 p.m. Let's show solidarity!!

E. Pre-K

1. Congratulations to Molly Drake and family on the birth of their third child, Theodore.
2. Condolences to Molly Drake on the loss of her mother-in-law.
3. Condolences to the Montgomery family on their recent loss.

F. Middle School

1. Condolences to Lauren Diesu on the loss of her grandmother.
2. Condolences to Karen Bloom, Executive Vice President, on the loss of her stepfather.
3. Get well wishes to Cristina Camacho (Bryan).
4. Congratulations to Dayna Obidienzo on her appointment as leave replacement for Christina Dillard.
5. Congratulations to Christina Kile on her appointment as Permanent Substitute.
6. Welcome back Scott Knyper.
7. Please attend the BOE meeting on March 10, 2016 in the LBMS Auditorium @ 7:30pm
8. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Bank if you have not done so. [Sick Bank Donation Form](#)
9. "Relay for Life" will take place on May 21st at LBMS. Please contact Janna Arkow and Michelle Frank for more information.

G. High School

1. Condolences to Lori Montgomery, Karen and Jonathan Bloom on their recent loss.
2. Condolences to Anthony Balsamo on the loss of his grandfather.
3. Congratulations to the LBHS wrestling team on their recent State Championship.
4. We are hopeful that Administration will continue to upgrade the state and access to technology for students and staff.
5. Do we really need security guards who don't seem to do much?
6. We are still waiting for a properly outfitted faculty room.
7. We are concerned about the climate of the building (especially in the hallways) in terms of students who frequently roam the halls.
8. There is still great concern for the safety of students, staff and residents under the current traffic pattern. We believe that more than enough time has been provided for the issue to be studied at the site based committee.
9. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.
[Sick Bank Donation Form](#)
10. Please make plans in advance to attend the March 10th Board of Education meeting at the LBMS Auditorium at 7:30pm.

At 6:30pm, a motion was made by Cheryleann Fontenot to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Elleen Parks.

In Attendance:

West: Mary Ann Colucci, Cheryleann Fontenot

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Jane Quinton, Migdalia Schneider

East: Barbara Lewy, Mary Jane Rochford

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Marilyn Pilo

Pre-K: Elizabeth Fichtelman

HALB: Gari Ann Harris

LBMS: Alison Katulka, Jill Cherlin, Camila Gamboa, Jennifer Garrett, Stacey Rice

LBHS: Anthony Balsamo, Elena Fishman, Greg Milone, Jay Spitz

Officers: Keith Harvey, Beth Prostick, Amy Powers, Elleen Parks, Jim Fiola, Patricia Van Loon

Guests: Lloyd Berko, Joanne Rea, Barbara Vahey, Aileen Monahan, Marianne Bruno

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

Resolution to Support “The I Refuse Movement” to oppose High Stakes Testing

WHEREAS, the purpose of education is to educate a populace of critical thinkers who are capable of shaping a just and equitable society in order to lead good and purpose-filled lives, not solely prepare that populace for college and career; and

WHEREAS, instructional and curricular decisions should be in the hands of classroom professionals who understand the context and interests of their students; and

WHEREAS, the education of children should be grounded in developmentally appropriate practice; and

WHEREAS, high quality education requires adequate resources to provide a rich and varied course of instruction, individual and small group attention, and wrap-around services for students; and

WHEREAS, the state assessments are not transparent in that teachers and parents are not allowed to view the tests and item analysis will likely not be made available; and

WHEREAS, the assessment practices that accompany Common Core State Standards – including the political manipulation of test scores – are used as justification to label and close schools, fail students, and evaluate educators; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the LBCTA opposes standardized high stakes testing that is currently pushed by the Federal and State governments, because this testing is not being used to further instruction for children, to help children, or to support the educational needs of children; and be it further

RESOLVED, the LBCTA advocates for an engaged and socially relevant curriculum that is student-based and supported by research; and be it further

RESOLVED, the LBCTA will embark on internal discussions to educate and seek feedback from members regarding standardized high stakes testing and its impact on students; and be it further

RESOLVED, the LBCTA will lobby the NYS Board of Regents to eliminate the use of high stakes testing; and be it further

RESOLVED, the LBCTA will ask that all of its members have their own children refuse to take the Grade 3-8 assessments; and be it further

RESOLVED, the LBCTA will organize other members and affiliates to increase opposition to high stakes testing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the NY State Board of Regents, the Governor of NYS, and all members of the NYS legislative branch; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that after this resolution is passed by the LBCTA Executive Board, the delegates will support at the AFT July 2016 Convention and the NYSUT 2016 RA.