



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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President
Karen Bloom

Vice President for Elementary Schools
Jennifer Maggio

Recording Secretary
Patricia VanLoon

Executive Vice President
Jennifer Garrett

Vice President for Secondary Schools
Matthew Hartmann

Corresponding Secretary
Tamara Sommers

Treasurer
Jonathan Bloom

Executive Board Minutes

February 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm by Karen Bloom.

I. President's Report - Karen Bloom

A. Nuts & Bolts

Once again, we met with Dr. Gallagher, Mr. DeVito and Dr. Natali and had some productive conversations about multiple topics. They are continuing to work on the space issue at Lido, and shared that much of it is temporary. We spoke about the overall cleanliness throughout the district and discussed how things could be improved. Elementary schedules were discussed as well and will be looked at to see if any adjustments can be made. Additionally, we should be hearing shortly about our new STEPS plan and how teachers can move forward to begin submitting projects and acknowledging observations. We also discussed some technology concerns regarding the use of Meta Glasses and other items that allow students to record in class, as well as all of the ways that students are attempting to cheat. Dr. Gallagher agreed that we need to educate both students and parents regarding much of the new technology available to them. We spoke about the entrance at East School and Mr. DeVito will be reaching out to the architect to see if there is any way to make it more similar to the other buildings in the district. In addition, we had a conversation about the recent snowstorm and the parking difficulties that teachers have been faced with. Finally, we asked if Dr. Gallagher could reach out to our BOE to support the Charter School Resolution. We appreciate the open dialogue and willingness to work together.

B. LBSD 2026-27 School Calendar

The 2026-2027 District draft school calendar was presented and approved by the Executive Board. The next step is for the Long Beach Board of Education to present and adopt the calendar.

C. State of the Union Speech

The State of the Union Speech will be at the 3/23/26 Executive Board meeting at the LBMS Auditorium.

D. NYSUT Leadership Conference 2/6-2/8

A huge thank you to Jonathan Bloom, Jenn Garrett, Matt Hartmann, Ali Katulka, Jenn Maggio, Tamara Sommers and Patty Van Loon for giving up their weekend to attend the NYSUT Leadership Conference in Tarrytown this weekend.

Kevin Pollitt, our Nassau Regional Director and Ron Gross, NYSUT 2nd VP, gave opening remarks and discussed the importance of trying to engage more members, especially our Tier Sixers! We attended a series of workshops on Leadership Succession and discussed a variety of ways to increase member engagement as well as the



strength of our union. We were able to have some extremely productive conversations and we are lucky to have such a dedicated group of leaders among us that are willing to work on this initiative.

E. LIPC President's Conference 1/29-2/1

I was able to attend the LIPC President's Conference last weekend, where we had multiple presenters share lots of valuable information. Eric Iberger gave a NYSTRS Presentation and shared some FAQ's that came up. We also had a legal update from Lena Ackerman, our NYSUT General Counsel. In addition, we were lucky enough to have all 4 NYSUT officers with us; Melinda Person: President, Jaime Ciffone: EVP, Ron Gross: 2nd VP, and Philippe Abraham, Secretary Treasurer. Melinda gave a great presentation highlighting some recent NYSUT wins such as providing Universal School Meals to all students in NYS, 1.4 Billion dollars in Foundation Aid, Bell to Bell Cell Phone Restrictions and huge increases in BOCES and CTE Funding. In addition, it was a great networking opportunity where we were able to connect with many other LI Local Presidents to discuss our common issues.

F. 2026 Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund, Len Motisi Memorial Scholarship - Due 3/2

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 Karen Bloom. This must be returned to me by Monday, March 2nd.

G. NYSUT Trainings & Workshops - 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! [Click here](#). A login for NYSUT.org is required to access the online publication. The Nassau Regional Office has added an additional Teacher Retirement System workshop on Thursday, March 12th, from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Click this [Link](#) to register. We are very fortunate to have as our presenter Eric Iberger, NYSTRS Board Member and President of the Bayport-Blue Point Teachers' Association.



H. NYSTRS - Reminder

TRS has announced their Winter/Spring PREP Seminar schedule. You can find it in the link below, which is also where you can register. They will be in Hauppauge over the February break. <https://www.nystrs.org/retirement-planning/pension-retirement-education-program/> If you have questions specific to your potential benefits, you can contact NYSTRS at 1-800-348-7298. (Extensions are at [NYSTRS](#) for different departments). If you are considering retirement within the next three years, you should schedule a benefits consultation through [MY NYSTRS](#) or by calling 1-800-348-7298, ext. 6100.

I. 2026 LBCTA Scholarship - Reminder - Due 3/13

I am pleased to announce that the association will once again be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are children of CTA members. Elena Frishman has graciously volunteered to continue as the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. To be eligible for a CTA scholarship, the student must graduate from their high school in either January or June 2026. They 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 Elena, by email at EFrishman@lbeach.org. The closing date for receipt of the completed application and all supporting documents, submitted in duplicate, is 2 PM on Friday, March 13th. The evaluation

of these applications will take place during the week of 3/16-3/20. Please contact Elena if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented. In addition, the LBCTA gives another \$1000 scholarship to the Senior with the highest GPA that is entering the field of education.

J. LB PTA - *Reminder - Due 2/15*

PTA Teacher Fellowship - Deadline for Applying: February 15, 2026 – Now Open!

The LBPTA wanted to make you aware of a grant funded fellowship for Long Beach teachers.

The fellowship provides an opportunity for teachers to improve their skills, update their

professional knowledge, and expand their professional perspectives. This grant can ONLY be

used for course work completed after submission of the application and can be used anytime up

to August of next year. Click here for more information.

<https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/awards-and-recognitions/teacher-fellowship/>

K. IRS Mileage Rate 2026 - *Reminder*

The IRS has announced the official standard mileage rates for 2026. The standard business

mileage rate for transportation expenses paid or incurred as of January 1st, 2026 is 72.5 cents per

mile.

L. 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.

M. Mandated Reporting: Child Abuse Training - *Reminder*

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 [here](#) and complete the new add on. If you are a new employee, you will need to

complete the full training. You can see Dr. Natali’s email from 12/15/25, for details.

N. Club Pay Dates - *Reminder*

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 the 2nd half the stipend in the 5/8/26 check.

O. Coaching Pay Dates 2025-26 - *Reminder*

High School

Winter: Second Check: 2/13

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

Middle School

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

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

P. Study Money - Summer 5/15/26 - *Reminder*

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Program: **Summer –**

Friday, May 15, 2026. 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](#).



II. Committee Reports

A. Negotiations - Karen Bloom

We are continuing to meet with the District 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 March 24th at 4 PM. Please feel free to submit any topics for discussion, questions, or comments in advance so we can address them during the meeting. All are welcome to attend!
3. Wishing everyone an enjoyable winter break.

C. Membership Committee - Tamara Sommers

1. Thank you for your participation in the first Membership Monday! It was great seeing the shared pride, solidarity, and strength of the LBCTA. Let's keep the sentiment going! Remember to wear your union gear Monday, February 23rd. Membership Monday continues on the last Monday of each month.
2. To those of you who are buddies to a newer member, this is a great time of year to check in with them about upcoming union events such as our annual Bowling Fundraiser. Please remember to touch base with your buddy to help them feel welcomed and encourage them to participate.
3. All LBCTA members are welcomed to attend the March 23rd Executive Board meeting, at which time the state of the union address will be given. We are looking forward to seeing some new faces, so building representatives and all interested members consider "bringing a buddy" to the March meeting.
4. Please consider attending school board meetings when possible, to stay up-to-date and informed about district matters. It is important to highlight our strength and unity as much as possible. Our attendance at board meetings is a great way to do this. To make it easy and efficient, we are suggesting that we divide up the remaining meeting dates to have a group of members show up and visually represent us. Please lookout for more information regarding suggested building representation at upcoming board meetings.
5. When congratulating members and announcing the birth of a child, if possible, please begin indicating when it is a first born child.
6. Wishing everyone a restful and relaxing winter break.

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.

Important Items:

- a) First, thank you to everyone who shared our most recent social media thunderclap. We truly appreciate those who help amplify these important

messages. Our next thunderclap will be released soon, so please stay tuned.

- b) **A public rally is scheduled for Saturday, March 21st, from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Bellmore Train Station.** We are gathering to demand that our voices be heard: taxpayer-funded charter schools must be accountable to taxpayers.

We are asking everyone to attend in solidarity. It is critical that we stand together and make our opposition clear. Our presence matters.

Please reach out to lbctapac@gmail.com if you are able to attend.

2. The Freeport Teachers Association (FTA) has asked for our support! The FTA has spoken out about what it describes as a lack of transparency and accountability from the Board of Education and district leadership. Union leaders say administrative decisions, including the transfer of union president Patricia Langan, demonstrate retaliation, harassment, and poor management of district resources and taxpayer funds. These ongoing leadership issues show disregard for the contract, undermine staff morale, and prevent teachers from providing students with the quality education they deserve. Let's show our union brothers and sisters in the FTA that we stand with them as they demand transparency and responsible management of school resources and taxpayer dollars.

- a) BOE Mtg. on February 25th at 7:30 PM at Atkinson School located at 58 Seaman Ave, Freeport.

- b) Larger rally in March. Details to follow.

3. Help Fix Tier 6! A statewide rally to FIX TIER 6 will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2026 from noon - 2 PM at the MVP Arena in Albany. This rally is now SOLD OUT! Fixing Tier 6 is about justice and dignity in retirement. It is about solidarity and fairness. It is about retaining talented educators in our classrooms and recruiting the next generation into the profession. Most importantly, it is about bringing Tier 5 and Tier 6 members to parity with Tier 4 members in both contribution rates and retirement age. If you are interested in joining our Fix Tier 6 Team, please email lbctapac@gmail.com.

4. PAC, in collaboration with the PR Committee and our webmaster, is putting together the next edition of the LBCTA Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 2. The second edition of each year reaches an expanded distribution list that includes our NYSUT brothers and sisters residing in the City of 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 content for the next newsletter, please email lbctapac@gmail.com using your personal email. All suggestions are greatly appreciated!

5. Please follow us on Instagram @LongBeachClassroomTeachers.

6. Wishing everyone a well-deserved and restful winter break.

E. Public Relations Committee - Jennifer Maggio and Matthew Hartmann

1. We cannot wait to see all of our teams in their bowling shirts at our SOLD OUT LBCTA 9th annual bowling event on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes in RVC. There will be food, drinks, and raffles at the event. We also look forward to the awesome baskets each building has volunteered to donate for the raffles! This year we will be donating to [Surf for All](#).

2. Our next meeting will be some time after the bowling event (date and time TBD).

3. Please follow us on Instagram @longbeachclassroomteachers.



F. Social Committee - Tamara Sommers

1. Please save the date for our second buddy event of the year on March 27th. We would like to open this social gathering to all members. We will need to have a headcount for planning purposes, so please look out for an email with further details regarding the event, especially buddy members.
2. Please also save the date for our end of year LBCTA party at O'Connell Gardens in Oceanside on Thursday, May 7th. We hope to have lots to celebrate, including members who are retiring, as well as our hard work and a productive school year!

G. Long Beach Teacher Center - John Marr

1. At this time the Long Beach Teacher Center has expended its funds for new classes. We are currently seeking individuals who would like to run classes over the summer to be included in the Continuation Application for next year. If you are interested please reach out to the director at lbtc@lbeach.org.
2. The Poster Maker has now made 37 posters for teachers. Please visit the Teacher Center website at lbeachtc.org and click on poster at the top for details on how you can have a poster made for your classroom use.

III. Executive Vice President's Report - Jennifer Garrett

A. APPR → STEPS Update

1. We have received confirmation that our STEPS plan has been approved by NYS. Administration will now move forward with the project Google Form and is working with Frontline to update all necessary information related to observations. As previously mentioned, you may begin developing and working on your project ideas.
2. Untenured members should have received notification identifying their evaluator for the school year. If you have not yet received this information, please contact your immediate supervisor.
3. As always, we encourage you to actively engage in the observation and evaluation process. Our evaluation system remains grounded in the Danielson Framework, which emphasizes observable, research-based best practices. Evaluations and feedback should be evidence-based rather than opinion-based to ensure a fair, consistent, and constructive process. Please raise 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. Current lockdown procedures require teachers to lock their classroom doors during a lockdown. Please take a moment to ensure that you have a key to your classroom door. If you do not have a key, please contact bscully@lbeach.org as soon as possible. The district will also be exploring electronic security door lock systems to enhance building safety.
2. The District-Wide Health and Safety Plan has been updated to reflect the latest requirements under Desha's Law related to cardiac emergency response plans. The updated plan and all related information have been posted on the district website for your review.
3. We would like to thank the custodial staff for their continued efforts in addressing the issues we have been experiencing with mice. We appreciate the work that has been done,

and sightings have decreased, though they have not been completely eliminated. We hope that continued attention to this matter will further reduce the issue.

4. 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
5. 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.
6. The next Health and Safety meeting date is May 4th.

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.
3. The form has been updated to be more user-friendly and provide clearer instructions. All submitted forms, along with 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.
4. We will be meeting with the Administration to review WPVA forms on **February 23rd**.

D. Other

1. Looking forward to our annual bowling event on February 26th!
2. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible.
3. Mark your calendars as well for our **End-of-the-Year Celebration on Thursday, May 7th**.
4. Wishing everyone a wonderful winter break!

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

- A. We cannot wait to see all of our teams in their bowling shirts at our SOLD OUT LBCTA 9th annual bowling event on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes in RVC. There will be food, drinks, and raffles at the event. We also look forward to the awesome baskets each building has volunteered to donate for the raffles! This year we will be donating to [Surf for All](#).
- B. Please consider donating a day to our LBCTA sick bank.
- C. If you have any questions or concerns please email me at jmaggio@lbeach.org.
- D. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be Monday, March 2nd, at 4:00 in the East School Library.
- E. I hope you all have a warm and wonderful winter break.

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

- A. The Secondary Council met on February 3. Topics discussed included building cleanliness, cell phone ban enforcement, and administrative communication during Midterm Week. Our next Secondary Council meeting will be on May 5.
- B. We cannot wait to see all of our teams in their bowling shirts at our SOLD OUT LBCTA 9th annual bowling event on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes in RVC. There will be food, drinks, and raffles at the event. We also look forward to the awesome baskets each building has volunteered to donate for the raffles! This year we will be donating to [Surf for All](#).

C. 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.

D. Keep an eye out for opportunities every month to participate in YOUR union!

VI. Treasurer's Report - Jonathan Bloom

A. January Financial Report

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Union Dues	\$42,787.60	NYSUT Dues	\$16,231.65
Union Apparel	\$500.00	AFT Dues	\$9,600.26
Retiree Dues	\$99.00	Union Apparel	\$8,625.25
		Workers Comp. Insurance	\$369.00
		Paychex Fees	\$237.20
		E-Ballot Monthly Sub.	\$31.94
Total	\$43,386.60		\$35,095.30

B. Union dues for your 2025 Tax Return was \$1,055.50

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. Wishing Everyone a Restful Winter Recess!

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Condolences to Nicole McGahan on the loss of her grandmother, Roma Eichler.
2. Thank you to all the special people who read to our classes in person or virtually as part of World Read Aloud Day.
3. Thank you to our PTA for the fun National Circus Project assembly on Global Play Day.
4. Thank you to our principal, Amy Dirolf, for her unwavering support during these last 3 weeks as we dealt with the remnants of the snowstorm.
5. This past week was National School Counselor Week. We would like to sincerely thank our school counselor, Hannah Jean, for all she does for our students.
6. We cannot wait to see all of our West School teams in their bowling shirts at our SOLD OUT LBCTA 9th annual bowling event on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes in RVC.

B. Lindell School

1. Many thanks to our custodians and grounds crew who cleared an enormous amount of snow making it safe for us to come back after the snowstorm.
2. Congratulations to Edith Guzman on the announcement of her retirement. She has made a tremendous difference in the lives of her students.
3. We would like to thank Keith Harvey and Dr. Pullara for meeting to help us address the WiFi concerns in our building.

4. Lindell students and staff enjoyed Global Play Day/World Read Aloud Day on Feb. 5th. It was a fun day promoting social skills and interpersonal connections. Thanks to all the guest readers who came to Lindell.
5. Many thanks to Dr. Pullara for replacing the old refrigerator in the faculty room.
6. We continue to have concerns with the cleanliness of our building and appreciate the time our Building Committee has put in to rectify some of the building maintenance issues.
7. This past week was National School Counselor Week. We would like to sincerely thank our school counselor, Hannah Jean, for all she does for our students.
8. Our next Membership Monday is February 23rd. Don't forget to wear your union gear!
9. We cannot wait to see all of our Lindell School teams in their bowling shirts at our SOLD OUT LBCTA 9th annual bowling event on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes in RVC.

C. East School

1. We cannot wait to see all of our East School teams in their bowling shirts at our SOLD OUT LBCTA 9th annual bowling event on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes in RVC.
2. Global Play Day and World Read Aloud Day was a success. Students enjoyed playing games and listening to stories together.
3. Thank you to Holly McAvoy for sharing an Olympics Slideshow with East School students. The children are so excited to cheer on Holly's brother, Charlie as a member of Team USA Hockey!
4. Great job to the first graders for their involvement in the 100th Day Celebration!
5. This past week was National School Counselor Week. We would like to sincerely thank our school counselor, Hannah Jean, for all she does for our students.
6. The next Buddy Event is on Friday, March 27th, all members are welcome!
7. Please consider attending the State of the Union address on Monday, March 23rd at 4pm at the Middle School.
8. Hope you all have a wonderful winter break!

D. Lido School

1. Congratulations Kara Yates on your first born, Daisy Louise.
2. The Dancing Classrooms Showcase took place in the Lido gym on January 14th. The 4th grade students enjoyed showing their parents the ballroom dances they have learned.
3. Lido students had a great time on World Read Aloud and Global Play Day! The students enjoyed listening to stories, reading together, and playing games.
4. Thank you to 3rd and 4th grade teachers for the January breakfast to raise money for the Fun Fund.
5. Faculty and Staff had a fun time celebrating the new year together at JJ Coopers in January!
6. This past week was National School Counselor Week. We would like to sincerely thank our school counselor, Hannah Jean, for all she does for our students.
7. Kindness Week is underway and students are being reminded of different ways we can show kindness.
8. Lido bowling teams are looking forward to our annual SOLD OUT LBCTA fundraiser on Thursday, February 26th.

9. The Lido parking lot has been an issue during arrival and dismissal. Parents are double and triple parking, parking in the fire lane, and students and parents are walking between cars and not crossing at the crosswalk. Staff members are spending a lot of time looking for parking in the morning and are not able to leave in the afternoon. Dr. Hernandez has been working with Central Admin.

E. LBMS

1. We would like to note that the lockdown on February 4 was the result of another accidental alarm activation. While we understand that such situations can occur, the incident highlighted a need for a clearly defined protocol for responding to accidental lockdown triggers. We look forward to reviewing updated safety protocols for such situations moving forward.
2. Thank you to the LBCTA for our new swag that was recently delivered.
3. Amazing job to Jennifer Donovan, Caroline Espinet, Jessica Hemmerdinger, Tara Mele, and Natasha Nurse on their presentations at the New York State Middle School Association Conference on January 12.
4. Congratulations to Cristina Bryan, Greg Cody, Dave Lobenstein, and Grace Parisi on announcing their retirement at the January board meetings.
5. Thank you to the many faculty members who stepped up to serve as a mock interviewer for our FACS students on January 14 and 15. Special thanks to Ilyssa Berman, Sharon Gamble, and Heather Johnston for coordinating this event.
6. Job well done on Long Beach Middle School's Beautiful Me Program, as the program concluded for the year. Special thanks to Coordinator Jessica Hemmerdinger, the committee members Ilyssa Berman, Dana Conn, Stacey Mason, Christina Farrell, and Brittney Beigel, along with all of the Beautiful Me teachers that volunteered their time throughout the year to make this program a success.
7. Thank you to Caroline Espinet, Darcie Bynoe, Natasha Nurse, and the 42 students who collaborated to create a video tribute for MLK Jr. Day.
8. Thank you to our 7th Grade social studies teachers (John Marr, Buddy Hoffman, Janna Arkow, Dan Cook, and Rich Pellegrini) and all of the evaluators for their tremendous efforts towards National History Day on Thursday, January 22nd.
9. Thank you to our administration for planning safe and alternate routes home for some of our walkers after the snowstorm left unplowed sidewalks.
10. Tuesday, January 27th was International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The middle school welcomed a theatrical performance of *From the Fires: Voices of the Holocaust*. Thank you to Leah Buffalino and Dena Hopper for providing a building-wide pre-lesson for historical context.
11. Congratulations to the team of students, led by Kristen Conklin-Kearney, who represented Long Beach Middle School at the Brookhaven Laboratory and earned first place on Long Island for the STEM competition.
12. Great job to the cast and crew in the musical *Once Upon a Mattress* on February 5th and 6th. This would not have been possible without the support from Director Scott Scheinson, Assistant Director Christina Farrell, Set Design by Alison Katulka & the Art Club, and Set Construction by Brian Pross & the Wood Club.
13. Thank you to Wally Kramme and Sammi Metzger for the Valentines for Vets advisory lesson where students created valentines to send to veterans this coming weekend.

14. Thank you to the Student Organization and their advisors, Jen Healey and Danielle Callahan, for organizing a Valentine's themed spirit week heading into the February break.
15. This past week was National School Counselor Week. We would like to sincerely thank our school counselors Rob Bajit, Ama Darkeh, and Nilka McDonnell for all they do for our students each and every day.
16. We are grateful to all faculty for shoveling out and trekking in to wear LBCTA attire as part of our first district-wide Membership Monday. We are looking forward to our next Membership Monday on Monday, February 23rd!
17. The 9th Annual LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser will take place on Thursday, February 26 at Maple Lanes RVC. Bowling, food, and fun will be had by all who register for this event. We cannot wait to see all the cool raffle baskets, although the middle school raffle will be cooler. A literal cooler made by Yeti. Can't wait to see you there.
18. Save the date and please consider attending the State of the Union taking place on March 23 at 4:00PM at the middle school.

F. LBHS

1. On 1/30, we ran our 50/50 for the LBCTA/LBSEA Bowling Fundraiser. We were able to raise \$1368 overall, and \$684 towards the LBHS gift basket - congratulations to Linette Genovese on being the lucky winner!
2. Thank you to the LBHS Sunshine Committee for hosting the Snow Ball Party. A great time was had by all!
3. Congratulations to Julia Kolanovic on her recent nomination by the Harvard Club of Long Island for Distinguished Teaching. We are thankful your passion is personally recognized. Keep up the great work!
4. Congratulations to three LBHS students—Sara Biancamano, Nataly Moriera, and Lila Pinto for being recognized as award winners in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Thank you to art teachers Erick Fox and Joanne Harvey for their guidance and dedication, underscoring the impact of high-quality arts instruction in the district.
5. This past week was National School Counselor Week. We would like to sincerely thank our school counselors Patty Baron, Linette Genovese, Mariela Giammarino, Kirstyn Golden, Amy Leder, Geoffrey Noss, and Michael Vitale for all they do for our students each and every day.
6. The Cell Phone Policy at LBHS continues to be a major issue. While there have been daily announcements, an advisory period devoted to explaining the policy, and an assembly at the beginning of the year, this policy seems to not be fully working. Classroom use of cell phones is not an issue, but large numbers of students are seen daily between periods using cell phones or with wireless headphones. We are at a stage where the enforcement of this policy is not being taken seriously by students, and further steps need to be taken to ensure the NYS Cell Phone Mandate is enforced on a daily basis. We've been continuing to work with Dr. Smith, the Deans and the HS administration on addressing this issue and hope to have some progress moving forward.
7. We cannot wait to see all of our High School teams in their bowling shirts at our SOLD OUT LBCTA 9th annual bowling event on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes in RVC.

8. Don't forget to wear your Union Gear on Monday, February 23rd for Membership Monday!
9. Wishing everyone a wonderful winter break!

VIII. Meeting Dates

- A. 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.

February 23rd - Membership Monday - Wear your LBCTA Gear!

February 24th - Board of Education Work Session, 7pm, Lido School

February 26th - Bowling Fundraiser, 4pm - SOLD OUT!

March 2nd - Elementary Council, 4pm, East School Library

March 10th - Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7pm, Lido School

March 23rd - State of the Union & Executive Board Meeting, 4pm, LBMS Auditorium

March 24th - Grievance Committee, 4pm, Jenn Garrett

March 24th - Board of Education Work Session, 7pm, East School

March 27th - Buddy Party, March 27th, 4pm, EGP Land & Sea

May 5th - Secondary Council, 4pm, LBHS

IX. New Business

- A. A motion was made to move our March 9th meeting to March 23rd at 4pm in the LBMS Auditorium. It passed unanimously.

At 6pm, a motion was made by Alison Katulka to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Justin Sulsky.

In attendance:

West: Claudine Clark, Julie de Bruin, Anne LaPenna

Lindell: Susan Simons, Heather Puckhaber

East: Jeanne Richards, Melissa Zimmerman

Lido: Dana Monti, Emily Ciavarella, Justin Sulsky

LBMS: Billy Papetti, Alison Katulka

LBHS: Lisa Casey, Carina Morales Hauser

Long Beach Teacher Center:

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.



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money market accounts, and certificates of deposit. NYSUT members receive special rates above those available to the general public.

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