



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

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President
Karen Bloom

Vice President for Elementary Schools
Jennifer Maggio

Recording Secretary
Patricia Van Loon

Executive Vice President
Amy Leder

Vice President for Elementary Schools
Jennifer Garrett

Corresponding Secretary
Elleen Parks

Treasurer
Jonathan Bloom

Executive Board Minutes

February 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm by Karen Bloom.

I. President's Report - Karen Bloom

A. Update on East School & Budget

At the last BOE meeting, the School Board decided to keep East School open for the “foreseeable future”! Thank you to the School Board for considering all potential issues, and for making the decision that seemed best for both students and staff. In addition, they decided to postpone the Bond Proposal until next year. Budget presentations are starting and will continue in the next few months at the BOE meetings.

B. Leadership Conference

A group of us attended the NYSUT Leadership Conference in Stamford, Connecticut this past weekend. We attended workshops on Engaging More Members, Getting Future Unionists Involved, Effective Leadership Legal Updates and the RISE program. One of our missions is to make sure that we find ways to engage younger members to keep our Union strong for years to come. Keep your eyes open for an in-service offer that we are planning to run through NYSUT ELT that will bring the RISE program to us in Long Beach!

C. LBSD 2025-26 School Calendar

The 2025-2026 District school calendar was adopted by the Long Beach Board of Education at their 2/11/25 meeting.

D. State of the Union Speech

The State of the Union Speech will be at the 3/24/25 Executive Board meeting.

E. AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program

The program offers four 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members. ***The deadline is March 31st.*** All scholarship winners will be notified by June 30th. In addition, there are 10 one-time \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education and/or fund their proposed ideas to strengthen and grow their union. [Click Here](#)

F. 2025 LBCTA Scholarship - Reminder

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 2025. 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

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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 14th.** The evaluation of these applications will take place during the week of 3/17-3/21. **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.

G. 2025 Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund, Len Motisi Memorial Scholarship-Reminder

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 3rd.**

H. LB PTA-Reminder

PTA Teacher Fellowship - Deadline for Applying: February 15, 2025 – 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.

I. LIBTF (Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund)-Reminder

We know that sometimes unexpected catastrophes befall our members. There are a variety of Grants offered by the LITBF to its membership: Financial Grant for Catastrophic Loss, Burial Grant and 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 their burden. Feel free to reach out if you are in need of any of these forms.

J. First Eligible Retirement Incentive - Reminder

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 April 1, 2025. The BOE has decided to extend the deadline for those first eligible this year. 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](#). In addition, NYSTRS is offering a "Ready to Retire" Webinar on 2/5 from 4:30 - 6:00. [Here](#) is the link!

K. 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! [Click here.](#) A login for NYSUT.org is required to access the online publication.



L. Coaching Pay Dates

High School

Winter: First check: Second check: 2/14
Spring: First check: 4/11, Second check: 5/9

Middle School:

Winter II: First check: 2/14, Second check: 3/14
Spring: First check: 4/25, Second check: 6/6

M. Mandated Reporting: Child Abuse Training

Remember that you must complete updated training by April 1, 2025. Training is free, on-line, self-directed, and can be completed using the instructions sent by Dr. Natali. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is offering the 9-module (2-hour) training through the Human Services Learning Center (HSLC) website (<https://www.hslnys.org/hslc/>). In addition,

the Nassau Regional Office is hosting two virtual training sessions per month, free of charge, for NYSUT members. You may use the links below to register for the date of your choice:

- [February 24, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)
- [March 3, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)
- [March 25, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#)
- [April 1, 2025, 4:15pm-6:15pm - Frontline Education](#) (two sessions have been booked for last minute needs)
- [April 1, 2025, 4:15-6:15 - Frontline Education](#) (two sessions have been booked for last minute needs)

****Remember that you cannot receive graduate or in-service credit for this class. Some people have been putting this into Frontline for credit. Be aware that regardless of whether it was approved or not, you WILL NOT get paid or receive credit hours.**

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

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. Study Money Dates - *Reminder*

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Program: **Summer – Friday, May 16, 2025**. 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](#).



P. 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.

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. The following positions will appear on this year's ballot: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Elementary Schools, Vice President for Secondary Schools, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, NYSUT Delegate (2) and AFT Delegate (3). If you are interested in running for any of these positions you must notify me in writing by March 15th at gparisi@lbeach.org. You will be notified when your letter of intent is received and you will be supplied with a copy of the petition that you can use to secure the necessary 35 signatures in order to appear on the ballot.
2. Candidates must submit petitions to me with signatures of thirty-five (35) members of the association who support your candidacy by March 30th. No person may be an officer

of the LBCTA unless he or she has been granted tenure and has been an active member for two consecutive years immediately prior to election. In addition, no person may be President of LBCTA unless he or she has previously been an officer of the LBCTA, a member of the Executive Board, an elected delegate, or a member of a standing or special committee within the previous 5 years. Thank you!

C. New Members - Alison Katulka

1. Please join us at the 8th annual Bowling Fundraiser on March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC.
2. I am currently planning our Spring New Member gathering. Please be on the lookout for an email with all of the details.
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. We are in the planning stages for the next edition of the LBCTA Newsletter. 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 any thoughts or ideas for content for the next newsletter please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com. All suggestions are greatly appreciated!
2. Help Fix Tier 6! We are asking all members to join NYSUT's Tier 6 Fix-It Team by simply scanning the QR code. Fixing Tier 6 is about justice and dignity in retirement. It's about solidarity and fairness. It's about keeping talented educators in the classroom and recruiting new educators into the profession. We have work to do to make public service retirement fair for everyone and we can't do it without you. If you are interested in joining our LBCTA Fix Tier 6 team please email lbctapac@gmail.com. We will be in touch with updates and actions you can take.
3. Our union brothers and sisters at Riverhead Central Faculty Association, along with NYSUT, are organizing an island wide campaign to educate about charter schools. The campaign aims to create an environment on Long Island that discourages charter schools by pushing for state legislation to address unfair funding. They hope to educate about the financial impact on public schools and showcase the amazing programs our public schools offer. The RCFA has asked Long Island locals for a one-time monetary commitment from each local of 50 cents per member to help support this campaign. A vote to make a donation was called and passed unanimously.
4. LBCTA PAC made a presentation on 3 proposals that will be put forward at the 2025 RA. After careful consideration, PAC suggested the LBCTA sponsor the following proposals:
 - a) Proposal 1 - Charter School Fiscal Accountability
 - b) Proposal 2 - Advocacy for Expansion of Universal Pre-K Across New York State
 - c) Proposal 3 - Health Care in Retirement - State Minimum to be RaisedA vote to sponsor each proposal was called individually. Proposals 1 and 3 passed unanimously. Proposal 2 passed with 1 member abstaining.
5. Please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com for more information on the proposals or if you have any questions about the 2025 RA.



fixtier6.org/ft6

E. Public Relations Committee - Jennifer Garrett and Jennifer Maggio

1. Get your bowling shirts ready and start gathering your teams! Our LBCTA 8th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. Lanes fill up quickly, so please register your teams using this [link](#) ASAP. Each team can have up to six members. The cost will be \$40 per bowler. There will be food, drinks, and raffles at the event. As in the past, we hope each building can donate a basket for the raffle. Please start emailing the theme of your basket to Jenn Garrett at jgarrett@lbeach.org or Jenn Maggio at jmaggio@lbeach.org.

This year we will be donating to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen.

2. NYSUT has launched a [Peer Support Line](#). This is a free and confidential helpline provided through Member Benefits that is available to all NYSUT members and their loved ones.
3. Please follow us on Instagram @LongBeachClassroomTeachers.



F. Social Committee - Elleen Parks

1. Wishing everyone an enjoyable and safe winter break!
2. Remember to save the date for our 2025 retirees. We will be honoring our colleagues on Thursday, May 15th at O'Connell Gardens in Oceanside.
3. Please consider getting a team together for the bowling fundraiser on March 6th.

G. Long Beach Teacher Center - John Marr

1. The Policy Board will be meeting in February to review the results of the Needs Assessment.
2. If you are interested in running any PD please contact the director at lbtcl@lbeach.org.

III. Executive Vice President's Report - Amy Leder

A. APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review)

1. We met again to resume discussions regarding APPR. The state has not yet released specific guidelines. Further discussions and planning will continue once the state releases the information.
2. You should have received something stating who your evaluators will be for this school year. If you did not, please contact your immediate supervisor and let them know.
3. 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.
4. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

B. Health and Safety

1. Air Quality Testing

- a) Air quality testing at the High School, Lido complex, and half of Lindell, is complete. Results indicate no elevated levels of mold, moisture, or particulates in the air. Testing will continue at Lindell today and tomorrow. East School is scheduled for completion on Thursday. If time allows, West School will also be tested on Thursday.

2. Workplace Violence

- a) We are currently awaiting a response from the district regarding updates on workplace violence protocols. Specifically, when will training for teachers be implemented, how can teachers access the incident report, who do they give the form to, what should teachers expect in terms of a response from the district? It is

imperative that clear communication is established regarding timelines for training and process implementation.

C. Other

1. Save the date for our annual bowling event. This year the event will be held on Thursday, March 6th.
2. Save the date for our end of the year celebration, Thursday, May 15, 2025.

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

- A. It's coming quick! Please make sure you sign up for the event of the year. Our Bowling Fundraiser which will benefit a cause near and dear to all of our hearts, the G2H Foundation.
- B. Thank you to the School Board for making the decision to keep East School open. The children and staff are relieved and very excited to see East School reach its 100th Birthday next year!
- C. Thank you to Mr. Kramer and Mr. DeVito for sharing with us the results of the complete air quality tests. We look forward to receiving the results of the remaining elementary schools.
- D. Please consider donating a day to our sick bank.
- E. If you have any questions or concerns please email me at jmaggio@lbeach.org.
- F. I hope you all have a wonderful winter break.

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

- A. Get your bowling shirts ready and register your teams! Our LBCTA 8th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. Please see the blowing flyer for registration information. Each team can have up to six members. The cost is \$40 per bowler. There will be food, drinks, and raffles at the event. As in the past, we hope each building can donate a basket for the raffle.
This year we will be donating to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen.
- B. NYS Dept. of Ed. requires updated training to assist in recognizing signs of child abuse or maltreatment. All mandated reports must complete this training by April 1, 2025. Please see Dr. Natali's email from September 17th for instructions.
- C. 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.

VI. Treasurer's Report - Jonathan Bloom

A. January's Financial Report

Expenditures

NYSUT Dues	\$15,786.45
AFT Dues	\$9,251.70
Training	\$315.00
Payroll Fees	\$995.86
Meeting Expense	\$334.39
TOTAL	\$26,683.40

Revenues

Union Dues	\$42,472.32
TOTAL	\$42,472.32

- B. Union dues for 2024/2025 for full-time members will be \$1,051.16 The break-out is \$407 local, \$394 NYSUT, \$242.16 AFT dues and \$8 for PTA membership. \$105.11 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. 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.

D. For tax purposes LBCTA dues for the 2024 calendar year were \$1,040.30.

E. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy winter recess.

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Thank you to all the special people who read to our classes in person or virtually as part of our World Read Aloud Day.
2. Thank you to our PTA for the fun Kerboom Kids assembly on Global Play Day.
3. Get your team together and sign up for our annual Bowling Fundraiser! Registration is open for the 8th Annual Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, March 6th. Please register your teams using this [link](#)!
4. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Bank.

B. Lindell School

1. Thank you to the Athletes Helping Athletes HS students for coming in to visit the students at Lindell.
2. Get your teams ready and sign up for our LBCTA 8th annual bowling event to be held on Thursday, March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. This year we will be donating to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen. Any basket donations will be appreciated.
3. There is a need for additional PPS staff to support social emotional needs in our building.
4. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.
5. Please consider attending school board meetings.

C. East School

1. Congratulations to our students on their remarkable achievement in becoming the January champions for New York State in Prodigy!
2. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring a DJ dance party for the students; they had a great time.
3. Thank you to the school board for making the decision to keep East open. We are looking forward to having 2 Pre-K and 2 Kindergarten classes for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Get your teams registered and shirts made for the annual Bowling Fundraiser on March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. Any basket donations would be greatly appreciated.
5. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.
6. Wishing everyone a wonderful winter break!

D. Lido School

1. Registration is open for the 8th Annual Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, March 6th. Please register your teams using this [link](#)! This year we will be donating to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen. Any basket donations would be greatly appreciated.
2. Congratulations to Kara Doherty on her wedding to Daniel Yates!
3. Kindness Week is looking to be an awesome week full of special outfits and activities related to kindness.
4. Congratulations to Raquel Torres-Allen on the announcement of her retirement at the end of the school year.
5. Students listened to stories, read books, and played games on February 5th in celebration of Global Play Day and World Read Aloud Day. A good time was had by all.
6. Condolences to Mary Doheny on the loss of her father, Robert.
7. We are in need of additional PPS personnel to support the increasing needs of our student population.

8. Save the date for our LBCTA End of Year Celebration on Thursday, May 15, 2025.
9. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.
10. Have a happy and restful winter break!

E. LBMS

1. Thank you to Mr. Miller, Mr. Lopez, and PPS staff for the midyear Code of Conduct and Student Support assemblies.
2. Please join us for the 8th Annual Bowling Fundraiser on March 6th at Maple Lanes in RVC. This year we will be raising money for the Gerrin Hagen Foundation.
3. Condolences to Liz Kong on the sudden passing of her husband, Melvyn.
4. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

F. LBHS

1. Thank you to Kyle Swan for your open dialogue and collaboration with building representatives in pursuit of getting a new vending machine in the teacher's cafeteria and for the continued communication with the teacher's cafeteria availability. We greatly appreciate your efforts in bettering the high school!
2. Ms. Michelle LaBarbara is hosting the second annual Students vs Staff Badminton Tournament which will take place on Wednesday, March 12th at LBHS. Please consider signing up or donating as all proceeds will go towards the LBHS Food Pantry.
3. Our condolences to Mrs. Elizabeth Walsh-Bulger on the passing of her stepmother.
4. Be sure to register for the 8th Annual Bowling Fundraiser taking place on Thursday, March 6th. This year's donations will go to the G2H Foundation in memory of Gerrin Hagen.
5. Please consider donating to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Fundraiser. You can find direct links to donate in the 2/7/25 email from Fran Newman.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.
7. Wishing everyone a wonderful winter break!

At 5:28pm, a motion was made by Matthew Hartmann to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by John Marr.

In attendance:

West: Claudine Clark, Julie De Bruin, Anne LaPenna

Lindell: Susan Simons, Cathy Barone, Heather Puckhaber

East: Jeanne Richards, Tamara Sommers, Melissa Zimmerman

Lido: Dorothy Lopez, Molly Drakei

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

LBHS: Stephanie Mena, Matthew Hartmann, Andrew Rossi

Long Beach Teacher Center: John Marr

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

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

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.

Enjoy these benefits

FOR FREE!

NYSUT Member Benefits strongly believes in the importance of making quality benefits easily accessible to the NYSUT membership. You may be interested in the following options:

1. Premium Calm Subscription:

All in-service and retiree members receive unlimited free access to the popular Calm app's full library of sleep, meditation, and relaxation content. Members can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription.

2. Peer Support Line:

Whether you're facing a specific stressful situation or would just like to speak with a supportive voice, this confidential helpline is free to all NYSUT members and their families. Call toll-free 844-444-0152 to connect with a peer.

3. AD&D Insurance Benefit/ Travel Assistance Services:

All in-service and retiree members are automatically provided with a \$5,000 accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit, along with free travel assistance services from AXA Assistance.

4. New Member Life Insurance:

All new members are eligible to receive a free term life insurance policy providing coverage for up to \$25,000 for one year, guaranteed renewable at the end of the year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Member Appreciation Event is back!

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce that Member Appreciation Event will be held this March! This celebration will feature prizes donated by Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers. To be eligible to win, you must be a participant in our MAP Alert email service.

If you're not already a MAP Alert participant, simply scan the QR code, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, or call 800-626-8101 to sign up. You'll then receive weekly updates about endorsed benefits, information about new programs, and be able to take part in special prize drawings such as Member Appreciation Event.

SCAN ME



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Working to Benefit You

January/February 2025

JOIN US FOR A LBCTA / LBSEA FUNDRAISER!

8th Annual

BOWLING FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH

4:00 - 6:00 PM

MAPLE LANES IN RVC

\$40 per person | SCAN TO REGISTER



FOOD | CASH BAR | RAFFLES



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO:

