

Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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President
Karen Bloom

Executive Vice President Amy Leder Vice President for Elementary Schools
Jennifer Maggio

Vice President for Secondary Schools
Jennifer Garrett

Recording Secretary
Patricia Van Loon

Corresponding Secretary
Elleen Parks

Treasurer
Jonathan Bloom

Executive Board Minutes May 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:20pm by Karen Bloom.

I. President's Report - Karen Bloom

A. Teacher Appreciation

As Teacher Appreciation Week concludes, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts. Your commitment to our students and communities is the cornerstone of our profession, and your impact is immeasurable. Thank you for all that you do.

B. Long Beach Board of Education

The Long Beach Board of Education voted on April 23rd, for the proposed 2025-26 School Budget, and it passed unanimously. If you would like to see the budget presentation, click here. Additionally, if you would like to see more of the details, click here to see the line by line budget. The Board will put the budget up for a vote to the community on Tuesday, May 20th, 2025. In addition, there will be a Proposition on the back to vote on, to add some unused funds to our Capital Reserves in order to complete some projects next year. The community will have the opportunity to vote on the Budget, Prop 2 and one School Board Trustee position. We urge you to go out and vote yes on the budget.

C. NYSUT RA & Presidents Conference

I attended the Presidents conference prior to the RA and was able to attend sessions on The Future of Healthcare, Negotiating Paid Parental Leaves, New APPR Plans and we got an Update from the State Education Department. In addition, Patty Van Loon joined me at the RA, where we gathered with almost 2,000 delegates in order to discuss and vote on the many resolutions that were brought forward this year. I'm happy to report that the resolutions we supported, all passed, as did just about all other resolutions brought to the floor. We also got to hear speeches from the many Union leaders across the State, who were all there to support NYSUT and our causes.

D. LBCTA Scholarship Winners

I am pleased to announce the following association members' children are this year's scholarship winners: Matthew Hartmann, son of Maria and Matt Hartmann (High School) and Lana Landa, daughter of Liza Landa (High School). Thank you to Elena Frishman for serving as the chair of the scholarship committee and thank you to the committee volunteers: Jim Johnsen, Kristen Ford, Geoffrey Noss, Justin Sulsky, Jeanne Richards, Claudine Clark, Julie DeBruin, Heather Puckhaber, Sean Miller, Molly Drake, and Frank Volpe.

E. LITBF Scholarship Winner

We are pleased to announce that the selection process for the 2025 Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund awards has been completed. LITBF sent us the names of the winners; congratulations to Matthew Hartmann and Lana Landa who were both recipients of this scholarship.

F. Packing and Unpacking

Teachers who are moving and/or packing due to an alternative use of their room or a room transfer shall be paid \$27.29 per hour, up to a maximum of 4 hours. The work must be done outside of the school day and a record kept of the dates and times.

G. Pay Options

Each year you have three pay options:

- ➤ 21(.5) equal bi-weekly payments (September through June)
- ➤ 25 payments; 21 payments (September through June) + 4 payments on the last day of school
- ➤ 26 payments; you will receive 1/26 of your annual salary every two weeks from the first pay date in September through the last pay date in June when you will receive the remaining paychecks as separate checks, all dated June 30, which you may deposit at any time from June to August. Direct deposit will not be available for the last six paychecks. All deductions will be spread out over the 26 paychecks.

To elect an option other than the one you currently have, you must enroll prior to June 30 and the new option may not be changed until the start of the following school year. The new form will be available soon.

H. Negotiations: School Visits - Reminder

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep the lines of communication open, I will be visiting faculty rooms during lunch periods to engage with teachers directly. During these visits, I will be discussing the upcoming contract negotiations and taking the time to listen to any concerns or feedback our teachers may have. This will be an important opportunity for faculty to voice their opinions, and for me to ensure their perspectives are considered as we move forward. I believe these informal discussions will foster stronger relationships, and help address any issues or questions that may arise as we prepare for negotiations. I coordinated dates with the senior reps in each building, and will be there from 11-1 in faculty rooms or other areas where people eat lunch and congregate! Look for an email from your Senior Rep with details! Looking forward to some good chats! Thank you to all the buildings that I have visited so far! I truly appreciate the openness and honesty in our conversations.

The last two visits are:

Lido: May 21st

Middle School: May 22nd

I. Negotiations: Google Form - Reminder

The Negotiations Google form was sent to your personal email address. If you have not yet received it, be sure to reach out to Dr. Garrett at lbctapac@gmail.com with a personal email address. We will be sending all negotiations information in this manner. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the Google form! If there are specific suggestions or recommendations for items to bring to the table, please be sure to complete it! I am going to leave the form open through May, since I will still be visiting schools until May 22nd. The form will close Friday, May 23rd at 2pm..

J. Eyeglass Reimbursement

We are in year one of a two-year cycle for eyeglass/contact purchases. Members have \$400 to spend on glasses/contacts. Such coverage may be used for the members and their family. Completed <u>claim forms</u> with receipts attached must be sent to the HR department in Administration.

K. NYSUT Digital Membership Cards - Reminder

NYSUT is excited to announce that they are transitioning to digital membership cards to provide easier access to benefits while modernizing their systems. <u>Click here to learn more!</u>

L. NYSUT Offers Online Guide for a Successful Retirement - Reminder

NYSUT has a 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! <u>Click here</u>. A login for NYSUT.org is required to access the online publication.

M. Coaching Pay Dates - Reminder

Middle School

Spring: Second check: 6/6

N. NYS Paid Sick Leave - It is still in effect, until July 31, 2025 - Reminder

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.

O. Annual Turn-In of Sick Days - Reminder

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.

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 at aleder@lbeach.org.

B. Board of Elections - Grace Parisi

1. We had a successful candidates forum this afternoon and we thank all those who attended.

C. New Members - Alison Katulka

- 1. I hope everyone enjoyed National Teacher Appreciation Week.
- 2. Please make sure you have given your personal email address to PAC. You can email lbctapac@gmail.com.
- **3.** If you know of a new member who needs a buddy, please contact me at akatulka@lbeach.org.

D. Political Action Committee - Jennifer Garrett

1. BOE Elections and Budget Season are Here! Despite the many financial challenges facing our district and others, the proposed 2025-26 district budget reflects a responsible plan with a tax levy increase of 2.40%, which remains within the district's allowable cap.

This budget preserves all existing programs and even introduces new opportunities in areas such as technology, athletics, and extracurricular activities—all while addressing the significant rise in transportation costs.

Also on the ballot is Proposition 2, which seeks voter approval for the district to utilize approximately \$2.9 million from the capital reserve fund to complete essential capital improvements at the high school. **Approval of this proposition would have no additional tax impact on residents.**

As in previous years, PAC will endorse this year's school budget through a postcard mailing, continuing to reach an expanded target audience. This design will also be featured in a social media post, which will be shared via the LBCTA social media accounts. Please feel free to share the image once posted to help amplify our message. Also, in partnership with the Public Relations Committee, PAC will also place an ad in the Herald. These strategies have been successfully implemented in past campaigns and received positive community feedback.

Additionally, the LBCTA Newsletter will be mailed to all NYSUT members residing in the 11561 zip code. This edition highlights just a few of the many exciting events and fundraising successes we've achieved throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who contributed ideas for the newsletter—your input was greatly appreciated.

- **2.** A motion was made by Matt Hartmann to support the Long Beach Public Schools budget. It was seconded by Ali Katulka. The motion passed. Full details on the budget can be found on the district website.
- **3.** There is one open seat on our BOE. Anne Conway is seeking re-election and running unopposed.
- **4.** School Board and School Budget votes are May 20th. Please get out to vote and support your school budget. Every vote counts!
- **5.** The Fix Tier 6 Rally scheduled for May 6th was canceled due to weather. Thank you to those that had registered to attend. We hope to announce a new date soon. Anyone interested in joining the LB Fix Tier 6 Committee should email lbctapac@gmail.com.
- **6.** As part of our ongoing fight to demand fiscal accountability from charter schools, a second thunderclap is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th at 8:00 AM. The hope is to grow this as a community grass roots movement and reach people who might not be aligned with the labor movement. Teachers from school districts across Long Island are asked to share the meme and corresponding hashtag on personal social media. The information for the Thunderclap will be emailed Tuesday, May 13th. Let's amplify our message that public funds belong in public schools. Together, we cannot be ignored. Please spread the word!
- 7. Please follow us on Instagram @LongBeachClassroomTeachers.
- **8.** 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.

E. Public Relations Committee - Jennifer Garrett and Jennifer Maggio

- 1. Save the date! The Long Beach Car/Tech Show & Art Show 2025 will be held on Saturday, May 31th. Doors open at 10 am.
- 2. Look for our LBCTA 'Vote YES on the Budget' ad in the Herald! Don't forget to vote in your local School Board and School Budget votes on May 20th your voice matters!
- **3.** Please follow us on Instagram @LongBeachClassroomTeachers.

4. We are already excited for next year! If you would like to join the PR Committee and get in on the planning of our many events, please email jmaggio@lbeach.org.

F. Long Beach Teacher Center - John Marr

- 1. Thank you to all those who have reached out to propose running class this summer. I am pleased to announce that NYS Teacher Centers were included in the Governor's Budget at the same funding as this year. The Policy Board is meeting in May to approve the continuation application and summer classes. Instructors will be contacted when the policy board approves your classes.
- 2. Need a poster? We now have two sizes of paper: 12x17 and 12x roll paper, which will allow you to print as tall (or wide) as needed. If you are interested in having a poster made for your classroom, please visit the LBTC webpage at http://www.lbeachtc.org/banner-printing to find a Canva template and instructions on how to send and request up to four posters. Please reach out to the Director at lbtc@lbeach.org if you have any questions.

II. Executive Vice President's Report - Amy Leder

A. APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review)

- 1. The state has released APPR guidelines that went into effect March 26, 2025. We will continue adhering to our agreed-upon plan for this year. Discussions with administration about future plans will also continue.
- 2. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

B. Health and Safety

- 1. Thank you, Mr. DeVito and Mr. Kramer, for organizing an in-person meeting to review all air quality testing with JC Broderick. All building walk-throughs and air quality assessments have now been completed, and there are currently no concerns to report. Please continue to notify your head custodian if you notice any ceiling tiles that require replacement. As a reminder, ensure that air ducts remain unobstructed-do not place boxes or school supplies high on shelves where they could block airflow into the room. We also discussed the recommendation and the importance of ongoing monitoring of the HVAC systems, regularly replacing filters and ceiling tiles as needed, and continuing to clean dusty areas as much as possible in each building.
- **2.** Air quality reports are available in your principal's office if you wish to review them. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact me.
- **3.** We had the last Health and Safety meeting of the year. The agenda centered on district wide safety plan updates. Mr. DeVito detailed classroom temperature management protocols, specifying that students should be relocated if temperatures surpass 88 degrees, and that functional fans are required when temperatures reach 82 degrees.
- **4.** Mr. DeVito also reported on the Workplace Violence Prevention Program, sharing positive feedback and noting that incident reports will be reviewed before the end of the school year.
- 5. As a reminder, please refer to Mr. DeVito's email on April 23rd that provided you with a copy of the workplace violence form and information on how to find it on the school webpage. You should have also received an email from "support@gentraining.com" titled Workplace Violence Prevention Module. Please make sure you complete the Workplace Violence Prevention training on GCN as soon as possible but no later than May 23, 2025. This is a MANDATORY module for ALL employees.

- **6.** Mr. Harvey described the testing of the 911 emergency system to ensure compliance with CARES law, including the implementation of direct dialing and coordination with local dispatch centers. Mr. Kramer updated the group on RAVE panic button testing, confirming successful trials and plans for additional evaluations.
- 7. There was a discussion about the new New York State cell phone policy. Some possible solutions were discussed such as using Yondr pouches. It was proposed to form a committee to further examine the cell phone policy.
- **8.** Staff members are encouraged to report any unresolved Health & Safety issues at the building level.
- **9.** 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 go out and vote in your local School Board Budget and Elections on May 20th.

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

- **A.** I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful week of being "appreciated". Teacher Appreciation week is such a wonderful reminder of how amazing you all are.
- **B.** On Saturday, May 3, 2025 The Special Olympics NY Long Island Regional Spring games was hosted by Plainedge School District. I was so impressed that the biggest team to attend was Long Beach! I was overwhelmed with the amount of Long Beach teachers, administrators, TAs, staff members, parents, friends and family who attended. Not just to be there to help our students but to cheer them on as well. Thank you to everyone who went. I look forward to seeing our Long Beach team next year as Massapequa School District hosts the Special Olympics.
- C. This is a reminder If you are interested in serving as a LBCTA Building Representative for the 2025-2026 school year, please email me at jmaggio@lbeach.org or send a letter of interest to me c/o East School.

 The letter or email must be received by the close of business Thursday, May 22nd..

 All Elementary Schools need 3 reps and 3 alternates.
- **D.** The election for Elementary Building Representatives will take place the week of May 26, 2025. More details will follow.
- E. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on May 19th at 4:00 in the East School Library.
- **F.** Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- **G.** Please send me any issues that you were unable to work out at your building.
- **H.** If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at <u>imaggio@lbeach.org</u>.

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

A. Building Representative Elections – Week of May 26th

We will be holding our **Building Representative elections** during the **week of May 26**. If you are interested in serving as a **Middle School or High School Building Rep.**, please submit a letter of intent to jgarrett@lbeach.org by the **close of business on Thursday, May 22**. This timeline will allow newly elected representatives to participate in our final meeting of the school year.

Available Positions:

Middle School: 5 Building Rep. positionsHigh School: 7 Building Rep. positions

- We encourage anyone interested in supporting their colleagues and representing their building to consider this opportunity.
- **B.** School Board and School Budget votes are May 20th. Please get out to vote and support your school budget. Every vote counts!
- C. Our next Secondary Council meeting will be on Tuesday, June 3rd, at 3:30, in High School room 212.
- **D.** Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating if you have not done so already.

V. Treasurer's Report - Jonathan Bloom

A. April Financial Report

Expenditures		Revenues	
NYSUT Dues	\$16,424.10	Union Dues	\$42,772.71
AFT Dues	\$9,825.90	TOTAL	\$42,772.71
Meeting Expenses	\$2,105.74		
Payroll Fees	\$236.30		
Office Supplies	\$71.62		
Greeting Cards	\$37.76		
TOTAL	\$28,701.42		

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.

VI. Building Reports

A. West School

- 1. Congratulations to our retirees... Marleen Dougherty and Elleen Parks.
- 2. Thank you to the West PTA for an amazing Teacher Appreciation Day luncheon!
- **3.** Thank you to Ms. Dirolf and Ms. Kugelman for all the wonderful celebrations for Teacher Appreciation Week.
- **4.** Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

B. Lindell School

- 1. Thank you Lindell PTA for offering our students the opportunity to shop at the plant sale.
- 2. Much appreciation to our PTA for a delicious luncheon and lavender plant.
- **3.** Thank you Dr. Pullara and Ms. LaMarca for the Teacher Appreciation breakfast and snacks.
- **4.** Congratulations to the Odyssey of the Mind students who competed in the New York State Finals in Syracuse. Best wishes to all headed to the World Finals at Michigan State University. We are very proud to have you represent Long Beach.
- 5. Congratulations to all the Long Beach Special Olympians. We are so proud of you!!
- **6.** There is a need for additional PPS staff to support social emotional needs in our building.
- 7. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.
- **8.** Please consider attending school board meetings.

C. East School

1. Congratulations to the Colors of the Rainbow team for winning silver at the Dancing Classrooms Competition. They were amazing and truly impressed their parents, the audience, and judges. Special thank you to their coaches, Eileen Bauer, Katie Duguay, and Tamara Sommers.

- **2.** The East School Spring Concert was a success. Thank you to Ms.Notar and Mr.West for all your hard work and dedication to make sure the students were well prepared, it was an excellent performance.
- **3.** Congratulations to Doug MacConnell on winning the Disney Imagination Campus Teacher Contest.
- **4.** Thank you so much to the PTA for organizing a very special Teacher Appreciation Week. We are grateful for all you do!
- **5.** Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.
- **6.** There is a need for additional PPS support to address students' social and emotional needs.

D. Lido School

- 1. Remember to vote and support your local school budget on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.
- **2.** Bravo to the 4th Grade students who participated in the Dancing Classrooms: Colors of the Rainbow Team Match with other Long Island schools under the guidance of their coach, Emily Ciavarella, winning gold this year. It was awesome to watch first hand their triumph in front of a home crowd.
- 3. Congratulations and best of luck to our Lido/Long Beach students who will be representing NYS as they advance to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals that will take place at Michigan State University on May 21-24. They will compete with students from across the United States and over 20 countries. We are so proud of you and wish you the best of luck!
- 4. Students and staff alike enjoyed purchasing plants at the PTA Plant Sale.
- **5.** Thank you to Dr. Hernandez and Mr. Webel for all the treats during Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.
- **6.** Thank you to Lido PTA for the delicious luncheon and blanket in honor of Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week!
- 7. Congratulations to all the gold medal winning students and staff that participated in the Special Olympics! Kudos to Andrea Hinke, Erin Veltre, Christine LaMarca, Sean Miller, Greg Cody, and all who coached the students to success!
- **8.** Condolences to Marisa Lorenzo on the loss of her father, Frank.
- **9.** Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

E. LBMS

- 1. Please be aware that the middle school is used for several extracurricular and community activities throughout the year. It is safe to assume that any classroom may be used after school hours and/or over the weekend. Teachers are encouraged to report any issues to the main office immediately.
- 2. If you want to become a middle school LBCTA building representative, please submit your statement of intent to Jennifer Garrett by May 22nd. You can email it to igarrett@lbeach.org.
- **3.** Congratulations to our music teachers, Danny Neri, Christina Farrell, Justin Marks, and Dave Lobenstien, on their successful spring concert performances.
- **4.** Congratulations to our students who participated in the recent Special Olympics. Kudos to Sean Miller and Greg Cody for their support.
- 5. Thank you to Erica Northcutt, Chris Francaviglia, and Keith Biesma for our delicious

- Mr. Softee treats for teacher appreciation week.
- **6.** Thank you to the LBMS PTA for our wonderful teacher appreciation staff luncheon and complimentary LBMS cooler bag.
- 7. Kudos to Dr. Marr and Mr. Hoffman for supporting our students at SUNY Oneonta for the National History Day competition. One of our teams earned special distinction in Maritime History and placed 4th.
- 8. The LB District Art Show will be held on May 30th and 31st.
- **9.** Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA district sick bank.

F. LBHS

- 1. Congratulations to Dr. Gonzalez for receiving the Outstanding High School Social Studies Teacher Award.
- 2. Congratulations to our Grade 9 researchers for their outstanding success at LISC, a highly competitive regional science fair! All of our researchers earned 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place—an incredible achievement!
- 3. Congratulations to Gillian Bella Greenfield on the birth of her baby boy, Jack.
- **4.** Congratulations to the LBCTA scholarship winners: Liza Landa's daughter Lana and Matt & Maria Hartmann's son, Matthew.
- 5. LBHS Youth & Wellness Council will be celebrating "Wellness Week" from May 19th to May 23rd. Be sure to participate with your classes!
- 6. On May 30th and 31st, Long Beach will be hosting their district art show from 4-8PM.
- 7. On May 31st, the High School's Car/Tech expo will be from 10am 2pm. Hope to see you there!
- **8.** Please make sure to go out and vote on your local school board budget and elections on May 20th.
- 9. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.

G. New Business

1. A motion was made by John Marr to accept the 2025-26 meeting LBCTA meeting calendar. It was seconded by Matthew Hartmann. It passed unanimously.

At 5:08pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Dan D'Ottavio

In attendance:

West: Claudine Clark, Julie deBruin

Lindell: Susan Simons, Heather Puckhaber

East: Jeanne Richards, Tamara Sommers, Melissa Zimmerman, Eileen Bauer, Sara Hagen

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Molly Drake, Dana Monti

LBMS: Alison Katulka, Dan D'Ottavio, John Marr, Grace Parisi

LBHS: Stephanie Mena, Matthew Hartmann Long Beach Teacher Center: John Marr Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

Guest: Justin Sulsky

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

Jonathan Bloom, Elleen Parks

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.



Maintaining NYSUT membership in retirement is crucial, especially if you're currently participating in a NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed program(s) and would like to continue doing so. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:

- 1 Continue membership within your local if retiree membership is offered. Contact your local to find out if any retiree membership requirements are in place. You must comply with these requirements to continue your membership in NYSUT along with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA).
- 2 Continue as an at-large member of NYSUT through the Retiree Council in your region. Contact your local to ensure you will be reported as retired to NYSUT. This will provide you with membership in the Retiree Council in your region along with NYSUT, AFT, and NEA. If you have questions about maintaining NYSUT membership or would like more information about NYSUT retiree programs, you will want to contact the NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant serving your region. You can find this information at nysut.cc/retireeconsultants.

More than a dozen of the endorsed programs offered by Member Benefits can be purchased through either payroll or pension deduction. These convenient payment methods offer reduced premiums or the elimination of service fees in many instances. An active NYSUT membership is required to participate in payroll or pension deduction. If you're currently participating in one (or more) of our endorsed programs, we encourage you to look into switching to pension deduction after you enter retirement.



May/June 2025