



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

December 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

A. Executive Meeting Dates

1/10/22, 1/24/22, 2/14/22, 3/14/22,
3/28/22, 4/11/22, 5/9/22, 5/23/22,
6/13/22

B. Happy Holidays

As I reflect on 2021, I am sure like most of you, I am glad it is coming to an end. However, it does not appear that this pandemic is over just yet. As we enter a 3rd calendar year it is easy to see how the pandemic has changed public education for generations to come. The hyper acceleration and deployment of instructional technologies has reshaped how we deliver instruction and communicate. Some for the better, some maybe not. It is important to remember that the most critical part of the teaching and learning process is the personal connections we make with our students. The challenges we faced over the last couple years were tremendous and it is amazing to see how everyone has adapted to them. It is more important than ever, that we continue to work collaboratively as a cohesive unit. I feel blessed to be working here in Long Beach alongside all of you. Thank you all 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 Apparel

With the approval of the Executive Board, I am pleased to announce that we will be offering another round of LBCTA apparel to our members. This apparel allows us to show the community who we are, while building camaraderie and solidarity with one another. There are a variety of styles and sizes to choose from. To receive your complimentary LBCTA apparel, [please click on this link to fill out the form.](#)

D. 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, 2022. First eligible means that you can 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;



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

Elleen Parks
Corresponding Secretary

James Fiola
Treasurer

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NYSTRS website- <https://nystrs.org/Retirement-Planning> NYSTRS Number - (800) 348-7298.

E. NYSUT Offers Online Guide for a Successful Retirement

NYSUT has a new publication for future retirees. "[Your Blue- print for a Successful Retirement: An online planning guide](#)" is posted as a resource for planning the next chapter in your life -- retirement! Login to <https://www.nysut.org/> is required to access the online publication.



F. Toy Drive 2021



This year we were not be able to have our traditional toy collection. Instead of collecting actual gifts, we raised funds which allowed us to donate toys and money to Circulo de la Hispanidad and The Little Saint Nick Foundation. Thank you very much to all the buildings and individuals that contributed.

G. Sell-back of Health Insurance

If you have elected to “sell-back” your health insurance, you should have received your first half payment as part of your December 10th paycheck. Keep in mind that even if you “sell back” your medical insurance you are still entitled to dental insurance.

H. Study Money Dates - Reminder

The deadline for the Winter Study Money Program was December 10th. You will be contacted by Human Resources shortly if you were approved for the money. There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Program, Summer - May 13, 2022. 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 2021-22 school year:

1. High School

Winter: First Check: 12/23, Second Check: 2/18

Spring: First Check: 4/12, Second Check: 5/13

2. Middle School

Winter I: Second Check: 1/21

Winter II: First Check: 2/18, Second Check: 3/18

Spring: First Check: 4/29, Second Check: 6/10

J. NYSUT Pocket Calendars

If you would like a 2021-22 NYSUT pocket calendar, please contact one of your Building Reps.

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

Permanent Substitute Contract

We have made a formal request to the Long Beach Board of Education to open negotiations. We look forward to bringing you a successor agreement in the near future.

C. New Member Committee – Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka

1. We hope that those who celebrated had a Happy Hanukkah and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.
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 don’t have a buddy or mentor.** Don’t be afraid to ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you. Keep reading the minutes!



D. Political Action Committee – Jennifer Garrett

1. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

E. Public Relations – Amy Leder and Beth Prostick

1. Save the date for our annual Bowling Fundraiser! Thursday, February 10, 2022!
We are looking for new local organizations to donate to. Please send your suggestions to Amy or Beth.
2. When we return from the New Year, we will be sending out the Google form to register for the event. We are asking again this year for each building to create a themed basket to be raffled off that day. Please send your theme to Amy and Beth ASAP.
3. Please look for our LBCTA holiday ad in the December 23rd Herald.

F. Social Committee – Elleen Parks

1. We are beginning to review dates, places, and entertainment choices for our spring retirement celebration. If you are retiring and would like to participate in this event, please e-mail me at eparks@lbeach.org.
2. Wishing everyone who celebrates a Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy new year! Enjoy the vacation!

G. Teacher Center – John Marr

1. Please make sure that you check with your TEACH account to reauthorize your teaching certificate. As a reminder all educators must reauthorize their teaching certificate every five years. To do this you must attest that you have taken 100 hours of professional development, 15 hours of which must involve ENL. If you have any questions about this, please contact the Teacher Center Director at lbtc@lbeach.org for clarification.
2. The Long Beach Teacher Center is currently seeking instructors to run 11 PD classes to begin in November. Based on the needs assessment given last year, teachers are interested in the following topics:
Differentiating Instruction, Creative Problem Solving in the Classroom
Google Workspace, Digital Teaching tools, Conflict Resolution skills for students
Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Developing student communication skills
Mindfulness, Project Based Learning
3. Please contact the director at lbtc@lbeach.org or fill out a proposal sheet on [Frontline Professional Growth](#), formerly My Learning Plan, if you would like to run a class on one of these topics or something else. The center currently offers an \$800 stipend for a 10-hour class.

III. Vice President – Karen Bloom

- A. We are extremely happy that the district reconsidered Midterm Week at the high school. We look forward to hearing the details and hope that it will be productive for everyone.

B. APPR

1. You should have received a document 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. There are no new updates since our last meeting.
2. The next meeting is scheduled for January 6th and the last one is April 7th. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloombloom@lbeach.org.

D. Other

1. I hope you enjoy the Holiday season with family and friends! Take some time to rest and recharge for the New Year!!
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.

IV. Elementary Vice President – Beth Prostick

- A. Thank you to all who donated to our annual toy drive.
- B. Our annual Bowling Event will be held on February 10.
- C. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- D. Send me any issues that you were unable to work out at your building.
- E. I wish everyone a very joyous holiday and a happy New Year!
- F. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org.

V. Secondary Vice President – Amy Leder

- A. Mark your calendar for our annual Bowling Event on Thursday, February 10th, 2022.
- B. Wishing everyone a holiday season filled with love and good health. Looking forward to 2022! Happy New Year!

VI. Treasurer’s Report – James Fiola

A. November’s Financial Results

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Union Dues	\$40,486	NYSUT	\$15,947
Retiree Dues	315	AFT	10,196
Total	<u>\$40,801</u>	Meeting Expenses	35
		Taxes and Ins.	<u>715</u>
		Total	<u>\$26,893</u>

- B. I hope that all who celebrated had a Happy Hanukkah and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and best wishes for a Safe, Happy and Healthy New Year. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break.
Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank and virtually attend an upcoming School Board Meeting. Thank you for reading the minutes and please encourage your fellow members to do the same. Save the date for the Bowling event fundraiser on February 10th, 2022.
- 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 2021/2022 for full-time members will remain at \$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. We are determined to keep your dues as low as possible while still meeting our local obligations and making charitable contributions to the Long Beach community.

VII. Building Report

A. West School

1. Thank you to Dan Bailey and Bryan Rosen for organizing a terrific Turkey Trot. The students loved it!
2. Thank you to our PTA for another successful Book Fair. We appreciate all you do for our students.
3. Thank you to our Kindergarten teachers for organizing an amazing Kindergarten Friendsgiving event for our Kindergarteners and their special guests.
4. Congratulations to Vanessa Krywe, Noelle Policastro and Craig West for an entertaining Holiday Concert.

5. Please join us, or form a team, for our 4th Annual Bowling Fundraiser Thursday, February 10th, 2022. Please check the Public Relations report for more details.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Bank.
7. We wish everyone a wonderful New Year and restful winter break.

B. Lindell School

1. Congratulations to Leigh Rynecki, Noelle Policastro and our fourth and fifth grade students for a wonderful winter concert.
2. The students enjoyed our 3rd grade STEM Balloon festival. The balloon creations paired with literature made it extra exciting!
3. Congratulations to Danielle Lopez on the birth of her son, Charlie John.
4. Thank you to the PTA for a very successful book fair.
5. Much appreciation to all who donated to the CTA Toy Drive.
6. Thank you, Mrs. Lonergan, for organizing the “Change for Change” program.
7. The Lindell students, families and staff collected over \$750 for families in need.
8. Our staff appreciated the opportunity to purchase holiday cards designed and sold by Long Beach High School Life Skills Students. Thank you to everyone who donated to the CTA Toy Drive. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.
9. We wish everybody a very happy and healthy New Year.

C. East School

1. The 4th and 5th graders’ winter concert performances were enjoyed by all! Thank you to Michele Bennett and Craig West for making this happen.
2. Thank you to all who donated to the CTA Toy Drive.
3. Thanks to our PTA for organizing the book fair.
4. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.
5. We wish everyone a restful holiday break and a happy and healthy new year.

D. Lido School

1. Condolences to Erin Allison and family on the loss of her mother, Judith Burns.
2. All members, please make sure to make your LBCTA Apparel selection.
3. Kudos to Lido PTA for organizing the Scholastic Book Fair. It’s always exciting for children to get the opportunity to buy books to add to their reading collection.
4. Thank you to all who donated to the LBCTA Toy Drive benefiting our Long Beach students throughout the community. Your donations were greatly appreciated.
5. Many thanks to Lido PTA for organizing the Holiday Boutique. Students enjoyed buying gifts for their families.
6. Welcome back to Dana Monti!
7. Save the date for our Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, February 10th, 2022.
8. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
9. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, restful, and safe holiday break! Happy New Year

E. Pre-K

1. Condolences to Erin Allison on the loss of her mother, Judith Burns.
2. Welcome back to Dana Monti!
3. Thank you to the Pre-K PTA for the Scholastic Book Fair. The students really enjoyed it!
4. Thank you to all who contributed to the LBCTA Toy Drive to benefit the Long Beach community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
5. Save the date for our LBCTA bowling events, Thursday, 2/10/22.
6. Thank you for the LBCTA apparel, please remember to make your selection.
7. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.
8. Have a happy, healthy, and restful break and New Year!

F. Middle School

1. Many rooms are cold with others reporting intermittent heat. We are concerned about a recurrence of past years. We understand the need for fresh air from outside, but rooms have cold air blowing in from the blowers (i.e., room 68-72, 211). We hope this can be addressed as we head into the winter season.
2. Thank you to everyone for successful Parent Teacher Conferences. The feedback was very positive!
3. Thank you to the ever-generous MS students, faculty, and staff who donated to the Holiday Food Drive organized by Glenn Gartung, the NJHS, and Student Organization. Together we collected over 20 boxes of food to donate to our local food pantry. Way to go to Middle School!
4. Congratulations to Ilyssa Berman, Christina Farrell, and the cast and crew of the middle school musical production of *High School Musical Jr.* The show was a tremendous success.
5. Kudos to Laura Swan and Brian Pross as well as the students in the Art and Wood Clubs for creating the set and props for the middle school musical production of *High School Musical Jr.*
6. Congratulations to Christina Farrell, Dave Lobenstein, Justin Marks, Doug Renoud, and all student performers for an amazing winter concert series.
7. Welcome back to Leah Buffalino.
8. Thank you to the PTA for a festive holiday boutique.
9. Thank you to all of those who donated to the LBCTA Toy Drive. Your continued generosity is very appreciated.
10. Thank you to EVERYONE for all efforts to continue to follow health and safety protocols.
11. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a very happy new year!

G. High School

1. Thank you to Mr. Myers for ordering new classroom emergency phones. We look forward to their arrival and installation.
2. Thank you to everyone who donated to the LBCTA toy drive.
3. Thank you to the LBCTA for the swag.
4. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.
5. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

At 4:55pm, a motion was made by Amy Leder to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Karen Bloom.

In Attendance:

West: Claudine Clark, Julie de Bruin, Anne LaPenna

Lindell: Susan Simons, Heather Puckhaber

East:

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Dana Monti, Lori Parenti

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Alison Katulka, Stacey Mason

LBHS: Lisa Casey, Anthony Balsamo, Jonathan Bloom, Camila Gamboa, Greg Milone, Andrew Rossi

Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC):

Retiree: Frank Volpe

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

Check out all your union membership has to offer!

Legal Service Plan

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (a 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 and virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more

NYSUT Member Benefits

Every Dollar Counts!

These are just two of the dozens of endorsed programs & services available to union members and their families.

Whether it's insurance products, financial or legal services, or discounts, shopping or travel, NYSUT Member Benefits offers numerous programs that can help you save time and money while protecting those you care about most. Many of these programs can be purchased through payroll or pension deduction for greater convenience and savings opportunities.

Member Benefits also provides the advocacy role that is so important should an issue or concern arise. We encourage you to take the time to explore the Member Benefits website to find out how we can help you make every dollar count!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org
or calling 800-626-8101.

