



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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President
Karen Bloom

Vice President for Elementary Schools
Jennifer Maggio

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Jennifer Garrett

Vice President for Secondary Schools
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Corresponding Secretary
Tamara Sommers

Treasurer
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Executive Board Minutes

December 8, 2025

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

I. President's Report - Karen Bloom

A. Happy Holidays

All of our work within the Association is dedicated to strengthening the quality of education in our schools. We do this by uniting our members and upholding the conditions that allow teaching to thrive as a profession. Your commitment to the children and families of the Long Beach community is truly valued. Wishing you and your loved ones peace and joy this holiday season and throughout the year ahead. Thank you for everything you do.



B. Holiday Drives 2025

This holiday season, we're shifting our focus a little closer to home. Rather than donating to Little Saint Nicks, we're encouraging our members to support the holiday drives happening at each of our individual schools. Please see the corresponding building reports for information on how to participate. By giving locally, we can directly benefit the students and families within our own community and make an immediate, meaningful impact during this season of giving. Thank you for helping us bring a little extra warmth and support to the students we serve!

C. NYSUT Trainings & Workshops

Jenn Garrett and I attended a workshop on Discipline & Discharge. It was extremely informative and reviewed Rights of Members who face disciplinary action. NYSUT also 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! [Click here](#). A login for NYSUT.org is required to access the online publication.



D. NYSTRS

Thank you to Robin Wagner for the awesome workshop on Retirement Benefits. We appreciate her making the drive down from Albany and answering all of our questions! If you were not able to attend, you can consider one of the workshops being offered at the Nassau Regional Office.

- December 15, 2025 - 5pm - 7pm
- January 5, 2026 - 5pm - 7pm

Please use this link to select and register for the date you would like:

[NRO TRS Workshops - 2025-2026](#)

E. 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, 2026. First eligible means that you are able to retire without an age or service reduction. If you are unsure if you are first eligible, or need more information, you can look at your NYSTRS Benefit Profile or contact NYSTRS directly at: [NYSTRS](#)

F. Sellback of Health Insurance

If you elect to “sell-back” your health insurance you will receive your first half payment as part of your December 5th paycheck. If you did not receive your payment; call the payroll office at x2088 to verify your election. Please keep in mind that even if you “sell-back” your medical insurance you are still entitled to family dental insurance.

G. Health Insurance Option Transfer Period

The 2026 New York State Health Insurance Option Transfer Period for health insurance coverage runs through December 31, 2025. However, to have any changes effective in your January paycheck, please return the forms by **December 16th**, otherwise there will be a lag. Those who are eligible for health insurance may switch between the two health offerings or make a change to their waive status during this period. If you are an eligible enrollee and would like to transfer your coverage, please see the email from **LB HR** sent on **12/1/25**.

You may make additional changes during the year if you experience a Qualifying Event (Marriage, Divorce, Birth, Death, Previous Coverage Terminated) and notify Melissa Frank within 30 days of the date of the event in writing. Please note that documentation such as marriage, divorce decree, birth or death certificates, letter from previous insurer stating insurance has been terminated will be required. If you are satisfied with your current health coverage elections, you are not required to make any changes, and your coverage will automatically be carried forward for the next plan year.

H. Financial Statement

Thank you very much to our Treasurer, Jonathan Bloom, for working with an independent certified public accountant to complete our Annual Financial Statement. It has been published and was reviewed with the Executive Board.

I. LIBTF (Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund)

We know that sometimes unexpected catastrophes befall our members. There are a variety of Grants offered by the LITBF to its membership; A Financial Grant for Catastrophic Loss, A Burial Grant & A Military Grant. I wanted to make you aware of the availability of these forms so that if the need arises, the LITBF can help ease your burden. Feel free to reach out if you are in need of any of these forms.

J. Cancer Screening

Employees of the District may be excused from their duties for a sufficient period of time, not to exceed four hours on an annual basis (July 1-June 30). Please be sure to follow District procedures for notification of your absence so that appropriate coverage may be secured. Upon return from your screening leave, you must complete the Cancer Screening Verification [form](#). The original must then be submitted to the Office of Human Resources.

K. Annual Turn-In of Sick Days

If you have accumulated at least 75 sick days and wish to exercise your option of selling back unused sick days earned this year (up to 12 or 14 if you worked at Summer School or Extended

School Year) you must submit a “[Request for Payment in Exchange for Accumulated Unused Sick Days](#)” form to the HR Department. The teacher must not have been absent more than 6 days during the school year for which he/she shall claim eligibility for this payment.

L. Mandated Reporting: GCN

All GCN Training Modules are due by **December 12, 2025**. Dr. Natali sent an email on 8/25 with all of the instructions on how to access and what modules need to be completed. This can be done on Professional Periods while you are at work.

M. Mandated Reporting: Child Abuse Training

All certified educators must have a record of completion of the new, updated training reported to TEACH by their chosen provider by **November 17, 2026**. You must complete the 15 minute addendum with the same provider that you used previously. If you took it through NYSUT ELT, they are sending links directly to members to complete the 15 minutes. If you used OCFS, then you can log on and complete the new add on. If you are a new employee, you will need to complete the full training. Once we receive guidance from Dr. Natali, I will be sure to include it in my report.

N. Club Pay Dates

This year’s clubs will be paid half at the midpoint of the season, and half at the end of the season. This means if you are a seasonal club, you will be paid twice during your season. All other clubs will be paid half the stipend in the 12/5/25 check, and half in the 5/8/26 check.

O. Coaching Pay Dates 2025-26

High School

Winter: First Check: 12/19, Second Check: 2/13

Spring: First Check: 4/24, Second Check: 5/8

Middle School

Winter I: First Check: 12/5, Second Check: 1/16

Winter II: First Check: 2/13, Second Check: 3/13

Spring: First Check: 4/24, Second Check: 6/5

P. Study Money - Winter 12/12/25, and Summer 5/15/26

Applications to participate in the winter Study Money program should be received by the HR department by December 12th. Members with permanent or professional certification may apply for up to \$1,750 in study money per semester. The application is available online at [Request for Participation in Study Program— Group A](#). Those who were awarded study money in the Fall were on the 11/18 board agenda.



II. Committee Reports

A. Negotiations - Karen Bloom

We are continuing to prepare for negotiations and will keep you updated as the process progresses. Remember that ALL Negotiations updates are being sent to your personal email address. If you are still not receiving them, please reach out and let me know.

B. Grievance Committee - Jennifer Garrett

1. Currently, there are no active grievances to report. If you have any concerns or believe there may be a violation of the contract, please feel free to reach out to me at lbctaexecutivevp@gmail.com
2. Our next meeting will be on December 10th at 4 PM. All are welcome to attend!
3. Best wishes for a joyful and healthy holiday season!

C. Membership Committee - Tamara Sommers

1. The Membership Committee is eager to receive our “new gear for the new year.” We will be making and distributing flyers detailing days to wear LBCTA gear in solidarity.

2. The next Membership Committee meeting is scheduled for February 2nd.
3. We look forward to brainstorming and discussing new ideas for supporting members and the LBCTA. If anyone is interested in joining the committee please contact Tamara Sommers at tsommers@lbeach.org.
4. Wishing everyone happy holidays. See you all in the new year!

D. Political Action Committee - Jennifer Garrett

1. The LBCTA continues to collaborate with NYSUT and the Long Island Against Charter Schools Committee to advocate for stronger fiscal accountability in charter schools. This campaign focuses on raising awareness among members, school boards, and community stakeholders about the harmful impact charter schools can have on public education. Thank you to everyone who shared our most recent social media thunderclap. We truly appreciate all who help amplify these important messages.
2. PAC, in collaboration with the PR Committee and our webmaster, is putting together the next edition of the LBCTA Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 2. This second edition of each year reaches an expanded audience, including our NYSUT brothers and sisters living in Long Beach, Lido Beach, Point Lookout and East Atlantic Beach to keep them informed of all the great happenings in our district.

If you have ideas for topics or highlights for the next newsletter, please email us at lbctapac@gmail.com using your personal email. We'd love to hear from you!

3. Please follow us on Instagram @LongBeachClassroomTeachers.
4. SAVE THE DATE! Our PAC meeting will be on January 13th at 4 PM. All are welcome to attend! Email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com to join!
5. Best wishes for a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy year ahead.

E. Public Relations Committee - Jennifer Maggio and Matthew Hartmann

1. The next Public Relations Committee meeting will be on January 5th. Please reach out if you'd like to get involved in the PR committee.
2. Save the Date! Our 9th annual LBCTA bowling event will be held on Thursday, February 26th, at Maple Lanes in RVC. Please email me at jmaggio@lbeach.org and let me know your buildings' basket theme.
3. Please follow us on Instagram @longbeachclassroomteachers.
4. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.



F. Social Committee - Tamara Sommers

1. Thank you to everyone for continuing to check their emails for union correspondence.
2. The social committee is looking forward to planning a casual social gathering in the New Year, but a date has not yet been confirmed.
3. If you would like to join the social committee please reach out to tsommers@lbeach.org. Our next meeting date is scheduled for January 27, 2026.
4. Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

G. Long Beach Teacher Center - John Marr

1. The LBTC wishes all faculty and staff a happy and healthy holiday season.
2. If you are interested in having the center print a poster for you, please email the director at lbtc@lbeach.org with your pdf or png using the Canva template available at lbeachtc.org/poster/.
3. If you are interested in running a class for the teacher center, please contact the director at the email address above.



III. Executive Vice President's Report - Jennifer Garrett

A. APPR → STEPS Update

1. Final approval from NYS on our STEPS plan is still pending. We remain optimistic and look forward to receiving final approval soon.
As noted in Dr. Gallagher's 11/20 email, Administration is waiting for final approval before sending out the project Google Form. This helps avoid distributing a form that may need revisions, so your patience is appreciated while we await confirmation. In the meantime, because the project is largely teacher-driven, Dr. Gallagher suggested you may begin working on your ideas if you wish.
2. With regard to untenured members and observations, untenured members should have received notification identifying their evaluators for the school year. If you have not yet received this information, please reach out to your immediate supervisor
3. As always, we encourage you to actively participate in the observation and evaluation process. Our evaluation system continues to be grounded in the Danielson Framework, which emphasizes observable, research-based best practices. Evaluations and feedback should be evidence-based, not opinion-based, to ensure a fair, consistent, and constructive process. Please share any questions or concerns during your post-observation conferences so they can be addressed promptly.
4. If you have any questions or concerns about STEPS or the evaluation process, please don't hesitate to contact me at lbctaexecutivevp@gmail.com.

B. Health & Safety Committee

1. The next Health & Safety meeting is February 9th. The spring meeting will be May 4th.
2. Staff members are encouraged to report any unresolved Health & Safety issues at the building level. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at lbctaexecutivevp@gmail.com
3. Please take a moment to confirm that your classroom phone and window blinds are working properly. If you notice any issues, please notify your Head Building Custodian right away.

C. Workplace Violence Prevention

1. The Board of Education has adopted a Workplace Violence Prevention Policy, which can be found [here](#). Please take a few moments to read and review it.
2. If you experience a workplace violence incident, the updated reporting form is available on the district website under **Staff Resources > Health and Safety**. Once completed, the form should be submitted to your principal.
All submitted forms and previous findings from our Workplace Violence Risk Assessment are carefully reviewed, and we will actively pursue any necessary remediation to ensure safety across our buildings.

D. Other

1. Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season, a restful time with family and friends, and a healthy, happy year to come!

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

- A. Save the date for Our annual Bowling Fundraiser. It will be held on Thursday, February 26th.
- B. Please send me any issues that you were unable to work out at your building.
- C. I hope everyone has a very happy and healthy holiday season. Bring on 2026!

V. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report - Matthew Hartmann

- A. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated gift cards for the holidays or participated in the "Giving Trees" or the "Snowman Board" at the high school and the middle school. If you have not donated already, there is still time! You can see Kristin Susko or Christine Graham at the high school, and Glen Gartung at the middle school.
- B. Our next Secondary Council meeting is on February 3rd.
- C. Reminder: Global Compliance training is due THIS Friday, December 12, 2025.
- D. Save the Date! Our LBCTA 9th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes in RVC.
- E. Your Building Reps are here to answer any questions or assist you with any issues/concerns you may have. Also, we encourage you to keep open the lines of communication with administration about any issues and/or items you may have.
- F. Keep an eye out for opportunities every month to participate in YOUR union!
- G. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a very happy New Year!

VI. Treasurer's Report - Jonathan Bloom

A. November Financial Report

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Union Dues	\$41,595.38	NYSUT Dues	\$15,990.23
Retirees	\$270.00	AFT Dues	\$9,504.62
Thanksgiving Donation	\$1526.00	Accounting	\$5,250.00
Apparel Collection	\$310.00	Meeting Expense	\$3,428.84
Workers Comp Insurance Refund	\$8.00	Office Supplies	\$781.75
		Workers Comp. Insurance	\$22.50
		PTA Dues	\$4,250.00
		LI Presidents Council	\$250.00
		Thanksgiving Food Drive	\$1,526.00
		Payroll Fess	\$20.00
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Total	\$43,709.38		\$71,361.81

- B. Union dues for 2025/2026 for full-time members will be \$1,062.16 The breakdown is \$407 for local dues, \$402 for NYSUT dues , \$245.16 for AFT dues and \$8 for PTA membership. \$106.21 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column "Dues-Teachers". We are determined to keep your dues as low as possible while still meeting our local obligations and making charitable contributions to the Long Beach community.
- C. The LBCTA has been advised by our certified public accountants that as a tax exempt 501-c 5, we must make people aware when donating to our charitable causes that their contributions can not be deducted when filing their personal federal income tax returns. Moving forward all LBCTA flyers, posters, and emails soliciting contributions to donate or attend events to raise for charitable causes must include the following language:
"The LBCTA is a 501(c)(5) organization. Contributions are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes."
- D. The LBCTA has been informed by the District Business Office of an important change to the January payroll schedule.
Originally, the **January 30th paycheck** (the 3rd paycheck of the month) was scheduled to have **no deductions** taken. This plan has now been revised. Under the new schedule, the **January 2nd paycheck** (the 1st paycheck of the month) will be the paycheck with **no deductions**.

Since the first paycheck of the month will now have no deductions, **January union dues for LBCTA members will instead be deducted from the January 16th paycheck** (the 2nd paycheck of the month).

We understand that changes to payroll can be confusing, and we encourage any members with questions or concerns to reach out to the district business office for clarification.

E. Wishing Everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Restful Winter Recess

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Congratulations to Matthew Jones and Hannah Gallo, East and West School STEM Teachers, on their successful Hydroponic Grow Tower Pilot Program. Special thanks to Directors Kyle Swan and Cristie Tursi for their continued collaboration.
2. Many thanks to the West PTA for organizing the Holiday Boutique. Students enjoyed shopping for gifts for their families.
3. The school had a sliming good time to celebrate meeting our Turkey Trot fundraising goal. Mrs. Blum's class got to slime Mrs. Dirolf while the whole school cheered! Thank you to the PTA for their fundraising efforts and for Mrs. Dirolf for being such a great sport!
4. Save the date for our Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes.
5. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, relaxing holiday season. And happiness and peace in the new year!

B. Lindell School

1. Congratulations Heather Puckhaber on being selected to light the Christmas tree in Kennedy Plaza.
2. Welcome back Christina Romero, Jessica Kappauf and Katrina Rossi from maternity leave. Thank you, Owen Scully, for filling in for Mrs. Kappauf and Alexis Lichten for covering for Mrs. Romero.
3. Welcome to our new PE/Health Teacher, Ms. Obzud.
We would like to thank Jaden Garelle for covering the Phys. Ed position at Lindell.
4. Many thanks to our PTA for holding a Holiday Boutique allowing the opportunity for students to shop for their friends and families.
5. Many thanks to Naomi Marmol, Noelle Bach, Scott Schienson and the talented 4th and 5th grade members of chorus, band and orchestra for an outstanding winter concert presentation.
6. Congratulations to Scott Schienson on his appointment as the NYSSMA Adjudication Festival Committee Piano Coordinator.
7. With our building's ongoing behavioral concerns we anticipate continued support of the leave replacement Behavior Specialist until Mr. Romanoff comes back. It is required to assist our students and teachers daily.
8. Many thanks for all the holiday donations given to help support the Lindell families.
9. We continue to have concerns with the cleanliness of our building.
10. Enjoy a happy and healthy holiday break with your family and friends.

C. East School

1. Thank you to the PTA for the Supermarket Science Assembly, the students loved it.
2. Thank you to the PTA for organizing the Holiday Boutique, the students enjoyed shopping for their families.

3. Thank you to all who participated in the Warm Mittens Program. You have made a difference in the holiday experience of these children and families.
4. Congratulations to Matthew Jones and Hannah Gallo, East & West School STEM teachers, on their successful Hydroponic Grow Tower Pilot Program.
5. We hope next year to be involved in the planning of the dates for elementary parent teacher conferences.
6. Condolences to Stephanie Meyer on the loss of her father.
7. Save the date for the annual Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, February 26th.
8. We hope everyone has a well deserved holiday break with their family and friends. See you in 2026!

D. Lido School

1. Congratulations to Andrew Romanoff on the birth of his son!
2. Thank you Kristin Hyman for organizing the winter gear drive!
3. Congratulations to Scott Scheinson on his appointment as the NYSSMA AFC Piano Coordinator.
4. Condolences to Stephanie Meyer on the death of her father.
5. Thank you to the custodians for their help with our mice problem. However, more mice are coming into the classrooms each day.
6. Save the date for our Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes.
7. We are very thankful for our Lido family. Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

E. LBMS

1. Thank you to Michelle Frank and Ali Katulka for organizing a great trip to Urban Air for the 8th grade students.
2. Thank you to the LBMS PTA for a wonderful holiday boutique.
3. The LBMS Sunshine Holiday party will be on Thursday, December 18th, 4-7PM, at Jetty. Ho-ho-hope you can be there.
4. Can you *spare* some time? When was the last time you saw teachers *strike*? Come see for yourself at the 9th Annual Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes RVC!
5. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season, and a happy new year!

F. LBHS

1. A HUGE thank you to everyone who contributed to the LB Food Pantry- we were able to raise \$1650!
2. Welcome back Julia Budassi!
3. Thank you to the Sunshine Committee for organizing their first annual Department Baking Cookie Contest. Congratulations to the Science Department (Alyssa Schramm & Maggie Todaro) on their delicious winning cookies!
4. Save the date! Staff Appreciation Day: Friday, December 19th in room 268 (The Well). Thank you to Kristen Ford for organizing this special event.
5. Morning Madness: Please consider donating to the Fall 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$20. The winner will receive half of the total amount raised. The winning ticket will be pulled on December 17th and you do not need to be there to win. For payment, email: MORNINGMADNESSLBHS@GMAIL.COM.

6. Thank you to Dr. Smith and the administration at LBHS for continuing to work with the building representatives closely in order to ensure that the needs of our faculty, staff, and students are being met.
7. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday break!

VIII. Meeting Dates

If you would like to attend any of the committees that meet via Zoom, please reach out to the listed contact person to receive the meeting link.

December 10th - Grievance Committee, 4pm, Zoom, Jennifer Garrett
December 16th - Long Beach Teacher Center Policy Board, 4pm, LBMS Library
January 5th - Public Relations Committee, 4pm, LBMS Library
January 12th - LBCTA Executive Board, 4pm, LBMS Library
January 13th - Political Action Committee, 4pm, Zoom, Jennifer Garrett
January 13th - Board of Education, 7pm, Lindell School
January 27th - Social Committee, 4pm, Zoom, Tamara Sommers
January 27th - Board of Education Worksession, 7pm, LBMS Auditorium
February 2nd - Membership Committee, 4pm, Zoom, Tamara Sommers
February 3rd - Secondary Council, 4pm, HS Guidance Conference Room
February 9th - Health & Safety
February 9th - LBCTA Executive Board, 4pm, LBMS Library
February 26th - Bowling Fundraiser, 4pm - Keep an eye out for the registration flyer!

IX. New Business

- A. Please continue to check your personal email for union correspondence.

At 4:57pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by John Marr.

In attendance:

West: Julie de Bruin

Lindell: Susan Simons, Melissa Canner, Heather Puckhaber, Molly Drake

East: Jeanne Richards, Melissa Zimmerman, Eileen Bauer

Lido: Dana Monti, Emily Ciavarella, Erica Yoo, Justin Sulsky

LBMS: Billy Papetti, Dan D'Ottavio, Alison Katulka, John Marr

LBHS: Lisa Casey, Carina Morales Hauser

Long Beach Teacher Center: John Marr

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

Executive Officers: Karen Bloom, Jennifer Garrett, Jennifer Maggio, Matthew Hartmann,
Patricia VanLoon, Tamara Sommers, Jonathan Bloom

Guest: Lloyd Berko, LRS

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia VanLoon, Recording Secretary.

PACK YOUR BAGS AND SAVE!



Do the colder temperatures have you longing for a little getaway?

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses several programs that can help with all your travel plans, including MB Discounts & Deals, Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, and Purchasing Power.

MB Discounts & Deals offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings at over 850,000 popular hotels and resorts worldwide along with flights, vehicle rentals, theme parks and attractions, Broadway shows and museums, sporting events and concerts, movie tickets, ski tickets, restaurant dine-in or take-out, and so much more. If you have not already done so, you can create an account at mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com with a preferred email address, a password, and your seven-digit NYSUT ID number (which can be found at nysut.org/memberid).

Does your bucket list include taking an unforgettable excursion to Asia, the South Pacific, Mediterranean, Africa, Europe, or numerous other destinations? NYSUT members save at least \$150 per person on published

Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel tours along with the opportunity to save thousands per trip with additional discounts and savings. GCT & OAT provide the chance to become fully immersed in the culture of the region you are visiting, including lesser-known locations that most Americans never get to experience. Discovery opportunities, activities, and educational discussions are included with each trip.

With **Purchasing Power**, eligible NYSUT members can package their entire vacation together – including hotels, flights, attractions, vacation rentals, and cruises – while paying over 12 months through payroll deduction or Automated Clearing House (ACH) withdrawals. Purchasing Power is not a discount program, but offers no credit check and no down payments; it serves as an option over traditional financing options like high-interest credit cards.

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November/December 2025

[Link to ad](#)