



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

239 Lido Blvd., Long Beach, NY 11561 516-897-2175

Executive Board Minutes

October 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:15PM by Keith Harvey.

## I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

### A. Board Meeting Update

At the October 8th Board of Education meeting, it was presented that the new Middle School 100's science wing and the Central Administration office are still on schedule and should be completed during the December Holiday recess. It was also presented that the district is considering hosting a public forum to discuss the positive and negative effects of "opting out" students from Common Core testing.



### B. Latino Civics Association

The Long Beach Latino Civic Association empowers the Latino population of Long Beach to become integral members of the community, while embracing both the American experience and distinct Latino cultures within Long Beach, New York. Congratulations to the following community members for being recognized for their influence in this community:  
Pastor Brian P. Barr, Community Leadership Award - St. Mary of the Isle

Edith Guzman, Educator of the Year Award - Lindell Teacher  
Paul Gillespie and Reggie Jones, Youth Leadership Award - Retired LB Teachers

Judy Arroyo, First Responder Award - Long Beach Police Officer  
Paulina Diaz, Business Women of the Year Award - Paulina's Hair Salon

Long Beach students:

Kelly Moreno - High School      Bryan Mizhirumbay - Middle School,  
Noah Gomez- Lido School      Elektra Sabillon Martinez – Lindell School  
Xiomara Flores - East School      Romel Argueta -West School

### C. Long Beach AWARE

Long Beach Medical Center established the Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking in August 2000 to address the public health epidemic of underage drinking and other drug use in the Long Beach community. At this year's brunch members of the community were recognized for their efforts for this cause. Congratula-

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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tions to honorees Dr. Michelle Natali, Arnold Epstein, Rhonda Healy and Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky.

#### **D. GCN (Global Compliance Network) Training**

I have made it clear to the district that the Association does not support the use of GCN and that its continued use promotes a cynical attitude amongst the faculty. To most it is clear these training sessions have little to do with the educational setting and to some it is a sign that the district does not value their time. GCN has been an issue for many years and we were hoping to reduce its use but this year the district has decided to expand. We have done these trainings in the past through different means and it is my hope the district will discontinue its use.



#### **E. School Tool Committee**

The district will be forming a committee to aid in the transition to School Tool (the new student management system). Dr. Graham would like to have three teachers on the committee: one high school teacher, one middle school teacher and one elementary teacher. Currently only the middle school is represented. If you are interested in serving, please email me.

#### **F. PTA**

Once again I am proud to announce the LBCTA has 100% teacher participation in the PTA. While all of our teachers are members it is also important that we actively participate in the PTA. It is extremely important that the CTA and PTA have an open and working relationship. To discuss how we can better foster that relationship I have invited Central Council Co-Presidents Gerri Maquet and Andrea Wayne to attend an upcoming meeting.

#### **G. Conference Procedures**

If you plan on attending a conference or training outside of the district please note there has been a change in the procedure. In an effort to simplify the process, if the reimbursement is less than \$200 a requisition is no longer necessary. When completing your conference request on MLP be sure to accurately estimate your expenses as the district will not reimburse you more than the amount approved on MLP. School Board policy allots \$20 for breakfast, \$20 for lunch and \$40 for dinner plus tax and tip of 15 to 18%. For one day conferences the only meal which will normally be reimbursed is lunch. Travel is reimbursed at 57.5 cents a mile round trip plus parking and tolls or the actual cost of public transportation. Once your request is approved, you must ask your school secretary to encumber the funds by creating a purchase order for the amounts indicated on your MLP request. If the personal reimbursement is less than \$200, no requisition is necessary. Employees must submit completed claim forms (which can be found on the "G" drive of the district network) in order to receive reimbursement of expenses incurred while attending a conference, workshop, seminar, or out-of-town meeting. If you need a purchase order for the registration or hotel fees, you must also ask your school secretary to create it. If you go out to eat separate checks should be obtained whenever possible. If this is not an option then you must make a copy of the check and write the reason a copy was submitted on it. When you return from the con-

ference you must mark it complete on MLP and if applicable receipts along with a MapQuest-type printout to verify your mileage.

You will then sign the PO which the secretary created. Reimbursements are paid via a district check. Contractually the maximum amount that will be approved if you initiate a conference request is \$500. Any expenses in excess of \$500 will not be reimbursed. Your principal or director may offer you less than \$500 as long as the same amount is offered to all members who attend the same conference. If the district initiates the conference request then the \$500 limit does not apply. In no event should your principal or director tell you that you may attend a conference, but that you won't be reimbursed for transportation or meals.

## H. APPR 3012d

Although we are actively negotiating the terms of the new APPR we have not yet come to an agreement. The district has applied for the first waiver and I believe we have sufficient evidence for its approval. **As of Oct. 15, SED had not received a plan for approval or a waiver application from 494 districts.**

## I. Emergency Coverage

If you are asked to cover the same class in excess of eight days you should be paid at a rate of 20% of 1/200th of your salary per period beginning on the ninth day. Keep accurate records and check with your school secretary to ensure that you are properly paid.

## J. Coaching Pay Dates-

High School Fall: second check: 10/30/15

Middle School: Fall: second check: 10/30/15

## K. Study Money Dates

Those who applied and were approved for Fall Study money were on the October 8th Board of Education agenda. There are two more opportunities to participate in the Study Program: Winter- Dec. 11, 2015 and Summer- May 13, 2016. 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.](#)

## L. New Members

Alison and I would like to thank everyone who came to the Buddy Party on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was a very good turnout and we hope everyone had a nice time and met some new people. There will be another gathering in the Spring. If you have any questions, 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.

We will also be attending the mentor meetings to speak to the new members about various issues. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 in the East School Library.

In addition, we will be holding our own New Member meetings once a quarter. I hope your careers here at Long Beach are off to a great start. Please do not be afraid to ask

for help if you need it. We (and many others) are here for you.

### **M. Teacher Center**

The Long Beach Teacher Center continues to offer professional development courses to members of group A and C. At this time, the Center has almost spent down its grant for this year. Please check our website at <http://www.lbeachtc.org> for professional development opportunities. If you hear of any PD opportunities, please forward them to [lbtc@lbeach.org](mailto:lbtc@lbeach.org) so we can put them on the website.

## **II. Chief Negotiators Report—Keith Harvey**

Our next negotiation meeting is scheduled for November 5th.

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

### **A. APPR**

1. You should be working on creating and administering your SLO's at this time in collaboration with your lead evaluator. Although you are not required to do this, I would advise you to take an active role in the process to ensure that the SLO's are in fact designed to be able to show proper growth. Once your baseline assessments have been administered, you should then begin the process of creating your targets. Again, it would benefit you to be involved with this process to ensure that your targets are in fact reachable.
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. The deadline to receive our lead evaluators has passed. Hopefully, you will be receiving information in the near future regarding who your lead evaluator is. Dr. Graham ensured us that this will be coming soon.
4. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

### **B. Grievances**

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.

### **C. Health & Safety Committee**

1. We had our first Health & Safety meeting on October 13.
2. There was a brief stop in the work being done with the construction of the new administration building due to some lack of information by the subcontractors. All documents have been provided and work should continue this week. The good news is that the modular is being built at a separate location and will be ready to ship by November 5<sup>th</sup>.
3. The construction on the outside of the new wing at the High School should be resuming shortly as the main issues were resolved. They will be using similar cement panels that should match the rest of the building. The material currently peeling off will be replaced with a new layer of water proofing just in case it has been compromised.
4. The traffic pattern at the high school was discussed, and according to Mr. DeVito, the PTA felt it was not a good idea to change the direction back.

Mr. Stroud will be discussing the issue with the Site-based committee to come to a consensus and will then share their findings with administration.

5. The district is currently working on filling out applications for the rebuilding of the NIKE boardwalk. This will hopefully be paid for with grant money and/or FEMA reimbursement.

6. The testing was done on the Cooling Tower at the high school and everything came back good. Mr. DeVito has the reports if anyone would like to see them.

7. There was a discussion of lice and how policies have changed. It was decided that we would like to send the child home when lice is discovered and then the child will be rechecked before returning to class. In addition, the principal will send a note home informing the children that someone in their class has lice. The custodial staff will clean and HEPA vac the room as well as the bus that the child rides on.

8. We also discussed protocols for mold suspicion. If the area in question is less than 10 square feet and it is the first time that the substance appeared, the custodial staff will wipe down with Virex and see if there is a reoccurrence. If there is, a mold remediation company will be called in to test the air or swab the material. The technician will then give a suggested plan of action and come back to test at a later date. If it is a very large area, the room may be shut down until further notice. Bleach should not be used to clean areas of the classroom, as there are very few instances that bleach is allowed to be used in schools. Mr. DeVito will be providing these guidelines in writing to us.

9. 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).

#### **D. District Safety Team**

1. We had our first meeting on October 13. We discussed a variety of issues that have been ongoing including our safety plans, security booth at the high school and parking tags. We also began a discussion on Social Media and the ramifications that could ensue.

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).

#### **E. Other**

1. Please remember to attend BOE meetings whenever possible, but especially the two designated meetings. The first one is coming up on November 12 at Lindell School.

2. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank, as we have little to none left. The form is on our new website at [www.lbcta.com](http://www.lbcta.com).

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

A. A very special thank you to Amy Powers for organizing the Making Strides walk. I would also like to thank all who donated and/or walked.

B. Elementary Council meeting will be held at Lido on Monday, October 26 at 3:45 in room 25.

C. Remember, you can now donate sick days to our bank. Please consider donating at least one day to your colleagues in need.

D. 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. The outpouring love and support we have received from our union members, community members, family and friends towards raising money for breast cancer has been incredible. The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at Jones Beach yesterday was a truly special and memorable day. To quote Newsday, "The Jones Beach boardwalk was transformed into a sea of pink as more than 65,000 people participated in the 5 mile event." To date, LBCTA has raised over \$2500 and the donations continue to come in. Please if you have not already done so, consider donating online at <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/LBCTA11561>
- B. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. The walk may be over but the fight is still on. It is not too late to donate. Again, thank you to every walker, donator, supporter. You are all so wonderful. We have extra pink long sleeve shirts available with our LBCTA logo on the back. We are asking for a \$10 donation if you would like to purchase a shirt. Please email me if you are interested.
- D. Please wear pink this Friday, October 23rd to stand together against breast cancer. Breast cancer touches the lives of millions. For every woman or man who develops breast cancer, there are families, friends and loved ones who also feel the fear and uncertainty the disease brings. By wearing pink, you will be helping the women and men diagnosed with breast cancer each year.  
A small donation can make a huge difference. Thank you again for all your amazing support, love and efforts towards this fight.  
Can't wait to see all the pink on Friday!
- C. Please continue to encourage all members to attend BOE meetings. Our presence at these meetings is crucial.

**VI. Treasurer's Report—Jim Fiola**

A. September's results

<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	
NYSUT	\$13,2230	Union Dues	\$37, 295
AFT	8,010	Retirees	324
Payroll related items	108		
Meeting Expenses	1,358	Total	<u>\$37,619</u>
Donations	377		
Training	832		
Dues	200		
Public Relations	273		
Telephone	289		
Total	\$25,555		

I hope you have all had a good start to your school year. **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).**

B. 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.

## VII. Building Reports

### A. West School

1. Thank you to our PTA for a wonderful kick off to PARP!
2. Congratulations to Lisa and Pete Pignataro on the birth of their son, Dominic.
3. Congratulations to Rhonda Healy! Her dedication and hard work were honorably recognized at the Long Beach Aware Breakfast.
4. Congratulations to Chelsey Greenberg on her marriage to Chris.
5. Thank you to Amy Powers for leading us in the Making Strides fund raising walk. Please continue to donate at [www.lbcta.com](http://www.lbcta.com).
6. We continue to be concerned about the late buses at dismissal. Although many of the buses do seem to be improving our Mini Buses for our very special needs students are arriving after 4:00.

### B. Lindell School

1. Our *Chalk the Walk* and *Walk It Forward* assembly and activities were a wonderful success as part of our SEL initiative and philanthropic awareness. Our students and staff raised funds to support Lindell’s *Spectacular Needs and Deeds*. Thank you to Carol Cintonino and SEL committee for coordinating these meaningful events.
2. Congratulations to Jane Quinton on the birth of her granddaughter, Elowyn Jane Dunlop.
3. Thank you to Steve Lahey for quickly responding to our ongoing concerns about leaky walls and windows and most recently windows rapidly and dangerously falling. We are disappointed by the district’s slow response to provide corrective action.

### C. East School

1. Congratulations to Rebecca Carroll on her marriage to Dan.
2. Congratulations to Chelsey Greenberg on her marriage to Chris.
3. Congratulations to Doug Mac Connell on his marriage to Christine and baby McKenzie coming home.
4. Congratulations to Judy Murray on the marriage of her son, Zachary to Charlotte.

### D. Lido School

1. Congratulations to Mary Doheny on the birth of her daughter Savannah Jean.
2. Condolences to Dorothy Lopez on the loss of her grandmother.
3. Congratulations to Chelsea Greenberg on her recent marriage.
4. Students were involved in a schoolwide Bully Prevention March displaying posters representing the Six Pillars of Character. They were also excited to meet with their class buddies.

5. Students enjoyed a fun and informative Fire Safety Assembly. They loved the experience of going on the fire truck.
6. First Grade students celebrated “Fun with Fiction” with their parents and teachers. It was enjoyed by all who attended.
7. Students participated in Courageous Kids Day by creating class posters displaying various examples of courage.

#### **E. Pre-K**

1. Welcome to Inez Ruivo, our new Pre-K teacher.

#### **F. HALB**

1. We would like to welcome all new staff members and wish them a successful year.
2. We would like to congratulate Gari Ann Harris on the birth of her daughter, Tova.

#### **G. Middle School**

1. Condolences to Nancy Connor and family on the loss of her mother-in-law.
2. Congratulations to Sandra Ruiz on her recent marriage to Michael Hnis.
3. We are pleased to be changing our “Back to School Night” from 3 hours to 2 hours.
4. Welcome to our new permanent substitute teachers: Marie DiGiovanni, Michael Santoro, and Dayna Obidienzo.
5. Our first Mentor Program Event was a success. Kudos to Keith Beisma for organizing this special program between teachers/staff and students.
6. Construction is a major concern for several members. There have been reports of fumes entering classrooms when certain machinery is operated outside. The Building Committee has recommended the following:
  - Notify an administrator and custodian immediately if you smell a strange odor and/or fumes.
  - Classrooms will be moved in the event fumes and/or odors enter classrooms.
  - Refrain from opening classroom windows and hallway windows if construction machinery is operating.
  - Please notify administration, custodians, and a building representative if your classroom windows do not function properly.
  - Fresh air intakes will be monitored and covered.
  - Mr. Romanelli has agreed to keeping staff updated on construction through emails.
7. Several members of the MS faculty participated in the “Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk” at Jones Beach on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Kudos to Amy Powers, VP of Secondary Schools, for organizing our team and surpassing the \$2,000.00 fundraising goal! Donations will be accepted through the end of October. Go to [www.lbcta.com](http://www.lbcta.com) to donate.
8. We invite you to “**Get Pinky**” on Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup> by wearing pink as a tribute to those battling Breast Cancer and for their family and loved ones that support them through their treatment.



## H. High School

1. Congratulations to Anthony Balsamo, Student Government, The Homecoming Committee, and all parents, teachers, and staff for planning and participating in a very successful pep rally and homecoming carnival.
2. Congratulations to Amy Powers for organizing this year's Breast Cancer Fundraiser Walk at Jones Beach. Thanks to her and all of you a lot of money was raised for a worthy cause.
3. Frustration exists regarding the state of classroom and department office computer workstations and copiers. Many of these workstations are outdated and slow. The copiers frequently breakdown and need service. This makes it very challenging to properly prepare and to deliver lessons. Mr. Stroud has agreed to review the situation and see what can be done to better outfit the teacher offices and to improve the building copier situation.
4. There is concern about class size in certain course sections. Mr. Stroud has agreed to do what he can to get classes under 30 students.
5. We are still waiting for a properly outfitted faculty room.
6. There is still great concern for the safety of students, staff and residents under the current traffic pattern.
7. We are still greatly concerned about the state of access to technology in the building. While the district has created a new computer lab in the library, this year they removed one of our two existing computer labs. There needs to be an even greater access to technology in the building.

## VIII. New Business

- A. Alison Katulka proposed a fund raiser to be held on Superintendents Conference Day to support the local food bank at St. Mary's. Keep an eye out for additional information.
- B. Morning Madness Fashion Show will be held on November 5th. Please click on the link for additional information. [Morning Madness](#)

At 5:35pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Karen Bloom.

### In Attendance:

West: Mary Ann Colucci

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Migdalia Schneider

East: Mary Jane Rochford

Lido: Cheryl Carroll, Dorothy Lopez, Marilyn Pilo

Pre-K: Elizabeth Fichtelman

LBMS: Alison Katulka, Jennifer Garrett, Stacey Rice

LBHS: Anthony Balsamo, Elena Frishman, Jay Spitz

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

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.