



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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President
Karen Bloom

Vice President for Elementary Schools
Jennifer Maggio

Recording Secretary
Patricia Van Loon

Executive Vice President
Amy Leder

Vice President for Secondary Schools
Jennifer Garrett

Corresponding Secretary
Elleen Parks

Treasurer
Jonathan Bloom

Executive Board Minutes

October 28, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm by Karen Bloom.

I. President's Report - Karen Bloom

A. School Board Recognition Week

In honor of School Board Recognition Week (10/14-10/18), LBCTA presented small gifts to the BOE members at the BOE Meeting last week and made the following statement:

Your dedication to ensuring that all students have access to a quality education is truly commendable. Your hard work and commitment to serving the community have not gone unnoticed, and we are grateful for all that you do to support our schools. Thank you for your service and for making a difference in the lives of our students.

B. Retiree Recognition Day—October 21, 2024

On Retiree Recognition Day, we honor and thank all retired teachers for their dedication, passion, and hard work in shaping the minds of our future generations. Your years of service have not gone unnoticed, and we are grateful for the impact you have made on countless lives. Enjoy this well-deserved time to relax and celebrate all that you have accomplished. Thank you for your tireless commitment to education.

C. SRP Recognition Day—November 21, 2024

SRPs play a vital role in the day-to-day operations of schools, ensuring that students have a clean and safe environment in which to learn. They provide essential services that support the academic success and well-being of students, often going above and beyond their job descriptions to build relationships with students and create a positive school culture. In Long Beach and across the country, SRPs are truly unsung heroes in the education system. They deserve recognition and appreciation for the important work they do every day to help educate the whole student. Thank you to all SRPs for your dedication and commitment to our students.

D. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

A huge thank you to Amy Leder, Jenn Garrett and Jenn Maggio for hosting our 1st Annual Music Bingo Event! LBCTA, in connection with the LBSEA membership, has generated support, awareness, and tens of thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in recent years. Please see the PR Committee report for this year's totals. If you would still like to make a donation, please use the following link. [Donation Link](#)

E. NYSUT Common Ground Over Chaos

New York State United Teachers launched a six-week, statewide Common Ground Over Chaos bus tour to get out the vote and support candidates who support public education and our union values. From now until Election Day, NYSUT will travel across the state with nearly 40 planned

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stops from Niagara Falls to Long Island. The statewide union will also meet with NYSUT members and encourage candidates to learn from educators who teach students how to debate passionately, disagree respectfully and find common ground to solve problems. Along the tour, candidates will be asked to sign NYSUT's Common Ground Over Chaos pledge committing to working in a bipartisan manner to deliver results. I was lucky enough to be invited to get on the bus with our NYSUT President Melinda Person, AFT President Randi Weingarten & a few other local presidents to discuss a variety of issues we are faced with today. Feel free to check out the NYSUT website for more details about the Common Ground Over Chaos Bus Tour. [Common Ground Bus Tour](#)

F. NYSUT Presidents Conference

I recently attended the NYSUT New Presidents Workshop at NYSUT Headquarters in Albany and was blown away by the knowledge shared about the benefits and offerings available to us as members. It was an incredibly informative experience that allowed me to connect with other leaders in our State and make valuable contacts. I look forward to sharing information about our benefits in the upcoming months. Keep your eyes out for informational fliers, and be sure to use the NYSUT website when you are looking for information. [Member Benefits](#)

G. NYSUT Trainings & Workshops

A variety of NYSUT workshops have been attended in the past few months by both officers and building reps. Over the summer, Stephanie Mena and Dan D'Ottavio attended the Building Rep 1 and 2 workshop where they discussed the basics of being a building rep. Then we had Jenn Garrett, Stephanie Mena, Ali Katulka and John Marr attend the Building Rep Intensive, which dives a bit more deeply into the ins and outs of being a rep. Lastly, I was able to attend Trends in Negotiations along with Jenn Garrett, Grace Parisi and Stephanie Mena. It was extremely informative and gave us a good idea of what to expect as we will be heading into negotiations next year! Thank you so much to all of you for making the time to attend these workshops! We are going to start to turnkey some of the valuable information that we have learned in the near future.

H. Aflac and Mass Mutual Life Insurance

Don Hoyer will be joining us on Conference Day November 5th in the HS Auditorium, directly following our LBCTA Meeting. 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. Don Hoyer, Senior District Sales Coordinator donald_hoyer@us.aflac.com

I. Cancer Screening

Since it is Breast Cancer Awareness, I thought it would be a good time to remind you that all members are entitled to up to 4 hours of cancer screening that can be used all at once or split up for different procedures. This can be used for both men and women for a variety of procedures related to cancer screening. There is a drop down on AESOP for cancer screening. Be sure to get documentation from your provider to attach to your absence. You can forward this directly to Human Resources or give it to your secretary who takes care of attendance.

J. Annual Turn-In of Sick Days

If you have accumulated at least 75 sick days and wish to exercise your option of selling back unused sick days earned this year (up to 12 or 14 if you worked at Summer School or Extended School Year) you must submit a "[Request for Payment in Exchange for Accumulated Unused Sick Days](#)" form to the HR Department. The teacher must not have been absent more than 6 days during the school year for which he/she shall claim eligibility for this payment.

K. FLEX Spending

If you wish to participate, you need to complete and submit the forms by November 8th. Just as a reminder, for the 2024 year, you may incur expenses for an additional 2 ½ months and have 90 days to submit your claims. Please keep this in mind as you complete the application as this is a “use it or lose it” plan. Please reference Dr. Natali’s email from 10/18/24 for additional information regarding the benefit debit card as well as retirement options related to FLEX.

L. District Committees

The Association and its members are eager to collaborate with Dr. Gallagher and our Administrative team to set objectives and address the needs of our students. Ensuring that our perspectives are represented on these committees is essential. Please consider joining one. The committees for this year are: Equity, Curriculum and Technology, Mental Health & Wellness, and Health & Safety. The last 2 are for STAFF only; RTI/AIS- Optimizing Student Interventions, Professional Development Planning

M. Mandated Reporting—GCN

All GCN Training Modules are due by December 13, 2024. Dr. Natali sent an email on 9/3 with all of the instructions on how to access and what modules need to be completed. This can be done on Professional Periods while you are at work.

N. Mandated Reporting—Child Abuse Training

1. The NYS Department of Education (per NYS Social Services Law § 413) now requires updated training to assist in recognizing signs of child abuse or maltreatment. Accordingly, all mandated reporters, including those who have previously undergone training, must complete updated training by April 1, 2025. Training is free, on-line, self-directed, and can be completed using the instructions sent by Dr. Natali.
2. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is offering the 9-module (2-hour) training through the Human Services Learning Center (HSLC) website (<https://www.hslnys.org/hslc/>). It is not required that the entire training is completed at one time. Therefore, you can pace yourself and resume as you see fit prior to the April 1st deadline. (See memo provided for more details on submitting documentation.) This can be done on Professional Periods while you are at work
3. In addition to the online course, the Nassau Regional Office is hosting two virtual training sessions per month, free of charge, for NYSUT members. You can currently register for the November dates below, and once I have registration links for the remaining dates I will send out a follow-up email.

***FYI:** When filling out the fields to have your certificate uploaded to TEACH, you can leave the license number blank, as it is NOT a required field and the numbers do not match up!*

November 12, 2024, 4:15pm-6:15pm; Instructor: Effie McBride

<https://www.mylearningplan.com/WebReg/ActivityProfile.asp?D=15191&I=4938634>

November 19, 2024, 4:15pm-6:15pm; Instructor: Effie McBride

<https://www.mylearningplan.com/WebReg/ActivityProfile.asp?D=15191&I=4938641>

All sessions will be limited to approximately 40 participants.

O. NYS Paid Sick Leave- *It is still in effect, until December 31, 2025*

Should you need to quarantine for a positive COVID case you still have access to the NYS Paid Sick Leave. You can only access this benefit three times, and if you used it in

years past it does not reset. Once someone uses Paid Covid Leave three times, that person is no longer eligible.

Please remember this can only be used for lab confirmed positive cases, and that you should notify HR once positive. The State benefit is not for your child's quarantine or positive case. The COVID Leave Form is located in your main office and can be completed once you return to work.

P. Coaching Pay Dates

Below are the payroll dates for coaches for the 2024-25 school year:

High School

Winter: First check: 12/20, Second check: 2/14

Spring: First check: 4/11, Second check: 5/9

Middle School:

Winter I: First check: 12/20, Second check: 1/17

Winter II: First check: 2/14, Second check: 3/14

Spring: First check: 4/25, Second check: 6/6

Q. Study Money - Winter 12/13/24, and Summer 5/16/25

Applications to participate in the Winter Study Money program should be received by the HR department by December 13th. 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](#).



II. Committee Reports

A. Grievance Committee - Amy Leder

1. There are currently no grievances to report. If you encounter any issues that may violate our contract, please reach out to me.

B. New Members - Alison Katulka

1. Congratulations to Team 11561 for raising over \$7100 for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.
2. Thank you to all who have stepped up to be a union buddy for a new member however, we still need more buddies! Please see a LBCTA rep in your building if you are interested in becoming a union buddy.
3. I am looking forward to seeing our new members, buddies, mentors, building reps, and officers at our New Member Gathering on November 1st. Please check your emails for details.
4. If you know of a new member who needs a buddy, please contact me at akatulka@lbeach.org.

C. Political Action Committee - Jennifer Garrett

1. It is important that PAC has a way to contact members to disseminate information in a timely fashion. If you changed email or are new to the district, please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com with an **active personal** email address so our contact list can be updated.
2. The latest edition of our newsletter is out! Please check your mailbox. Also, if you have any ideas for topics/highlights for future publications please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com.
3. We are asking all members to join NYSUT's Tier 6 Fix-It Team by simply scanning the QR code. Also, if you are interested in joining our LBCTA Fix Tier 6 Team please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com. Fixing Tier 6 is about solidarity, justice and dignity in retirement. It's about keeping



talented educators in the classroom and recruiting new educators into the profession.

4. 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.

D. Public Relations Committee - Jennifer Garrett and Jennifer Maggio

1. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended Music Bingo, wore pink, donated, walked or participated in the many fundraising efforts to support Team 11561 and bring awareness to the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign. Due to your continued efforts and overwhelming generosity, we were able to raise over \$7,100 toward the search for a cure.
2. Please follow us on Instagram [@LongBeachClassroomTeachers](https://www.instagram.com/LongBeachClassroomTeachers).
3. Save the Date! Our LBCTA 8th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. This year we will be donating to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen. More information will be available soon.



E. Social Committee - Elleen Parks

1. Thank you to Amy Leder, Jenn Garrett and Jenn Maggio for a fun and successful Music BINGO night which supported Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.
2. We have secured a venue for this year's celebration honoring retirees on Thursday, May 15, 2025. **Please save the date!** More information will follow about our changes to this year's event.
3. Please take a few minutes out of your Superintendent's Conference Day to go out and vote!

F. Long Beach Teacher Center - John Marr

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center Policy Board has agreed to join with the district to be part of the district Professional Development Plan committee to ensure that voices from each building will be heard when the district is determining the professional development offered to teachers. The district will be running 10 classes next trimester.
2. The Policy Board will be meeting in November to identify and invite instructors to run additional classes. When registration opens, the district will be notified.
3. Please continue to share interesting courses with lbtc@lbeach.org so we can keep all teachers informed of PD opportunities.
4. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact the Director at lbtc@lbeach.org

III. Executive Vice President's Report - Amy Leder

A. APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review)

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. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

B. Health & Safety Meeting

We had our first Health and Safety meeting on October 21st. The following items were discussed.

1. Summer Capital Work

This work is nearly completed. This was the work discussed and approved by BOE in 2022. This was a two-year process including permits and scheduling.

2. Upcoming \$85 Million Capital Projects

Mr. DeVito explained the process and timeline of how these projects get completed. Process includes presentation to the BOE, voting on approvals, and NY state approval. The approved and completed work for these projects will take a few years.

A capital plan revision is scheduled for January. Mr. DeVito plans to share the latest proposal with the Health & Safety committee for feedback.

3. After-Hours Security

The committee is exploring options to enhance security for after-hours activities, including potentially limiting activities to the MS/HS, increasing security at elementary schools, rotating school access, or requiring outside activities to provide their own security.

Mr. DeVito stated that playgrounds should be locked at dusk, and asked Orlando to make sure the rover will be assigned to check West School grounds.

4. Classroom Phones

Several classroom phones are broken. Ten new phones have been ordered by Mr. Kramer but haven't arrived yet. Suggestions were made to rent out walkie-talkies as a temporary solution but these are also limited and take 6 months to be delivered. A suggestion to order a larger quantity of phones due to long wait times was suggested.

5. Rave App

There will be a practice drill scheduled for November 18th across all campuses to test this out. Administrators will receive all school alerts through this app, with the ability to isolate notifications per campus. The app provides direct communication with police, offering an alternative to calling 911. Users can both text and call through the app, ensuring multiple ways of communication in emergency situations.

It's important to note that the Rave App itself does not activate a panic button. Instead, it serves as a communication tool with campus police. For immediate emergencies, there is a separate panic/lockdown system that initiates a campus-wide lockdown, deactivates key card access and activates blue lights outside the building.

6. Principal Report on Building Level Meetings

Mr. DeVito announced this would be a new agenda item introduced. No principals reported at this meeting.

7. Evacuation/Lockdown Drills

Mr. DeVito asked for feedback about how these drills went this fall. The High School reported all went good. No other feedback was shared.

The next Health & Safety meetings are scheduled for January 27th and May 5th. Staff members are encouraged to report any unresolved Health & Safety issues at the building level.

If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at aleder@lbeach.org.

C. Other

1. Please make an effort to attend School Board meetings whenever you can. All meetings are posted on the district calendar.

2. Additionally, consider contributing days to our District Sick Bank; the form is available on our website at www.lbcta.com.

IV. Vice President for Elementary Schools' Report - Jennifer Maggio

- A. Thank you to everyone who attended or donated to the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. Team 11561 had its best year yet, raising over \$7,000!!
- B. Our first ANNUAL Music Bingo was a HIT! A huge thank you to everyone who made this event happen - especially to our own Amy Leder who actually did all the behind the scenes work for this event even when Jenn Garrett and I told her we would take over. I have a feeling she will always be part of the planning! We are looking forward to 2025 Music Bingo already.
- C. I look forward to seeing all of our new LBCTA members and their Buddies at our New Member Party at EGP Land and Sea at 4:00 this Friday.
- D. Please contact me at jmaggio@lbeach.org if there are any concerns that you can't work out at your building.
- E. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on Monday, November 18th at 4:00 in the East School Library.

V. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report - Jennifer Garrett

- A. Thank you to everyone that donated, walked, or participated in the many fundraising efforts to support Team 11561 and bring awareness to the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign.
- B. Please check to ensure that your black classroom phone is working properly. Please notify your head custodian if your phone needs to be repaired or replaced.
- C. Global Compliance training is due on December 13, 2024.
- D. NYS Dept. of Ed. requires updated training to assist in recognizing signs of child abuse or maltreatment. All mandated reports must complete this training by April 1, 2025. Please see Dr. Natali's email from September 17th for instructions.
- E. I am looking forward to seeing all of our new members and their buddies this Friday at our Fall New Member party at EGP in Island Park starting at 4:00 pm. Mentors and executive board members are also welcome!
- F. Your Building Reps are available to assist you. Please communicate any issues or concerns you may have with your building reps:
HS Reps: S. Mena, C. Gamboa, L. Lang, M. Hartmann, A. Rossi, C. Yousha, R. Yousha-Spitz
MS Reps: A. Katulka, D. D'Ottavio, J. Marr, S. Miller, G. Parisi.
- G. Thank you to our members who have donated days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating if you have not done so already.
- H. Save the Date! Our LBCTA 8th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. This year we will be donating to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen. More information will be available soon.

VI. Treasurer's Report - Jonathan Bloom

- A. Union dues for 2024/2025 for full-time members will be \$1,051.16 The break-out is \$407 local, \$394 NYSUT, \$242.16 AFT dues and \$8 for PTA membership. \$105.11 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column "Dues-Teachers". 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.
- 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.

C. September Financial Report

Expenditures

Officer & Rep Stipends	\$29,351.13
Payroll Taxes	\$8,875.063
Payroll Fee	\$334.66
Website Domain	\$256.22
Unemployment Insurance	\$119.35
Worker's Comp	\$582.50
Meeting Expense	\$142.37
Telephone	\$134.23
Office Supplies	\$152.06
TOTAL	\$39,947.58

Revenues

Union Dues	\$39,261.71
Retirees	\$297.00
Paychex-Ret. of Funds	\$818.58
TOTAL	\$40,377.29

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Condolences to Amy Dirolf on the loss of her mother-in-law, Phyllis Lomitola.
2. Congratulations to Guilia Simone on being recognized at the 4th Congressional District's Teacher Awards. We are very proud that she is being recognized for her accomplishments.
3. Our annual, "Wear Pink Day" was a hit. Much gratitude to all the faculty that donated to the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser.
4. Thanks to all who organized, donated and/or participated in the Music BINGO fundraiser. It was a fun and successful event.
5. Thank you to all who donated for the Day of the Deployed drive benefiting the brave men and women who are currently serving the US military around the globe.
6. Our LBCTA New Member Party will be Friday, Nov. 1st at EGP Land & Sea. All new members and "buddies" are encouraged to attend!
7. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Bank.

B. Lindell School

1. Thank you to all who have donated to the Making Strides fundraiser, attended our Music Bingo event, purchased raffles, wore pink and participated in the walk. Together we raised over \$7000.
2. Our first SELF meeting for this year launched off with the ideas of Red Ribbon Week! Thanks to Kirstyn Golden for organizing Red Ribbon week themes. The motto of the week is "***Eat Well. Feel Well. Live Well!***" We "walk it forward" on Friday to be healthy mentally and physically while focusing on kindness, mindfulness and paying it forward to others.
3. Thank you to the LB Fire Department for presenting to the Lindell Pre-K classes.
4. Condolences to Patricia Lugo on the passing of her grandmother.
5. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.
6. Please attend school board meetings.

C. East School

1. Thank you to the PTA for donating the supplies for students to make and share bracelets in honor of Red Ribbon Week and providing a special gift, an East School highlighter, for each student.

2. The BEAST-a-Thon was a success and a great time was had by the students and parents.
3. Thanks to all for participating in the Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Out Day and for the generous contributions to the 50/50.
4. Thank you to those who participated in the Music Bingo fundraiser to support Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.
5. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

D. Lido School

1. New members and their buddies are encouraged to attend the LBCTA Fall New Member gathering at EGP Island Park on Friday, 11/1/24 at 4 p.m.
2. Students are excited to be participating in Red Ribbon Week activities encouraging making healthy, positive life choices organized by Kirstyn Golden-Pappas.
3. Congratulations to Diana Armada and family on the birth of her son, Anthony Joseph.
4. Thank you to Amy Leder, Jennifer Garrett, and Jennifer Maggio for organizing all events related to the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach. Many thanks to those members who participated through donations, wearing pink, contributing to our ongoing fundraising efforts and/or walking. Thank you to those who attended our first ever Music Bingo. We appreciate your continued support for such a worthy cause.
5. Thank you to our Lido PTA for hosting a successful Color Run. It was an enjoyable day for all who participated.
6. Another thank you to the Lido PTA for hosting a fun and spooky Trunk or Treat. Thank you to the families, students and staff that made this a great afternoon for our families.
7. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

E. LBMS

1. Thank you to Amy Leder, Jennifer Garrett, and Jennifer Maggio for organizing the Music Bingo Fundraiser on October 10th. The middle school had a great turnout and claimed the most prizes! Everyone had a lot of fun and we are hopeful to see this event return next year.
2. Thanks to everyone for participating in our LB Pink Out on October 11th. It was a great display of solidarity and support for a great cause. Our middle school family raised \$745 through your generosity for "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Team 11561".
3. Thank you to Dan D'Ottavio and the members of the LBMS GSA for recognizing National Coming Out Day. We appreciate your efforts in creating a safe space for all students.
4. Thank you to our Student Organization and their advisors, Wally Kramme and Billy Papetti, for organizing our Fall Spirit Week. This year's theme was unity and standing up against bullying. Seeing so many students, staff, and teachers involved was great.
5. Kudos to Caroline Espinet for organizing our Hispanic Heritage Month Person of the Day announcements. Special thanks to all who helped create the many informative episodes.
6. Kudos to 6th-grade trip advisors Patricia Van Loon and Regina Dean for organizing a successful field trip to Frost Valley. We are also grateful to Keith Biesma and Patricia Henry for their efforts towards making this field trip a tremendous success. It was a great experience for students, staff, and teachers. We appreciate your hard work planning a fantastic and memorable experience for our 6th graders.

7. Please check that your classroom intercom phone is working. If it is broken, please email Fawwas and let a building rep know.
8. Condolences to Brian Pross on the passing of his father, Larry Pross.
9. Condolences to Nancy Connor on the passing of her mother, Barbara Thornton.
10. On October 11th, the Nassau County District Attorney's office presented "S.T.O.P. then Send" to all students. The presentation included important safety recommendations for student internet and social media use.
11. Thank you to the PTA for organizing another successful book fair.
12. All new members, union buddies, and mentors are encouraged to attend the New Member Gathering at EGP Land and Sea on November 1st starting at 4:00 pm.
13. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA Sick Bank. Please consider donating using the form found on lbcta.com under "Helpful Links".
- 14.

F. LBHS

1. Our annual 50/50 raffle for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer foundation was a huge success! The high school was able to raise \$952 that went directly to the cause. Thank you to all staff and faculty who participated in this event and wore pink. A special thank you to Arnie Epstein for having our cheerleaders collect donations during the 10/10/24 football game!
2. Thank you to Amy Leder for organizing the new LBCTA Event: Music Bingo that was held on October 10th, 2024. It was a fun and successful event!
3. Thank you to Mr. Myers and Mr. Harvey for the installation of new student printers in the library. We are thankful that students now have a place to print.
4. Thank you to all club advisors and students involved in hosting our recent homecoming carnival. It was a wonderful community event that was fun for all ages.
5. We also want to thank our custodial staff and administration for their open communication with the building representatives and faculty. We are hopeful for continued success and collaboration.
6. Congratulations to Kerri Sinatra who was honored earlier this month at the Teacher Recognition Ceremony by Congressman Anthony D'Esposito in the 4th congressional district.
7. Congratulations to Ashley Castanio on her recent marriage!
8. Our sincerest condolences to staff members Kim Innella on the loss of her mother and to Roland Sainristil on the loss of his sister.
9. Please consider attending the LBCTA Buddy Party on Friday, November 1st @ 4 PM at EGP Land and Sea in Island Park. If you are interested in becoming a buddy, please contact Alison Katulka at akatula@lbeach.org
10. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.

At 5:10pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Heather Puckhaber.

In attendance:

West: Claudine Clark, Julie de Bruin, Anne LaPenna

Lindell: Susan Simons, Cathy Barone, Heather Puckhaber

East: Jeanne Richards, Tamara Sommers, Melissa Zimmerman

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Molly Drake, Erica Yoo

LBMS: Alison Katulka, John Marr, Grace Parisi, Kerri Rehnback

LBHS: Stephanie Mena, Andrew Rossi, Rachel Yousha Spitz

Long Beach Teacher Center: John Marr

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

Executive Officers: Karen Bloom, Amy Leder, Jennifer Maggio, Jennifer Garrett, Patricia Van Loon
Elleen Parks, Jonathan Bloom

Guest: Lloyd Berko

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

LIFE INSURANCE: *Crucial for protecting your loved ones*



Life insurance is a topic many people find confusing, complicated, and uncomfortable to think about. It is undoubtedly one of the most vital types of insurance products you can purchase, though. Whether you're looking into your first policy or to upgrade existing coverage, it's important to determine how much life insurance you need and which type is right for you.

One key fact about life insurance you may not be aware of is premiums are likely to be less expensive if you purchase it earlier in life. For those of you who currently have policies, what you purchased 10 years ago, five years ago, or even last year may not be enough to replace your income and all you provide for your family. And if you are part of the 30% of Americans who don't have any life insurance at all,* you could be putting your family at great financial risk.

There are a variety of options to consider when it comes to life insurance, including:

- 1. Term Life** – this product pays a benefit in the event of the death of the insured during a specific timeframe but offers no cash value.
- 2. Level Term Life** – this insurance is similar to term life but is normally for a set period of time such as 10, 15, or 20 years; it also offers no cash value.
- 3. Universal Life** – this option offers a way to protect your family while building tax-deferred cash value; policyholders can usually access a portion of the balance without impacting the guaranteed death benefit.

* Source: USA Today - <https://www.usatoday.com/money/blueprint/life-insurance/life-insurance-statistics>

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive life insurance programs (those listed to the left and others) available to NYSUT members and their spouse/certified domestic partner. Many of these plans offer reduced rates not available to the general public along with additional convenience and savings opportunities through payroll or pension deduction.

Learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed life insurance programs by scanning the QR code, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

