



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

Executive Board Minutes

March 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:08pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

4/23/18, 5/14/18, and 6/11/18

End of Year Celebration

Thursday, May 10 at Bridgeview

B. State of the Union 2018



Good afternoon my fellow Executive Board members and distinguished CTA sisters and brothers. I have had the opportunity of being your president for the past three years and today I have the privilege to deliver my third state of the union. I know there are many people and special interest groups that have made it a goal to attack us and public education as a whole. That is why I want to say thank you to the Executive Board and our membership as a whole, for all that you do, to make Long Beach Public Schools a great place for our children and its workers.

Many of the challenges we face locally come to us from the federal and state level. When I reflect on topics like the Tax Cap, APPR, Common Core, and most recently the Janus Supreme Court case it makes me extremely proud to work in Long Beach and alongside all of you. It makes me proud because despite all of these challenges we still persevere. We persevere, because we know, as a unified professional teaching staff, that we can advance the quality of education in Long Beach Public Schools.

A great example of what can be achieved, when we unify, are the results from this year's Constitution convention vote. A vote that was turned down by the public by over 80%. It was turned down because we organized a campaign at the local and state level to expose the hidden agenda to defund the public pension system. This is one great example of what we can achieve when we come together as a group. Unfortunately, this is not the only test that we will face this year.

One of the greatest challenges we face is the Tax Cap. As you know the Tax Cap is 2% or the CPI whichever is lower. This means the district has limited means to increase revenue while having to fund the increasing number of unfunded mandates. Luckily the district has healthy reserve funds and areas of revenue which gives them the ability to stay in the black. Although the District has been able to draw from their reserves in the past, they have made it very clear that they cannot continue this practice, and in fact would like to start building up their reserves. To this extent, we have had to make monetary concessions beyond my comfort level, during recent negotiations. I appreciate your support during those times. Those conces-

Keith Harvey

President

Karen Bloom

Executive Vice-President

Amy Leder

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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sions allowed the district to stabilize their budget and for the first time in five plus years, they have been able to define their budget as sustainable.

Another challenge we face is the ill-conceived, state mandated APPR. As you know the current system was forced down our throats by the State, because of a Federal grant tied to Every Student Succeeds Act. A grant, which the state diverted from our classrooms, leaving little for districts to cover its expense. This created a system which over relies on state test scores, and a system that few districts value. Luckily, the State has put a moratorium on using student performance measures based on the grades 3-8 ELA and Math State assessments. However, they are still collecting the data and the moratorium will expire in June of 2019. NYSUT is advocating for the return of control to the locals and creating a system that restores trust, helps develop teachers and is free of state mandates. We are hopeful that the Commissioner of Education will act on these changes prior to the expiration of the moratorium.

The greatest challenge we face is the pending decision regarding the Janus Supreme Court case. We have been reporting to you on the status of the case and its implications for public unions. The Freedom Foundation, and similar anti-union organizations want union members to believe they are fighting for workers' freedom and rights. They are lying. Their real agenda is to strip you of your power and voice. The Freedom Foundation is telling union members a simple, seductive and totally misleading message that is:

"We're not against unions. We're happy you have a union. We just want you to know that you can have all the benefits of union membership without paying dues. So, drop your membership and give yourself a raise."

These are lies, and the true fact is without union dues there would be no union, and without a union the district could decertify our contract, and without a contract they could arbitrarily and capriciously cut your salaries and benefits while increasing the length of your workday. We know this to be true because it has been the goal of some School Board members to do these things for the past 25 years during negotiations. If our members were to leave our Union the District could do any and all of these things. The Freedom Foundation's message is clear, and was best stated by them, at a fund-raising appeal this fall:

"If and when Justice Gorsuch gives the side of freedom the fifth vote [on Janus], and mandatory public-sector union dues are tossed onto the scrap heap of failed Big Government schemes, it will be our job—a job we undertake with great pleasure—to let employees know their rights. . .

So we are gearing up in a major way to launch an extensive education and activation campaign to take full advantage of a favorable ruling in this historic case . . .

We've been pointing toward this moment for our entire existence . . .

[W]e know the unions won't go away without a fight. They won't go away even with a fight. They won't go away until we drive the proverbial stake through their hearts and finish them off for good."

This is their message and they have declared war on us. Our Executive Board will continue to share information with you about the Janus case as we wait for the Supreme Court decision. We will also be coming to every building to discuss the potential negative impacts of the case, and to discuss the importance of having 100% membership.

There are many challenges that we face however our success does not come from harping on the negativity of special interest groups. Our success comes from our unity and our dedication to our students. We see this every day, as we, the practitioners, take on and implement the district's new initiatives. We see this every day when our members volunteer for afterschool and weekend programs to support our students. We see this every day when our guidance counselors, nurses and all of our members come in early and stay late to ensure the social, mental, and physical needs of our students are met. And we see this every day when we rally around faculty lead fundraising that allows us to donate hundreds of presents and tens of thousands of dollars to groups like, Long Beach AWARE, the MLK Center, the Circulo De La Hispanidad, St. Mary's Food Pantry, Sunrise Day Camp, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Sloan Kettering and hundreds of other or-

ganizations through our various “Denim for a Cause” events.

As an organization it is important that we give back to the communities that support our students. It is not only important that we participate in these activities but also that we come together to discuss and celebrate these acts of solidarity. It is the celebrating that allows us to unite during these volatile times to generate creative solutions to make these changes work for us and our students. I look forward to working with all of you to overcome these challenges we face. In closing, I would like to say thank you to the Executive Board and our membership as a whole for all that you do to make Long Beach Public Schools a better place for our children and its workers.

C. CTA Scholarships

I am pleased to announce the following association members’ children are this year’s scholarship winners: Rebecca Dean, daughter of Lynn Dean (Middle School School) and Michael Dotzler, son of Michael Dotzler (High School). Thank you to Pat Fallon for serving as the chair of the scholarship committee and to Jay Spitz, Jim Fiola, Janet Lotito, Karen Bloom, Stephanie Bragino, Steven Bialick, and Deb Capodiferro for volunteering their time to review the applications.

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. New Member Committee—Jim Fiola

1. Please consider joining us for a Mets game on June 1st. Details are in the Public Relations Committee report.
2. I know that you all have the Spring Buddy/New Member party date in your calendars already: **Friday, April 13th**. Sharon Weiss will be reminding all the mentors and mentees. It is a pay date and it will again be at the Ale House in Point Lookout after school. We hope to have a large gathering that afternoon and evening.
3. 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.** Please ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you.

C. Political Action Committee—Beth Prostick

1. Thank you to all who came to the last PAC meeting.
2. We are in need of secondary representation. It would be great if we could have two people from the HS and an additional person from the MS.
3. At this point, you have the tri-fold flyer from our March 12 meeting and the letter I emailed to everyone to begin your individual building informational meetings and your face to face conversations.
4. Please have one rep email me when you have completed your meetings.
5. If you are not receiving my emails, please email me at LBCTAPAC@gmail.com from your personal email account so I can add you.
6. Our next PAC meeting will be held on April 18, at 3:45 in Lido room L25.

D. Public Relations—Amy Leder

1. Please consider joining us for a fun evening of friendly camaraderie at the Mets vs Chicago Cubs Baseball game on June 1st at 7:10 pm. Tickets in “Coca-Cola Corner” include a bracelet for drink service for 3 hours (1 hour before the game and 2 hours after the 1st pitch) plus a food voucher which can be used for a hot dog or burger with fries. Tickets are \$85.50 per person. Checks can be made out to Jim Fiola and the form and payment sent to Scott Brecher at the HS. Limited tickets are available so they will be given out on first come first serve basis.

2. Save the date... Sunday, October 21, 2018 is the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach. We would love to have you and your families join us.

3. We hope to see you all at our LBCTA end of the celebration on Thursday, May 10th.

E. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. Please join us to celebrate the end of our 2017-18 school year at our annual CTA party. This event will take place on Thursday, May 10th at 5:00 at Bridgeview, Island Park, NY. Our celebration, which honors our retirees, is also a time to show the community that we are a strong union.

F. Teacher Center—John Marr

1. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the teachers of Long Beach, the current grant has been expended.

2. We are currently waiting on a new laminator that will be here within the month. Once the laminator is operational, it will be available free of charge when the center is open, Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:45-6pm.

III. Executive Vice President's Report—Karen Bloom

A. I would like to congratulate Dr. Gallagher on her appointment as Superintendent. We look forward to many years of working together!

B. APPR

1. 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.

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

C. Health & Safety Committee

1. We are looking forward to hearing the traffic consultant's report and suggestions for how to improve both the Lido complex and the LBHS traffic patterns.

2. We are hoping for updates on all of our other outstanding issues at the meeting tomorrow.

3. The next Health and Safety meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 4:00 pm in the high school library.

4. If you have any health and safety issues that are not resolved at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

D. District Safety Team

1. We are thankful that the district is looking into giving all buildings the ability to lockdown their classrooms from the inside and to reduce the number of keys used in the high school to lockdown rooms. We are looking forward to hearing the status of the project.

2. In addition, we are hoping to hear the suggestions from the architect as to what he feels is the best way to secure the cafeteria and the library at the high school during lockdowns.

3. The next District Safety Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 4:00 pm in the high school library.

4. If you have any District Safety issues that are not resolved at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

E. Other

1. Have a great Easter and Passover break! Enjoy the well-deserved break!

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

- A. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be determined at a later date.
- B. The election for Building Reps will be taking place the week of May 21. If you would like to run for Building Representative for the 2018-2019 school year, please send me a letter of intent by May 18. You can inter-office it to me at Lido or you can email me with the letter attached to bprostick@lbeach.org.
- C. Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Gallagher on her appointment as Superintendent of Schools.
- D. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- E. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org.
- F. Have a happy Easter and Passover break!

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

- A. We will be holding our Building Rep Elections during the week of May 21st. If you are interested in serving as a Building Rep please email me at aleder@lbeach.org or send a letter of interest to me c/o High School. The letter or email must be received by the close of business Friday, May 18th. This will also allow any new Building Reps to attend our last meeting of the year on June 11th. Middle School: 5 Reps High School: 6 Reps
- B. Mark your calendars! The middle school production of *Alice in Wonderland* is on April 19th and 20th in the **HIGH SCHOOL** auditorium at 7pm.
- C. Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Gallagher on her appointment as Superintendent of Schools.
- D. Have a happy Easter and Passover break!

VI. **Treasurer's Report—Jim Fiola**

- A. As the month has not ended yet, the March Financial Results will be in the report of our next meeting on April 23rd.
 - B. Please consider joining us at a Mets game in the Coca Cola Corner on June 1st. There are a limited number of tickets. Details are in Amy Leder's PR Committee report and on our Facebook LBCTA site.
 - C. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank and please try to plan to attend a couple of School Board meetings this year. Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Gallagher on her appointment as Superintendent of Schools.
- I wish you all a restful and fun Easter/Passover Spring break.

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

D. **Union Dues**

Union dues for 2017/2018 for full-time members will be \$1,014.36. The break-out is \$397 local, \$378 NYSUT, \$231.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$101.44 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column "MDED-03." We are determined to keep your dues as low as possible while still meeting our local obligations and making charitable contributions to the Long Beach community.

The 2017 union dues for tax purposes for full-time members was \$1,004.80.

VII. **Building Reports**

A. **West School**

1. Thank you to our Amazing PTA for a successful book fair.
2. A hearty thank you to our PTA for the beautiful and bountiful Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. It was a lovely way to start our conferences.

3. Condolences to Marlene Dougherty on the loss of her mother, Marie Irwin.
4. Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Gallagher on her appointment as Superintendent of Schools.
5. There is a need for substitutes within the AIS, ICT, and ENL support services. Classroom teachers have subs but most of the time there is no coverage for the Special Education Co-Teacher.
6. Elections for elementary school reps will take place in May. If you are interested in running for the position of building rep, please send a letter of intent to Beth Prostick at bprostick@lbeach.org by May 18th.
7. If you have not done so, please consider donating at least one sick day to our sick bank this year.
8. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy spring break!

B. Lindell School

1. Congratulations to our new Superintendent, Dr. Gallagher.
2. Multicultural Week was fun, interactive and informative. Kudos to Leslie Ling and her committee for an outstanding learning experience.
3. Thank you to our PTA for providing the Scholastic Book Fair which encourages the joy of reading in our students.
4. Congratulations to Caitlin King on the birth of her daughter, Lilliet Fuentes King.
5. Congratulations to Michelle DeJesus on her recent engagement.
6. The staff at Lindell would like to thank the PTA for an amazing Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Food, raffles and good company were enjoyed by all!
7. Enjoy a restful and peaceful break!

C. East School

1. Congratulations to our principal, Kathy Connolly, on her approval for tenure.
2. Congratulations to Dr. Gallagher on her appointment as Superintendent of Schools
3. Condolences to Lori Niloff on the passing of her father, Howard Niloff.
4. Thank you to the East School PTA for a delicious Staff Luncheon. The choices were amazing and the decor was beautiful. If only the weather was as springy as the Cafe!
5. The East School Book Fair was a huge success! Thank you to the PTA for the raffles. The children were certainly inspired to read more with the hopes of winning a brand new Kindle.
6. Thank you to the PTA PARP committee for putting together a wonderful month of reading activities for our students and families.
7. Congratulations to Jen Cifarelli, her father Mr. Carroll and his entire family. The Long Beach City Council renamed the City's Recreation Center the "Robert L. Carroll Recreation Complex" on Saturday, March 17th.
8. Congratulations to the 5th grade students for demonstrating their fabulous dancing skills at the 10th Annual Dancing Classrooms Culminating Event. The night was a huge success and their parents were impressed by all they have learned since they started the program in December. Some students will be dancing at the programs 10th Anniversary Gala in April and competing in the Colors of the Rainbow Competition in May.
9. Have a happy Easter and Passover! Enjoy your spring break.

D. Lido School

1. Thank you to Lido PTA for a wonderful Scholastic Book Fair. It was a great success and the children enjoyed purchasing their books.
2. Students loved listening to the invited special guests as PARP readers which included many parents.

3. Once again, many thanks to Brendan Scully and his custodial staff for a speedy clean up after the additional snow storms.
4. Congratulations to Cheryl Carroll and family on the Long Beach Recreation Center being dedicated to her father, Bob Carroll. His legacy and long-lasting contributions will be remembered every time we see the facility which was renamed the Robert L. Carroll Recreation Complex.
5. Much appreciation to Lido PTA for their delicious Staff Luncheon and handy Lido bags during Parent Teacher Conferences.
6. Congratulations to Dr. Caitlin King on the birth of her daughter Lilliet "Lily."
7. Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Gallagher on her appointment as Superintendent of Schools.
8. Congratulations to Sean Murray on receiving tenure.
9. Thanks to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating.
10. Enjoy your Easter/Passover/Spring Break!

E. Pre-K

1. Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Gallagher on her new position as Superintendent of Schools.
2. We hope you have a wonderful and relaxing vacation.

F. Middle School

1. Security after school still remains an issue. We appreciate the addition of a security guard at the back door until 3:30 but this position should extend until 4:00. Mr. Romanelli continues to look into having a security guard added. We are hopeful this additional security can be added in a timely fashion.
2. Congratulations to Dr. Gallagher on her appointment as Superintendent of Schools.
3. Congratulations to Mr. Romanelli on receiving tenure.
4. Seventh graders participated in National History Day this year. In participating, the students of Long Beach became writers, filmmakers, web designers, playwrights and artists as they created unique contemporary expressions of history using the theme of "Conflict and Compromise." It takes a village to educate our students. Thank you to J. Arkow, D. Cook, C. Espinet, F. Ferrante, B. Hoffman, J. Marr, T. Scudiero, B. Swan, P. VanLoon, M. Vasikauskas, and N. Vasheo who spearheaded our first NHD experience. Special thanks also go to the numerous teachers who volunteered to judge our local contest.
5. Kudos to our World Language teachers. They celebrated World Language Week with students and many great cultural celebrations.
6. Kudos to Billy Papetti on his successful Pi Day scavenger hunt.
7. Thank you to Perfect Pals advisors, Dayna Obidienzo and Leah Buffalino, the Life Skills students and TAs for helping to organize a very successful Down Syndrome Awareness Day. Perfect Pals raised \$385 from Crazy Sock Day to donate to Camp Anchor.
8. The 2018 Joe Farrell Memorial Scholarship Basketball Tournament was a tremendous success. Special thanks to Keith Biesma for organizing this wonderful event and to everyone that participated.
9. Thank you to building admin/deans for hallway sweeps. The sweeps proved very helpful and we hope they continue in the future.
10. Congratulations to Billy Papetti on his engagement to Jennifer Schmoll.
11. Condolences to Bill Ramnarine on the loss of his sister.
12. Elections for LBCTA middle school reps will take place in May. If you are interested in running for the position of building rep, please send a letter of intent to Amy Leader at aleder@lbeach.org by May 18th.

13. Please join us for the Spring Buddy Party on April 13th at Point Lookout Ale House.
14. Please consider attending our next PAC meeting on April 18th at 3:45 in Lido room 25.
15. Mark your calendars! The middle school production of *Alice in Wonderland* is on April 19th and 20th in the **HIGH SCHOOL** auditorium at 7pm.
16. Please join us at the LBCTA End of the Year party on Thursday, May 10th at 5:00 at Bridgeview Yacht Club.
17. Have a happy Easter and Passover break!

G. High School

1. Thank you to the Sunshine team for putting together a night out last week. Please see Neal Campbell, Elena Frishman and Phil Bruno and update them in all “sunshine” related news.
2. Kudos to Mr. Fox and all of the art students for a stellar art show!
3. Congratulations to the Music and Theater Department for their performances of *Grease!*
4. Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Gallagher on her appointment as Superintendent of Schools.
5. Please continue to fill out help desk tickets and CC Mr. Myers.
6. We appreciate the efforts in ensuring we have a secure building, but there are classrooms that have issues with communication with the main office. We hope this is remedied soon.
7. The water collection bags in the science room ceilings pose issues in the classroom, especially after inclement weather. We hope that the district looks into ensuring that a permanent solution is put into place.
8. We hope the district can look into facilitating homebound payments in a timely manner. There are some teachers who are waiting for payment from January homebound sessions.
9. The cleanliness of the building continues to be an ongoing health issue. We hope that the rooms are dusted, mopped and disinfected at least once a week.
10. Thank you for the continuing open dialog between the administrative team and the building committee.
11. Condolences to Karen Bloom on the passing of her brother.
12. Congratulations Dan Vaeth on the birth of his daughter.
13. Please consider donating days to the sick bank. The forms are in the main office.
14. Have a happy Easter and Passover break!

VIII. New Business

A motion was made to donate mini water bottles to Long Beach Aware to be used at the Teen Night Out on Friday, April 13th at Long Beach HS. It was passed unanimously.

At 5:25 pm, a motion was made by Karen Bloom to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jonathan Bloom.

In Attendance:

West: Cheryleann Fontenot, June Schecter

Lindell: Susan Simons, Heather Puckhaber, Lisa Rundo

East: Jeanne Richards, Jennifer Maggio, Jennifer Diamond

Lido: Dorothy Lopez

Pre-K:

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

LBHS: Anthony Balsamo, Jonathan Bloom, Chris Brown, Neil Campbell,

Retiree: Frank Volpe

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

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

Your monthly bills won't stop if you become unable to work

Insurance is the type of product that you hope you never have to utilize. In the event that you need to use it, though, it's important to have the insurance product that best meets your individual needs.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed voluntary Disability Insurance Plan -- provided by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -- provides valuable income replacement benefits to help meet your living expenses if you become partially or totally disabled and are unable to work.



Disability insurance can be customized to fit within your budget and still provide peace of mind until you are able to get back on your feet and return to work. Applications for the new NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Disability Insurance Plan are now available, with coverage effective dates on or after Jan. 1, 2018 from the Plan Administrator, Mercer Consumer.

For more information and/or to get an application, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific information about this program.

Call to Action: Proposals requested for NYSUT *Educator's Voice*



New York State's classrooms are among the most diverse in the nation. In recognition of this, NYSUT is currently seeking article proposals on "**Culturally-Responsive Teaching**" for consideration in its annual edition of *Educator's Voice*, a *Journal of Best Practices in Education*. **The deadline for proposals is June 15, 2018.**

Do you have a project or practice that works well in your classroom, something you are passionate about and would like to share with other educators across the state? This is a great opportunity to write about it and become published in NYSUT's member journal, a publication created by NYSUT members for NYSUT members. No previous experience is needed nor do you need to be a professional writer to be published in *Educator's Voice*.

Once accepted, authors receive a great deal of editorial support and writing guidance throughout the year-long publication cycle. The result is a professional, research-based publication that can be shared with your colleagues and used for professional development. Authors or author teams can collaborate across schools or with partners in higher education; at least one author must be a NYSUT or affiliate member.

For more information and/or to download the author submission form, visit <http://www.nysut.org/educatorsvoice>.

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