



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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

## Executive Board Minutes

February 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm by Keith Harvey.

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

#### A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

3/9/20, 3/23/20, 4/27/20, 5/11/20, and 6/8/20

#### B. State of the Union Speech

The State of the Union Speech will be at the March 23, Executive Board meeting in the MS Library at 4:00PM.

#### C. School Calendar

It is anticipated that the Board of Education will vote on the 2020-2021 school calendar at their 2/11/20 meeting. Click [here](#) for the approved 2020-2021 Long Beach School calendar.

#### D. LBCTA 4th Annual LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser

This year's event will be at Maple Lanes RVC on Thursday, February 13th, 4-6 pm. Once you form your team, you can register online by [clicking on this link](#). Cash or check made out to LBCTA and sent to Amy Leder (MS, HS) or Beth Prostick (Elementary). Each team can have up to six members. The cost will be \$30 per bowler. All proceeds will go to Sunrise Day Camp, LI. Sunrise Day Camps are the world's only dedicated day camps for children with cancer and their siblings, provided completely free of charge. It's a wonderful opportunity for these children to enjoy camp without feeling restricted and escaping the stigma of being "sick". There will be food, drinks and raffles at the event.

#### E. 2020 Scholarships

##### LBCTA Scholarships

The association will once again be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are children of CTA members and one \$1,000 scholarship to a Long Beach High School graduate going into education. Pat Fallon has graciously volunteered to continue as the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. To be eligible for a CTA scholarship, the student must graduate from his/her high school in either January or June 2020. He/she may attend high school in any city or town. A parent must have been a dues-paying member of the CTA for at least three full years and currently paying dues unless on family or medical leave. Those interested and eligible may request an application from Pat, by email at



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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pfallon@lbeach.org. The closing date for receipt of the completed application and all supporting documents, submitted in duplicate, is 2 PM on Friday, March 13. The evaluation of these applications will take place on Wednesday, March 18 immediately after school at the High School. Please contact Pat if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented.

**AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program**

This program offers four 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members, as well as 10 one-time \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education. [Click Here](#)

**2020 Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund, Len Motisi Memorial Scholarship**

Children of in-service members of NYSUT locals, who are high school seniors, graduating this year, and who will be attending a post-secondary institution on a full time basis, are eligible. If you would like an application please contact Keith Harvey.

**F. Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund Grants**

**1. Military Grant**

In-service members of NYSUT who have been called up to active military service in the United States armed forces and who as a result suffer loss of income. Please contact Keith Harvey for the form.

**2. Burial Grant**

Payable to the individual who incurs the funeral expenses of any member of a participating local who dies while in active service. Please contact Keith Harvey for the form.

**G. 403(b) and 457 2020 Maximum Allowable Contribution Limits**

The IRS announced the 2020 Maximum Allowable Contribution limits. Contribution limits will go up by \$500 from \$19,000 in 2019 to \$19,500 in 2020. If you are age 50 or over, the catch-up contribution limit will also go up by \$500 from \$6,000 in 2019 to \$6,500 in 2020. Individuals with at least 15 years of service with their current employer may be entitled to make additional catch-up contributions. For more information please see the chart below and contact your financial advisor.

Contribution Limits		15 Yr. Service Catch-up (if eligible)	Maximum Employer Contributions	Combined Limit	
Age 49 & below	Age 50 & above			Age 49 & below	Age 50 & above
\$19,500.00	\$26,000.00	\$29,000.00	\$57,000.00	\$57,000.00	\$63,500.00

**H. FLEX Spending- Reminder**

Flexible Benefits may be used for unreimbursed medical or dental expenses or dependent care. The District has opted for a 2.5 month extension plan. Participants may incur expenses through March 15th of the calendar year following the year of the election; all requests for reimbursement must be submitted to the plan administrator (Preferred Group) no later than March 30th.

**I. NYSUT Leadership Training- Reminder**

Please let me know if you would like to attend any of the schedule workshops and conferences presented by the NYSUT Nassau regional office during the 2019-20 year.

**J. Study Money Dates- Reminder**

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Money Program: Summer- May 8, 2020. 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](#).

**K. Coaching Pay Dates**

**Middle School Winter II:** 2/14 and 3/13

**Middle School Spring:** 4/24 and 6/25

**High School Spring:** 4/8 and 5/8

**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. Negotiation Committee—Chief Negotiator’s Report—Keith Harvey**

The committee has been meeting to review your suggestions and will use them to create our proposal. Once the proposal is prepared, the next step will be to request the opening of negotiations with the Board of Education.

Our strength is less about us sitting at the table, and more about the support we get from you. We look forward to representing you as a group and hope we can count on you, should we need to take collective action. **We are stronger together!**

**C. New Member Committee—Jim Fiola**

1. Save The Date: The Spring New Member/Buddy party will be on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>. Location to be determined.
2. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Jim Fiola at [jfiola@lbeach.org](mailto:jfiola@lbeach.org) or Alison Katulka at [akatulka@lbeach.org](mailto:akatulka@lbeach.org). **Please contact us if you don’t have a buddy or mentor.** Don’t be afraid to ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you. Keep reading the minutes.

**D. Political Action Committee—Jennifer Garrett**

1. We are finalizing the list of personal email addresses for all members. Building Representatives will receive a list of missing emails. Please reach out to any members that are missing information.
2. The Lawrence Teacher Association (LTA) is working under an agreement that expired on **June 30, 2011**. On Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> we are asking all LBCTA members to wear red to stand in solidarity with the LTA. Please take group pictures to show our support and send all pictures to [LBCTAPAC@gmail.com](mailto:LBCTAPAC@gmail.com) with the building name. LBCTA Stands with Lawrence!
3. If you haven’t already, please download the NYSUT MAC (Member Action Center) app to your phone. You can find it at the following link: <https://mac.nysut.org/get-the-nysut-macsmartphone-app>.
4. Our next PAC meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 3:45 in the MS Library. All LBCTA members are welcome to attend!

**E. Public Relations—Amy Leder and Beth Prostick**

1. *Hello Dolly* was amazing! Special thanks to Mr. Hue, Mr. Marks, Dr. Capobianco, and Ms. Vella, for putting together this wonderful show.
2. Student from all four LB elementary school buildings currently have their work displayed in the LBNY Arts Council’s “Art in the Lobby” exhibit at City Hall. This showcase will run until March 5. This is the first ever student showcase presented by the Arts Council, and work is based on a “What is Love?” theme. Under the guidance of teacher Denise Collins, students at West and Lindell based their projects on Mexican Folk Art and incorporated “Love is” statements into their pieces. Other students at Lindell expressed what love means to them through art under the direction of teacher Hudson Georges. In Stephanie Meyer’s classes at Lido and East, first and second grade artists were inspired by the talent of Jim Dine, while fourth and fifth graders were influenced by the Op Art Movement. Congratulations to all of you.

**F. Social Committee—Elleen Parks**

I'm looking forward to reaching out to our retirees to discuss our plans for honoring them at this year's celebration on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. If you know you will be retiring, you can also e-mail me at [eparks@lbeach.org](mailto:eparks@lbeach.org) to discuss our celebration.

**G. Teacher Center—John Marr**

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center thanks the district for absorbing the fee to become a DASA certified provider. We are currently waiting to learn if our application has been accepted.
2. As a reminder, as of January 2020, all classes have a \$40 cash/check or \$42 venmo/paypal fee associated with it. This fee will be used to cover the cost of the instructor for the class. This fee applies to all participants regardless of status within the district.
3. The Center is still looking for individuals interested in running PD classes starting in April, May or June. Please contact the director at [lbtc@lbeach.org](mailto:lbtc@lbeach.org) if you are interested or used [mylearningplan.com](http://mylearningplan.com) to submit your proposal.

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

**A. APPR**

1. 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.
2. This plan is what we will be working under until we negotiate our new contract. So although things have changed with the State, we will still use these guidelines until a new plan is in effect.
3. Our APPR handbook is on our website. You can find all timelines, conversion charts and percentages here.
4. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

**B. Health & Safety Committee**

1. Temperature Issues-We are still experiencing issues with temperature regulation in many buildings. Although we know that buildings and grounds are trying to resolve these issues, they remain a problem; some extremely hot and others extremely cold. Hopefully this can be straightened out ASAP.
2. We are hoping to receive an update on the traffic reconfiguration at both the High School and Lido complex at the next meeting.
3. In addition, we are hoping that student ID's will be discussed at our next meeting, since it was not addressed at our last few.
4. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at [kbloom@lbeach.org](mailto:kbloom@lbeach.org).

**C. District Safety Team**

1. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled . If you have any Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at [kbloom@lbeach.org](mailto:kbloom@lbeach.org).

**D. Other**

1. Hope to see you all at our Bowling Event on February 13th!
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](http://www.lbcta.com).
4. Have a restful and well deserved winter break!

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

- A. I hope everyone enjoyed our bowling event.
- B. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on March 16 at 3:45 in Lido room L25.
- C. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- D. Have a safe and restful winter break!
- E. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at [bprostick@lbeach.org](mailto:bprostick@lbeach.org).

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

- A. Thank you to Dr. Romanelli and Dr. Gallagher for taking the time to meet with HS representatives to discuss the how the new midterm/regent week went at the HS. We look forward to meeting with you soon.
- B. Please continue to communicate with your building reps regarding any new, old, or current concerns in your building.

VI. Treasurer's Report—Jim Fiola

A. January Financial Results

<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	
NYSUT	\$15,354	Union Dues	\$40,814
AFT	9,440	Total	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> \$40,814
Taxes and Insurance	271		
Meeting Expenses	442		
Public Relations	6,495		
Telephone	80		
Memberships	50		
Year End Celebration	50		
Total	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> \$30,182		

- B. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank and try to attend an upcoming School Board Meeting. Thank you for reading the minutes and please encourage your fellow members to do the same.  
Thank you to all who came out to support the Bowling Fundraiser.  
**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).**
- C. Union dues for 2019/2020 for full-time members will be \$1,017.96. The break-out is \$397 local, \$378 NYSUT, \$234.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$101.80 will be taken from your first check of the month (except September when it will be taken out of the second check on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>) 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.

**2019 union dues for tax purposes for full time members was \$1,016.56**

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Thank you to everyone who participated in Bedtime and Books. Workshops are provided to students and parents using books and fun activities all while sharing strategies for reading.
2. Thank you to ALL those special people who came and read as part of our World Reading

Day.

3. Family members and special friends came into classrooms and read aloud. At the end of the day students went to their preceding grade and met up with old friends and their teachers for a special read aloud.

4. Global play day was fun and educational time for all. Students spent the day playing and using STEM activities, thinking skills, and social interaction through reading and playing.

5. Deepest sympathy to Jean O'Neill Weissenberg and the Weissenberg family on the loss of her son, Brock.

6. Condolences to the Buscemi family on the loss of Valerie Buscemi. Valerie was a Teaching Assistant for the District.

7. Please join us in wearing red on Thursday, February 27th, to show solidarity with our union brothers and sisters in the Lawrence Teachers Union who have been working without a contract since 2011.

8. Please consider donating a sick day to the bank.

#### **B. Lindell School**

1. The 4th grade Colonial Fair was full of engaging activities for students and their guests. The costumes, projects and presentations were fantastic.

2. Kudos to the Wellness Day committee on a fabulous day of learning about healthy choices and fun ways to exercise with African Dance, Yoga/Mindfulness Activities, Seated Volleyball and Fitness Classes. Much appreciation to all the family, community and teacher volunteers! A special thanks to Kelly Mooney, Rachel Ray, Patty Lugo and Mary Miller for organizing such a fun and worthwhile day!

3. Combining Unity Day with our SELF Families, students met to create "Daisy Chains". These paper chains link us all together while celebrating our unique traits.

4. The new heating system continues to be a problem; some rooms are too hot, others are too cold.

5. Thank you to all for the generous donations toward our Lindell Raffle Basket.

6. Congratulations to Penny India on receiving her tenure.

7. Please join us in wearing red on Thursday, February 27th, to show solidarity with our union brothers and sisters in the Lawrence Teachers Union who have been working without a contract since 2011.

8. Please consider donating a sick day to our district sick bank.

#### **C. East School**

1. Congratulations to the AMAZING 3rd grade teachers and their students on the 2nd annual Amazing Race. The Amazing Race had parents, guardians and students racing around the globe to conquer their geography curriculum.

2. Condolences to former CTA Building Representative and East School teacher Reggie Mines on the passing of his beloved wife Martha.

3. Thank you to all of you who donated to East School's Bowling Fundraiser Basket. You helped make this annual event a great success.

4. Please join us Thursday, February 27th by wearing red to stand in solidarity with Lawrence Teachers' Association. The LTA has been working without a contract since 2011.

#### **D. Lido School**

1. Lido students and staff enjoyed the activities on Global Play and Read Aloud Day. Thank you to the Lido PTA for sponsoring Kerboom Kidz on this day.

2. Condolences to Andrew Frey-Gould on the loss of his grandmother.

3. Condolences to Joan Kavarsky on the loss of her mother.

4. Congratulations on the announcement of the upcoming retirement of Cheryl Carroll, Faith Moskowitz, Lori Niloff, and Marilyn Pilo.
5. Thank you to Lido PTA for organizing the book swap! Everyone enjoyed choosing books for their classroom libraries.
6. Thank you to all who donated gift cards and items for the LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser basket.
7. Thank to Amy Leder and Beth Prostick for organizing the LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser!
8. Please wear RED on February 27th in solidarity of Lawrence Teacher Association.
9. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

**E. Pre-K**

1. Thank you to Dr. Hernandez and Mrs. Weiss for organizing Global Play Day and National Read Aloud day. A special thank you to the LBHS dancers that performed for us! It was a fun day for all of our students!
2. Thank You to the Pre-K PTA for our yoga and Kerboom Kidz programs. Our students are really enjoying them.
3. Thank you to the Lido PTA for organizing the book share. The books are a wonderful addition to our classroom libraries.
4. We are looking forward to the bowling event this week. Thank you to all that participated and donated!
5. We continue to experience transportation delays.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to our bank.

**F. Middle School**

1. Problems with the heat are ongoing. Many rooms still have little or intermittent heat and other rooms are sweltering. We look forward to a timely resolution to these issues.
2. The week of Feb 3rd was National School Counseling Week. A very special THANK YOU to Bob Bajit, Ama Darkeh, and Nilka McDonnell for all that they do each day to support our students and building.
3. Kudos to our Writer's Workshop and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on their successful celebration of poetry and the spoken word. Students shared original poems with LBMS faculty/staff at their very creative Wave Café.
4. On Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> we are asking all LBCTA members to wear red to stand in solidarity with the Lawrence Teachers Association (LTA). The LTA is working under an agreement that expired on June 30, 2011. Please wear red to show the LBCTA supports Lawrence Teachers.
5. Congratulations to Coach Pichichero and our LB Varsity Cheerleaders on their 1<sup>st</sup> place win at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cheer Battle at the Beach.
6. Congratulations to Liz McMahon on the birth of her grandson.
7. Condolences to Melissa Lyons on the loss of her grandmother.
8. Condolences to the family of Val Buscemi. Val was a beloved TA at LBMS.
9. Thank you Patrick Kiley-Rendon for providing Kami trainings at grade level meetings.
10. A very special thank you to Amy Leder, Beth Prostick, the LBCTA public relations committee, and everyone that came out to bowl or donated to the annual Bowling Fundraiser. A great time was truly had by all!
11. 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.

## **G. High School**

1. Congratulations to Jordan Hue, Christianne Vella, Justin Marks, and Dr. Michael Capobianco and the cast, crew, and pit of the LBHS Musical *Hello, Dolly!* It was an excellent show!
2. Congratulations to Jackie McMahon on the birth of her son.
3. Thank you to the Sunshine Committee for hosting a wonderful Snowball Party. A good time was had by all.
4. Thank you to Amy Leder, Beth Prostick and the Public Relations Committee for hosting the annual bowling fundraiser. It was a wonderful time for a worthy cause.
5. Thank you to Dr. Radice for organizing the first HS Book fair.
6. Thank you to the Building Administration for arranging to have the building's air quality and vents tested during the winter recess.
7. Staff would like to see the District and Building Administration move towards requiring students to wear their ID cards throughout the building so that security and staff can properly identify if an individual belongs in the building.
8. Please remember that the doors are alarmed. Do not exit out of the alarmed doors. It is distracting to the nearby classes.
9. The staff is concerned about the condition of the back roadway. There are potholes that are dangerous and difficult to see in inclement conditions.
10. Many of the classroom and department office computers in the HS are very old and are in need of updating.
11. Temperatures of classrooms vary greatly throughout the building.
12. Thank you to Central Administration for scheduling a meeting to discuss staff concerns regarding the impact of the removal of the January Regents Exam Week on our students.
13. Please join us in wearing red on Thursday, February 27th, to show solidarity with our union brothers and sisters in the Lawrence Teachers Union who have been working without a contract since 2011.
14. Please consider serving on a district committee.
15. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.

At 5:01pm, a motion was made by Matthew Hartmann to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Stacey Mason.

### **In Attendance:**

West: June Schecter

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Lisa Rundo, Susan Simons

East: Jennifer Diamond, Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dana Monti, Dorothy Lopez, Marilyn Pilo

Pre-K: Molly Drake

LBMS: Jennifer Garrett, Lauren Behan, Alison Katulka, Stacey Mason, Kaitlin Smith, John Marr

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Neil Campbell, Lisa Casey, Matthew Hartmann, Greg Milone

Retiree:

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

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

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SCAN ME



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Jan/Feb '20