



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Associ



239 Lido Blvd., Long Beach, NY 11561 • 516-897-2175 • [www.lbcta.com](http://www.lbcta.com)

## Executive Board Minutes

December 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:12pm by Keith Harvey.

### I. **President's Report – Keith Harvey**

May the peace and joy of the holiday season be with you throughout the New Year.

#### A. **Executive Board Meeting Dates**

1/9/17, 1/23/17, 2/13/17, 3/13/17, 3/27/17, 4/24/17, 5/8/17, 5/22/17, and 6/12/17

#### B. **2016 Toy Drive**

Thank you very much to Lynda D'Alessio, Andrew Frey, Noelle Policastro, Christina Tomek and Marlon Liainez for coordinating the 2016 Toy Drive and to everyone who made a donation so far. If you have not had time to shop, please consider making a cash donation and the committee will do the shopping for you. Cash and toy donations can also be given to your union reps. Please have all donations in by Wednesday, December 14.



#### C. **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, 2017. First eligible means that you are able to retire without an age or service reduction. You do not have to use time awarded under Article 19 to determine eligibility. If you are unsure if you are first eligible, or need more information, please contact me.

#### D. **NYSUT Offers Online Guide for a Successful Retirement**

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

#### E. **Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) Registration**

All members who hold a permanent or professional certificate in classroom teaching, educational leadership service or a Level III Teaching Assistant certificate must apply for initial registration during the 2016-2017 school year during his/her month of birth and must renew every five years through the TEACH system.

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*

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**F. School Tool**

The District and School Tool are aware that substitutes cannot take attendance using the product. This was done initially for security reasons however they are in the process of fixing the problem with hopes to release an update this spring or summer.

It appears some of the data loss issues were due to a short work session and a 30 minute timeout. The work sessions have been increased to 60 minutes to hopefully minimize these issues.

**G. Study Money Dates**

The deadline for the Winter Study Money Program was December 9th. 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 12, 2017. 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.](#)

**H. Coach pay dates**

**Middle School Winter I:** 1/20

**High School Winter:** 12/23 and 2/3

**Middle School Winter II:** 2/17 and 3/17

**High School Spring:** 4/17 and 5/12

**Middle School Spring:** 4/28 and 6/9



**I. NYSUT Leadership Training**

Following is a schedule of the workshops and conferences to be presented by the Nassau regional office during the 2016-17 school year. Please contact me if you are interested in attending one of these conferences.

**Saturday, February 11** – Nassau Winter Leadership Conference  
(Crest Hollow Country Club)

**Wednesday, March 1** - Post State of the State--Relevant Issues (Saratoga Springs)

**March 3-4** – Health & Safety Conference (Hilton, Saratoga Springs)

**Thursday, March 16** – Labor Movement and History Workshop (Nassau RO)

**Tuesday, June 6** – Tenure Workshop (Nassau RO)

**J. Credit Swap**

Debra Cupani—1.5 credits for Long Island University

**II. Committees**

**A. Grievance Committee—Karen Bloom**

1. We filed Stage 3 for the Pre-K faculty room grievance. We look forward to hearing a response.

2. The district has requested an adjournment for the December 20<sup>th</sup> Pre-K arbitration because of witness availability. We have consented to the adjournment and look forward to receiving the new date.

3. We are still working to try to resolve an Art grievance with Dr. Natali and Dr. Gallagher. We are hoping for a resolution as quickly as possible.

4. 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**

Our next date for negotiations is December 22. I look forward to working with the district in an effort to bring us closer to a settlement.

**C. New Member Committee—James Fiola**

1. I wish you all a Happy Hanukkah, 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](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org) or Alison Katulka at [akatulka@lbeach.org](mailto:akatulka@lbeach.org). Please contact us if you don't have a buddy or mentor.
3. We will also be attending the mentor meetings to speak to the new members about various issues. The next meeting is at 3:45 pm on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> in the Lido School Library. We 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.

**D. Political Action Committee—Beth Prostick**

1. Thank you to those who attended our PAC meeting on November 29. We are in the process of collecting important information that will be distributed in small doses to help keep our members up to date with our political climate.
2. Please let us know if you would like to become a friend of our LBCTA Facebook page.
3. Our next PAC meeting will be arranged after the holidays.

**E. Public Relations—Amy Powers**

1. Look for our LBCTA Holiday Ad in the December 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Herald. Thank you to our PR committee for all of your time and dedication. A special shout out to Ali Katulka for designing our beautiful holiday Ad.
2. A reminder that the PR committee is open to ALL members. New members are welcomed at any time. Our next PR meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in Lido School.**
3. Please consider donating an unwrapped toy to the LBCTA/LBSEA toy drive. Boxes will be present at each school either in the main office or faculty rooms.
4. If you have a Facebook account and you are not a member of our LBCTA private group, please email me your FB screen name at [amylo609@aol.com](mailto:amylo609@aol.com) so that we can add you to our group.

**F. Teacher Center—John Marr**

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center is currently looking for instructors to run professional development classes for us. Please contact me at [lbtc@lbeach.org](mailto:lbtc@lbeach.org) for details.
2. This is a reminder that there will be an informational meeting for those interested in obtaining National Board certification on, Wednesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the Middle School computer lab. All are welcome!

**III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom**

**A. APPR**

1. You should have received a document letting you know who your evaluators are. If you have not, please ask your immediate supervisor. Some of these have changed, but you should receive notification of any changes made to your observer schedule.
2. Please be sure to remain actively engaged in the APPR process. Your SLOs should be completed or at least in the process of being completed. Be sure to discuss your targets with your lead evaluator. Remember, you should not see opinions from your evaluation team when classroom observations take place. 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 Committee**

1. Unfortunately our meeting to discuss the HVAC system at the high school has been cancelled, due to unavailability of the architect. We are awaiting a date for a rescheduled meeting. Mr. DeVito is trying to find a common time for those of us attending.
2. Our next Health & Safety meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17 at 11:00 am.
3. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at [kbloom@lbeach.org](mailto:kbloom@lbeach.org).

**C. District Safety Team**

1. Our next Safety Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17 at 11:00 am.
2. If you have any Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at [kbloom@lbeach.org](mailto: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](http://www.lbcta.com).
3. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a happy & healthy new year!!

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

- A. Mr. DeVito has passed the information about the West school late buses to Chris Malone who is the transportation supervisor. I am eagerly awaiting a solution.
- B. Thank you to all who donated toys to our Toy Drive.
- C. Please consider donating one or more sick days to your colleagues in need.
- D. Elementary Council will meet on January 30, at 3:45 in Lido room L25.
- E. I wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and a very healthy New Year!
- F. If you have any questions I can be reached at [bprostick@gmail.com](mailto:bprostick@gmail.com).

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

- A. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our first batch of chromebooks. We are sad to hear that there will be a continued delay of their arrival.
- B. I spoke with Dr. Newman about the ongoing School Tool issues with teachers. Teachers will not be given access to see historical grades. If teachers have questions or concerns they can contact the student's school counselor. Dr. Newman also worked with the health office and helped to resolve the School Tool problems tracking student's records. Dr. Newman has also contacted Mr. Weiss regarding the undesirable issue that does not allow substitutes to have the ability to enter attendance. Administration shares our same concerns with this problem. Mr. Weiss is working on getting an enhancement to rectify this issue. Dr. Newman has already asked Mr. Meyers to allow her during the high school January Faculty meeting to do a demonstration for teachers to see how to do second quarter grading and to follow up on some other emails sent out about how to use School Tool functions.
- C. Our next Secondary meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 PM** in HS Guidance Suite. Please let me know only if you cannot make it.
- D. Congratulations to the cast, crew and directors of "You Can't Take It with You!" for an amazing performance. Job well done!
- D. Wishing everyone a very special holiday season and a very happy/healthy New Year!

**VI. Treasurer's Report—Jim Fiola**

- A. Union dues for 2016/2017 for full-time members will be \$998.36. The break-out is \$384 local, \$378 NYSUT, \$228.36 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.

**B. November Financial Results**

<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	
NYSUT	\$14,865	Union Dues	\$39,952
AFT	8,897		
Taxes and Insurance	130		
Professional fees	2000		
Donations	502	Total	\$39,952
Meeting Expenses	468		
Public Relations	273		
	<hr/>		
Total	\$27,135		

C. I wish you all a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and Best wishes for a 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 try to attend an upcoming School Board Meeting. Thank you for reading the minutes and please encourage your fellow members to do the same.

**If you have any changes to your personal file (address, name, etc.), please email them to me at [jfiola@lbeach.org](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org).**

**VII. Building Reports**

**A. West School**

1. Our December Book Fair was a great success. Thank you to ALL the parents and volunteers who assisted us especially with our little ones choosing books.
2. Continued get well wishes to Stacey Durnan.
3. We want to wish good health and an adventurous retirement to Linda Fuller!
4. Condolences to Shari Brown on the loss of her mother Beverly.
5. There continues to be one bus which arrives late at dismissal. Chris Malone was at West to review the issue. There has not been any resolution as of yet.
6. Staff parking is becoming an issue with regards to the construction of new driveways in the West End of Long Beach.
7. If you have not done so please consider donating a toy or monetary gift to the LBCTA Toy Drive by Friday, December 16.
8. Thank you to those who have donated sick days to our bank. We are in need of sick days and encourage anyone who has not done so to consider donating.
9. A safe, peaceful, and happy holiday season to ALL!

**B. Lindell School**

1. Thank you to all the generous members of Lindell for donating toys to the CTA toy drive and contributions to our families in need organized by Deb Bernardino-Arden.
2. Kudos to our Music Department: Noelle Policastro (Orchestra), Leigh Rynecki (Chorus, Band and Recorder Director and Music Teacher) and our talented Lindell students

for an outstanding holiday concert.

3. Our students learned the gift of giving through our meaningful "I wish you more" SEL Family activity.

4. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a peaceful new year!

5. Thank you PTA for another successful book fair and an out of this world laser show!

**C. East School**

1. Technology issues are not being addressed in a timely manner.

2. Get well wishes to Erica Ferretti

3. Thanks to all of you who donated to the LBCTA Toy Drive.

4. Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

**D. Lido School**

1. Extending great appreciation to Lido PTA for sponsoring and organizing the Scholastic Book Fair. Students were excited to buy exciting books to add to their literacy collection.

2. Wishing Kathleen Polchynsky a speedy recovery!

3. Kudos to Lido PTA, staff, and students for contributing to our Annual Basket Raffle Fund-raiser. The baskets were bigger, better, and more beautiful than ever.

4. Many thanks to all who contributed to the LBCTA/LBSEA Toy Drive. Kudos to Lynda D'Alessio, Andrew Frey, Noelle Policastro, Christina Tomek, and Marlon Lainez for coordinating the drive this year!

5. Congratulations to Stephanie Meyer and her husband Aaron on the birth of her son Brody!

6. The lack of available substitute teachers is of great concern.

7. To meet the health needs of our students in *Pre K- 5<sup>th</sup>* grade, we would greatly benefit from having an additional Nurse at Lido. It is difficult to manage the demands of students in *Pre K - 5<sup>th</sup>* grade with just one Nurse on duty.

8. Thanks to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

9. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season! Best of luck in the New Year 2017!

10. Condolences to Roseann Spitaleri on the loss of her father-in-law.

**E. Middle School**

1. Condolences to Meghan Kalner on the loss of her father.

2. Congratulations to Nicole Vasheo on her recent engagement.

3. Congratulations to Ilyssa Berman and Michelle Frank on the success of the middle school production of "The Little Mermaid Junior." The show was a tremendous success and the student members of the cast and crew worked very hard.

4. Kudos to Laura Swan and Brian Pross as well as the students in the Art and Wood Clubs for creating a beautiful set and props for "The Little Mermaid Jr" production.

5. We are still concerned with the lack of security at the middle school. We feel that since we are the second largest building in the district that our security should have more of a presence, especially after school.

6. Members are still waiting for curriculum supplies for the Reading department. We appreciate the effort our building administration has given to rectify this situation and are hoping all of the necessary materials arrive soon.

7. Thank you to all of those that donated toys to the toy drive.

8. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA Sick Bank.

9. We hope everyone has a happy and healthy holiday and a very happy new year!

## G. High School

1. Condolences to Mariella Giammarino on the loss of her grandmother.
2. Congratulations to the Directors, Cast, and Crew of the High School Drama production.
3. Science teachers and guidance counselors are extremely disappointed with the decision made by Central Administration to eliminate both applied chemistry and applied physics from the course offerings for the 2017-18 school year. We feel that this decision was made hastily considering all of the consequences to our students. Teachers and counselors are concerned not only with students experiences in our classes, but also with their acceptance to college and success once they are there. We sincerely hope that Central Administration reconsiders this decision so that we can best meet the needs of all of our students.
4. In addition, we are concerned about the implementation of the new concepts in Physical Science Course, which has not been clearly defined, nor has any curriculum been written.
5. The state of technology continues to be a major problem-
  - a) The delay in chromebooks has severely limited teachers and students access to technology. We are still waiting for information regarding the timetable of the arrival. The ordering of chromebooks needs to be prioritized and fast tracked.
  - b) Printing- The HS Printer server has been malfunctioning this school year. As a result, printing from classroom computers and offices has been problematic. While no information has been shared with HS staff by the director of technology, we are pleased that the HS techs have reported to the building committee that district has made arrangements to bypass the server at each computer station. Currently all of the classrooms on the second floor have been configured. High school techs have reported they expect all of the computers on the third floor to be configured by the holiday recess.
  - c) The district needs to hire a person to take charge of developing and implementing a technology plan for the district. The lack of written updates and explanations of technology issues needs to be addressed.
6. We are pleased to hear that the district has hired someone to conduct an audit of the district's ENL program. There is still very little information that has been provided regarding this program. Staff would still like for the district to provide staff development and training for teachers of these classes. In addition, the amount of work created by ENL regulations has placed significant time constraints on some staff members. The district should hire an ENL Supervisor in order to serve the students and teachers of this department.
7. While we have recently been provided with some answers to some of the School Tool issues, we are still concerned regarding:
  - a) Teachers do not have access to student's historical grades.
  - b) Students who are marked absent from second period are being marked absent by default for the remainder of the school day.
  - c) Substitutes have no ability to enter attendance in the classroom.
8. While Classroom 215 has been the focus of recent meetings, the room is still not properly outfitted to deliver the Computer Repair and Networking curriculum to the students. The room still does not have walls to practice wiring, unfiltered network access to install and use required programs, and is still waiting for a whiteboard to be installed to display notes or diagrams in the room. We are hopeful that the room will be properly outfitted by the holiday recess.



9. There have been a number of weird smells noticed around the school (the hallway between rooms 354 and 357 in particular). These smells are often prevalent near ceiling vents. We believe that some of these smells are related to the condition of the ventilation system. We ask that the entire ventilation system be studied and tested to ensure that the conditions in the building are safe for students and staff.

10. We are hopeful that building administration can develop a plan to improve student attendance in detention. Students who miss detention will eventually be issued in-school suspension. We would like to take steps to ensure that students avoid this and do not miss class unnecessarily.

11. We look forward to the district studying the traffic pattern this spring. All we want is to have the issue studied to see if we have the safest traffic pattern that we can have.

12. After a recent meeting with the head custodian, we are hopeful that a new classroom cleaning checklist will be developed. Staff still does not believe that their rooms are being cleaned fully. Staff would like to see the classroom floors mopped on a more regular basis. If you feel that your room is not being cleaned properly please notify a building representative and the information will be provided the head custodian.

13. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.

14. Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

### **VIII. New Business**

- A. Long Beach Aware has requested the LBCTA's endorsement for their efforts to prevent additional liquor licenses being issued in Long Beach due to the high spike of underage drinking after Super Storm Sandy. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made and it passed unanimously to endorse Long Beach Aware's efforts..

At 4:50pm, a motion was made by Cheryle Fontenot to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Camila Gamboa.

### **In Attendance:**

West: Cheryleann Fontenot and June Schecter

Lindell: Jane Quinton, Heather Puckhaber and Susan Simons

East: Jeanne Richards and Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Dana Monti and Marilyn Pilo

Pre-K:

LBMS: Alison Katulka, Camila Gamboa, Jennifer Garrett and Stacey Rice

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Anthony Balsone, Elena Frishman, Greg Milone and Jay Spitz

Retiree: Frank Volpe

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

Guests: Andrew Frey and Noelle Policastro

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.