



# Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

239 Lido Blvd., Long Beach, NY 11561 ~ 516-897-2175 ~ www.lbcta.com

Executive Board Minutes

January 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:17pm by Keith Harvey.

Keith Harvey

*President*

Karen Bloom

*Executive Vice President*

Beth Prostick

*Vice President for*

*Elementary Schools*

Amy Powers

*Vice President for Secondary Schools*

Patricia Van Loon

*Recording Secretary*

Elleen Parks

*Corresponding Secretary*

James Fiola

*Treasurer*

## I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

### A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

1/25/21, 2/8/21, 3/8/21, 3/22/21,  
4/12/21\*, 4/26/21, 5/10/21, 5/24/21,  
6/14/21

### B. 2020 Toy Drive

This year we raised \$2,000 which allowed us to donate toys and money to *Circulo de la Hispanidad*, the *Long Beach MLK Center*, the *Holiday Toy Drive Sponsored by Senator Todd Kaminsky*, in addition to sponsoring 100 gift bags through *The Little St. Nick Foundation* which will be distributed to local hospitals. Thank you very much to all the buildings and individuals that contributed, as well as the elves that helped coordinate and distribute the toys.



### C. LBCTA Sick Bank

Since its inception, almost 400 days have been donated. Unfortunately, there are currently more requests than donations, leaving the bank at a negative balance. Please remember that the bank runs on the generosity of the membership. I hope each of you sees fit to donate at least one day to the bank to ensure its continuation. [Donation form.](#)

### D. Election of Officers and Delegates

In anticipation of this year's election of officers and delegates, we need three volunteers to serve as members of the Board of Elections with one member serving as chairperson. At least one member shall be from the elementary level and at least one member shall be from the secondary level. Please contact me if you are interested.

### E. 2021 LBCTA Scholarship

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. 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

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June 2021. 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 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 12. The evaluation of these applications will take place on Wednesday, March 17 immediately after school. Please contact Pat if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented.

**F. COVID Update**

On Monday, January 4, Governor Cuomo once again shifted the requirements for schools and is no longer requiring schools to go remote once they reached a 9%, 7-day average infection rate. It also appears that he has abandon the concept of yellow and orange zones, and their requirements for in school testing. Although Nassau County has not reached 9%, as of 1/11/21 we were at 8.7%, and Long Island is at 9.6%.

**G. 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, 2021. 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 website- <https://nystrs.org/Retirement-Planning> NYSTRS Number- (800) 348-7298.

**H. Second Chance Retirement Incentive**

I am pleased to announce that the district is offering a “Second Chance” retirement incentive to all those who did not retire when first eligible (generally 55 years old with 30 years of service or members over 62). The district will pay those eligible a one-time payment of \$10,000 and lock-in your health insurance contribution rate for five years in return for an irrevocable letter of resignation. Your letter must be submitted to the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Administration, Dr. Natali, by Friday, January 29, 2021 with an effective retirement date of June 30, 2021. You would also receive 50% of the value of your accumulated sick days up to 200 days if you have at least 15 years of service in the District.

**I. NYSUT Offers Online Guide for a Successful Retirement**

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! A login for NYSUT.org is required to access the online publication.

**J. Empire Health Insurance Rates 2021**

Below are the 2021 monthly rates for health insurance. We contribute 16%.

Empire	2020	2021
Individual	\$1031.82	\$1074.87
Family	\$2387.58	\$2452.24

**K. Sellback of Health Insurance**

If you elect to “sell-back” your health insurance you should have received your first half payment as part of your December 11th paycheck. If you did not receive your payment; call the payroll office at 2088 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.

**L. IRS Mileage Rate 2021**

The IRS has announced the official standard mileage rates for 2021. The standard business mileage rate for transportation expenses paid or incurred as of January 1, is 56 cents per mile.

**M. FICA 2021**

The Social Security Administration recently announced that the maximum earnings subject to Social Security tax will increase from \$137,700 in 2020 to \$142,800 in 2021.

**N. Study Money Dates**

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Money Program: Summer - May 14, 2021. 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](#).



**O. 2021-2022 Calendar**

The 2021-2022 District draft school calendar was discussed by Executive Board.

**P. Federal and State COVID Leave Acts**

Please recognize that Federal relief Acts FFCRA expired on 12/31/20. The State CARES Act is still available.

**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. New Member Committee – Jim Fiola and Alison Katulka**

1. Happy New Year! We are hopeful to have an event this year. We might have to split them into smaller groups, but it would be worth it.
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 do not have a buddy or mentor.** Do not be afraid to ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you. Keep reading the minutes!

**C. Political Action Committee – Jennifer Garrett**

1. Our next meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday, January 20th at 4:30. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to [LBCTAPAC@gmail.com](mailto:LBCTAPAC@gmail.com) so the meeting link can be sent out to you. Even if you cannot make it, please feel free to share your ideas on how LBCTA PAC can better serve our members.
2. Lastly, 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/>

**D. Public Relations – Amy Leder and Beth Prostick**

1. Thank you to those of you who have reached out to Amy or Beth and have already sent ideas to us for our spring virtual fundraiser. We are still brainstorming ideas and will make a decision at our next PR meeting at 4:30pm on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to share your ideas with us. If you would like to be part of the meeting, please email Amy or Beth and we will send you the link information for the meeting.
2. In Cuomo's speech last week, he said that they will begin vaccinating group 1B today. This group consists of teachers and educators. Getting an appointment has already shown to be extremely difficult. For those of you who are finding success getting an appointment, please feel free to share the information with your colleague (and/or email me and Beth) and we can get the information out to people. Here are three links where people have been able to sign up for appointments, however as I type this, I can see that all appointments are full for now.  
<https://apps.health.ny.gov/doh2/applinks/cdmspr/2/counties?OpID=50500543>  
<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov//vaccine>  
<https://vaccinepod.nyc.gov/dashboard>

3. Please see the email we received from Dr. Gallagher on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Good Morning,

It seems that the NYS website is now allowing school staff to schedule vaccine appointments at this site: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

You need to fill out the eligibility form and then it directs you to a menu of sites where the vaccine is being administered. It doesn't appear that many Long Island sites are up yet (and those that are appeared to be full) but keep watching; my bet is that they will continue to add more this week.

I will pass along any additional information I receive as soon as I possibly can.

Jennifer

**E. Social Committee – Elleen Parks**

1. Unfortunately, with social gatherings being limited there are no plans for our end of the year celebration honoring our retirees at this time. We are hopeful that we will be able to plan a gathering in the future.

**F. Teacher Center – John Marr**

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center has received its 2020-2021 grant confirmation. The Center is currently looking for individuals who are interested in running 10 hour professional development classes. If you are interested, please fill out a request on MLP or contact the Director directly at [lbtc@lbeach.org](mailto:lbtc@lbeach.org).

**III. Vice President – Karen Bloom**

- A.** We were happy to hear that the safety of students and staff are being put to the forefront. Although we would love to have our students back full time, while numbers remain high, it seems like the smartest decision to remain hybrid, if at all. As numbers of positive staff members and students continue to rise, we hope that everyone remains vigilant with their safety protocols and that we can continue to work together in this extremely difficult time.

**B. APPR**

1. While we are in person and in the hybrid model, there will be no virtual observations. All procedures will remain in place for our APPR. Virtual observations will be conducted during the 2020-21 school year utilizing the Danielson Rubric for fully virtual classes. Once the administrator visits the virtual classroom for an observation, the administrator will alert the teacher of their presence in the classroom.
2. If we go fully virtual, we will follow the guidelines for the fully virtual classes that are happening now.
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.

**C. Health & Safety Committee**

1. We are still waiting for the latest air quality results from the high school. In addition, we are waiting for the COVID screening questions to be updated to reflect the most recent changes. We would also like to hear any updates on Student IDs at the high school as well as the traffic study!
2. Please continue to keep your building reps aware of any health and safety issues in your buildings so that we can address them as needed.
3. Our next Health and Safety meeting has not yet been scheduled.
4. 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).

**D. Other**

1. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible. They are virtual! So it's easy!

2. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank. The form is on our website at [www.lbcta.com](http://www.lbcta.com).

**IV. Elementary Vice President – Beth Prostick**

1. With the rising number of cases and the recent positive cases being found in our young children, we are concerned about our plan to stay open. We all understand the ideal learning environment takes place in person but we are worried about the repercussions of keeping our elementary schools open in this unstable time.
2. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on January 14, at 4:00 on Zoom. I will send you the link that morning.
3. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.
4. Send me any issues you were unable to work out at your building. I can be reached at [bprostick@lbeach.org](mailto:bprostick@lbeach.org).

**V. Secondary Vice President – Amy Leder**

1. Happy New Year! I am hopeful that, as this year moves forward, we will all feel the comfort that our health and safety regarding the COVID-19 virus will start to improve. It is still so important that we continue to practice social distancing, wear our mask and model this behavior to our students. Thank you for your continued efforts to keep our buildings safe.
2. Please continue to communicate with your building reps and/or me if you have any questions, concerns, or unresolved open issues.

**VI. Treasurer’s Report – James Fiola**

**A. December Financials**

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Union Dues	\$41,524	NYSUT	\$15,444
Retiree Dues	18	AFT	9,155
	\$41,542	Taxes and Ins	7,658
Total		Meeting Exp	446
		Officer & Rep	26,135
		Stipends	
		Donations	300
		Dues	50
		Total	\$59,266

- B.** Happy New Year everyone! Thank you \_\_\_\_\_ to all who donated to the Toy Drive. Many worked hard to make it a big success. Please consider donating a sick day to the sick day bank and virtually attend an upcoming School Board Meeting. Thank you for reading the minutes and please encourage your fellow members to do the same.
- C.** **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).**
- D.** Union dues for 2020/2021 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. 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.

**VII. Building Reports**

**a. LBVE**

1. Welcome back and Happy New Year to all.
2. Thank you again to everyone who supported the LBCTA Holiday Gift Drive.
3. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank.

**B. West School**

1. Welcome back and Happy New Year!
2. Congratulations to Marlene Dougherty on the birth of her grandson, Ryan!
3. Condolences to Maryann Hommel and family on the passing of her mother-in-law, Diane Hommel.
4. Thank you to all who donated money to the LBCTA Toy Drive.
5. Thank you to our PTA for our VIRTUAL Book Fair. The site was easy to access.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to the sick bank.

**C. Lindell School**

1. Welcome back and Happy 2021!!
2. The donations made to the LBCTA Toy Drive were greatly appreciated.
3. Thank you to students and faculty dressed in blue and white to celebrate Spirit Day.
4. Congratulations to TerriAnn Eidt on her engagement!
5. Thank you to teachers and staff for successfully coordinating parent teacher conferences virtually due to the COVID closure.
6. Please consider donating a sick day to our district sick bank.

**D. East School**

1. Welcome back to staff, students and families. We are looking forward to a bright, promising 2021.
2. Thank you to all those who donated to the Toy Drive.
3. Condolences to Julianne Croutier on the loss of her grandfather.
4. Condolences to Debbie Posey on the loss of her sister.
5. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick bank.

**E. Lido School**

1. Happy New Year 2021 to all!
2. Welcome back to Michelle Root!
3. Congratulations to Victoria Stanishia on her recent engagement.
4. Congratulations to Terriann Eidt on her recent engagement.
5. Gr 3 - 5 teachers are thankful for the additional Chromebooks in their classrooms. They are very helpful for instructional purposes.
6. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

**F. Pre-K**

1. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Toy Drive! Together we collected over \$2,000 for children in need in our community! Well done!!
2. Thank you to our building staff for helping keep our buildings clean and safe.
3. Our sick bank is in need of sick days to be donated. Please consider donating a sick day to our LBCTA sick bank.
4. Happy and healthy New Year!

**G. Middle School**

1. Happy New Year!
2. Thank you to the Building Administration, Mary King, Liz McMahon, and Melissa Hartman for their continued handling of the contact tracing. We appreciate all of your time and effort going into this.
3. Thank you to EVERYONE for all continued efforts to follow health and safety protocols. Please remember these protocols are keeping us safe.
4. Thank you to our student performers and faculty who spread holiday cheer with their amazing virtual winter concert videos. WE continue to be impressed with your talent and dedication.

5. A special thank you to Mr. Biesma and all that helped to plan and organize a holiday bulletin board decorating contest during the month of December. The contest raised holiday and school spirit building wide. Congratulations to all of our winners!
6. Welcome back to Kate Coners.
7. Get well wishes to Lorie Beard.
8. 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.

#### **H. High School**

1. Welcome back and Happy New Year!
2. Condolences to Pat Fallon on the loss of her brother.
3. Thank you to the Building Administration for accommodating teachers who needed to work from home during parts of December due to quarantine-related issues.
4. Thank you to the Building Administration for handling the contact tracing that goes along with suspected cases.
5. Cleaning logs for each classroom are displayed in each classroom. Cleaners should be signing the log to indicate that the room has been cleaned and disinfected pursuant to the cleaning checklist. Staff members whose log is not being signed should notify the head custodian and CC Mr. Myers.
6. COVID testing and quarantine rules are constantly changing. Each situation will be handled on a case by case basis. If you should have any questions regarding your need to get tested or whether you need to quarantine, please contact Dr. Natali. If you prefer to have a building representative contact Dr. Natali, please let one know.
7. Staff would like to see the district require students to wear student ID cards during the school day.
8. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA sick day bank.
9. Thank you to EVERYONE for all of your efforts to follow health and safety protocols. Please remember these protocols are keeping us safe.

At 5:35 pm, a motion was made by Stacey Mason to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jim Fiola.

#### **In Attendance:**

**Long Beach Virtual Elementary (LBVE):** Heather Puckhaber

**West:** Claudine Clark, Cheryleann Fontenot, Anne La Penna

**Lindell:** Susan Simons, Cathleen Barone, Lisa Rundo

**East:** Jeanne Richards, Jennifer Diamond, Jennifer Maggio

**Lido:** Dorothy Lopez, Diana Armada

**Pre-K:** Molly Drake

**LBMS:** Lauren Behan, Alison Katulka, Stacey Mason, Kaitlin Smith

**LBHS:** Jonathan Bloom, Anthony Balsamo, Lisa Casey, Matthew Hartmann, Greg Milone

**Long Beach Teacher Center (LBTC):**

**Retiree:**

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

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WRITTEN

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

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