



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

322 Lagoon Dr. W., Lido Beach, NY 11561 • (516)897-2175 • www.lbcta.com

President
Karen Bloom

Vice President for Elementary Schools
Jennifer Maggio

Recording Secretary
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Jennifer Garrett

Vice President for Secondary Schools
Matthew Hartmann

Corresponding Secretary
Tamara Sommers

Treasurer
Jonathan Bloom

Executive Board Minutes

September 15, 2025

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

I. President's Report - Karen Bloom

A. Welcome Back to the 2025-2026 School Year

Thank you all, and congratulations on an outstanding start to the school year! Your commitment and hard work have not gone unnoticed and continue to make a meaningful impact on the Long Beach community and the success of our students. I'd also like to express my sincere appreciation to our administrators and SRP staff for their essential role in ensuring a smooth and successful opening. As I begin my second year as President, I'm truly grateful to be working alongside such a dedicated and exceptional team of officers and reps, especially as we head into a negotiations year! I would also like to congratulate Dr. Fran Newman, Richard Rogers, and Sarah Scully as they step into their new roles: Director of Instructional Support, Director of Social Studies, Business, FACS, and Work Based Learning, and Special Education Coordinator, respectively. We're excited for a successful and collaborative school year ahead!

B. Executive Board Meeting Dates 2025-2026

9/15/25	11/24/25	1/12/26	3/9/26	5/11/26
10/27/25	12/8/25	2/9/26	4/27/26	6/8/26

C. Pay Dates 2025-2026

Below is a list of this year's pay dates. Please note that this year will be a 21.5 payment year for those choosing 21/21.5 payments.

9/12/25- No Direct Deposit	1/2/26	4/24/26
9/26/25	1/16/26	5/8/26
10/10/25	1/30/26- No Deductions	5/22/26
10/24/25	2/13/26	6/5/26
11/7/25	2/27/26	6/18/26- Thursday Payday
11/21/25	3/13/26	6/26/26- No deductions except for 26 pay option
12/5/25	3/27/26	
12/19/25	4/10/26	

D. Club Pay Dates

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

E. Coaching Pay Dates 2025-26

High School

Fall: First Check: 9/26, Second Check: 10/24

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

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

Middle School

Fall: First Check: 9/26, Second Check: 10/24

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

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

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

F. NYSUT Trainings & Workshops

Your Officers & Building Reps were busy over the summer attending a variety of workshops in order to prepare for the upcoming year. In early July, we were able to bring a Team of Officers to NYSUTS' 3-Day Negotiations Workshop. A huge thank you to Jenn Garrett, Matt Hartmann, Patty Van Loon, Tamara Sommers and Jonathan Bloom for taking the time to participate in the workshop. We found it extremely helpful and we were able to spend some quality time with each other and Lloyd Berko, our LRS!

In addition, we had an awesome turnout for the Building Rep 1 & 2 workshops as well! Thank you to the following reps and officers who were able to take the time to attend: Tim Cabasino, Emily Ciavarella, Claudine Clark, Jenn Garrett, Matt Hartmann, Jenn Maggio, Carina Morales-Hauser, Billy Papetti, Sue Simons, Tamara Sommers, Erica Yoo, and Melissa Zimmerman.

G. LBCTA Committees

As discussed on Superintendent's Conference Day, we will be asking members to consider joining an LBCTA committee. We are looking to increase our member involvement, so please do your best to encourage participation! The following five committees will be open for members to join: Grievance Committee, Public Relations Committee, Political Action Committee, Social Committee and Membership Committee. Keep your eyes out for an email in late September that will have the descriptions, meeting dates and a sign up.

H. District Committees

We are still waiting on the dates for this year's committees. There should be an email coming out this week with the committees and their meeting dates for the year. It is important to have our voices heard and that we have representation on all committees. Please consider joining one this year.

I. NYSUT Leadership Training

I'm pleased to announce that registration is now open for the Nassau Regional Office's fall workshop series. In addition to the workshops, on September 29th NYSUT will be holding an Open House to see the NEW Nassau Regional Office (NRO) in Garden City! Please stop by for light refreshments and walk around the new space.

NYSUT will be holding workshops and conferences throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Here is the link to register: [NYSUT Fall Workshops](#). To streamline the registration process, this year there will be one link that allows you to register for all workshops at once, selecting the ones you wish to attend. Registration for all workshops will close on **Friday, October 3, 2025**.

- **Family Forward – Advocating for Paid Family Leave**
Tuesday, October 7, 2025 (4pm – 6:00pm)
- **Bargaining Basics for Negotiating Team Members**
Wednesday, October 8, 2024 (4pm – 6:00pm)
- **How to Manage Your Membership Records & NYSUT Billing**
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 (4pm – 6pm)
- **Workplace Violence Prevention Act**
Tuesday, October 21, 2025 (4pm – 7pm)
- **Union Rep. Intensive**
Tuesday, October 28, 2025 (4pm – 8pm)
- **Managing Local Union Finances**
Wednesday, November 5, 2025 (5pm – 7pm)
- **Current Trends in Teacher Bargaining**
Thursday, November 6, 2025 (4pm -- 6pm)
- **Newsletter Workshop: Using Your Newsletter to Engage Members and Build Power**
Wednesday, November 12, 2025 (4pm – 6pm)
- **Seniority/Probationary vs. Tenure**
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 (4pm – 6pm)
- **Education Law/Discipline/Discharge**
Tuesday, December 2, 2025 (4pm – 6pm)
- **Grievance Administration**
Tuesday, December 16, 2025 (4pm – 6pm)
- **Running an Effective Meeting**
Wednesday, December 17, 2025 (4pm – 6pm)

To the right of each workshop listed, you will notice how many seats are remaining. Once a workshop reaches the set capacity, you'll have the option to be added to the waitlist. If it is a workshop you wanted to attend, please join the waitlist! The size of the waitlist will help to determine if NYSUT can add seats or look to add an additional date for a particular workshop to accommodate demand.

J. Mandated Reporting: GCN

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

K. Mandated Reporting: Child Abuse Training

In accordance with the Section 413 of the Social Services Law, as amended by the Laws of 2024, the mandated Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Maltreatment/Neglect coursework has been updated to include the addition of guidance on identifying an abused or maltreated child when such child is an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability. The amended law further requires all mandated reporters, including all certified educators, to complete the new, updated workshop. Accordingly, 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**. Once we receive guidance from Dr. Natali, I will be sure to include it in my report.

L. Sexual Harassment Training

The mandates and requirements under the law, as they pertain to the LBCTA Executive Board were explained and reviewed.

M. NYS Paid Sick Leave

For your information, NYS is no longer offering Paid Sick Leave for COVID. So, please be aware that you will need to use sick days moving forward.

N. Cancer Screening

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

O. Study Money- Fall 9/26/25, Winter 12/12/25, and Summer 5/15/26

Applications to participate in the fall Study Money program should be received by the HR department by September 27th. 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. Work Related Travel

If you are assigned to more than one building per day or attend a pre-approved out of district conference or meeting you are entitled to a travel stipend. The 2025 reimbursement rate is 70 cents per mile. Travel claims should be submitted to your direct supervisor for verification and signature. A list of dates and miles driven must be attached to your claim. For travel within the district a mile chart has been created and available on the Association's website. [Mileage Chart Link](#)

Q. Conference Funds

Funds are available for you to attend pre-approved conferences outside the district. The maximum allocation per conference is \$500. Meals are reimbursed at the following rates: \$20 (breakfast), \$20 (lunch), and \$40 (dinner) per day IF NOT covered by the conference fees, plus tax and reasonable (15%-18%) gratuities. For one-day local conferences, lunch is the only reimbursable meal. Receipts for all meals must accompany your claim form. You will also be reimbursed for travel at the rate of 70 cents per mile plus tolls or the actual cost of public transportation. Please keep in mind that the \$500 limit is inclusive of meals and transportation.

R. Packing and Unpacking

Teachers who are moving and/or packing due to an alternative use of their room or a room transfer shall be paid \$27.77 per hour up to a maximum of 4 hours. The work must be done outside of the school day and a record kept of the dates and times.



S. Eyeglass Reimbursement

We are in year two of a two-year cycle for eyeglass/contact purchases. Members have \$400 to spend on glasses/contacts. Plus, such coverage may be used for the member and their family. Completed [claim forms](#) with receipts attached must be sent to the HR department in Administration.



T. NYSUT Pocket Calendars 2025-2026

The 2025-2026 NYSUT pocket calendars are in! If you would like a 2025-2026 NYSUT pocket calendar, please contact your Senior Building representative.

II. Committee Reports

A. Negotiations - Karen Bloom

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

B. Grievance Committee - Jennifer Garrett

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.

C. New Members - Alison Katulka

1. Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer break.
2. Welcome to our newest members of the LBCTA. It was a pleasure meeting most of you at the new teacher orientation.
3. If you are a tenured teacher and a member of the LBCTA, you can be a buddy to a new member. Please email Ali Katulka (akatulka@lbeach.org) for information about our buddy program.
4. Thank you to our building reps for helping us with the buddy pairing process. We encourage each of you to consider being a buddy if you are not one already.
5. Save the Date! November 7th will be our Fall New Member gathering at EGP Land & Sea.

D. Political Action Committee - Jennifer Garrett

1. Welcome Back!
2. The LBCTA has been actively working with NYSUT and the Long Island Against Charter Schools Committee to advocate for greater fiscal accountability in charter schools. The campaign aims to raise awareness among members, school boards, and communities about the harmful impact charter schools can have on public education. The next phase of the campaign involves forming a **Speakers Bureau** to amplify our message. Trained speakers will attend BOE meetings and meet with elected officials to discuss how charter expansion affects our schools.
Ali Katulka and I attended a speaker training on August 25 in Hauppauge. While the session was valuable and informative, its timing and location made it difficult for many members in our area to attend.
To support broader participation, the **LBCTA will be hosting a second training session** for interested members of the LBCTA and nearby locals:

Date: Wednesday, October 8

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Middle School Library, Multi-Purpose Room

RSVP to lbctapac@gmail.com.

I hope to see you there!

3. PAC, in collaboration with the PR Committee and our webmaster, is hard at work preparing the next edition of the LBCTA Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 1. It will be arriving in your mailbox soon, filled with the latest news, updates, and highlights you won't want to miss.

If you have any ideas for topics or features you'd like to see in future issues, please email LBCTAPAC@gmail.com with your personal email.



fixtier6.org/ft6

4. **Help Fix Tier 6!** NYSUT is committed to the Fix Tier 6 campaign to fight for a fair and dignified retirement for all public employees. Fixing Tier 6 is key to retaining experienced educators and attracting new talent to our schools. We're calling on **all members** to join NYSUT's Tier 6 Fix-It Team movement by scanning the QR code provided. Also, please consider joining our **LBCTA Fix Tier 6 Team** by emailing lbctapac@gmail.com. Together, we can raise our voices and advocate for the secure, dignified retirement every educator has earned and deserves.
5. **Stay Connected with PAC** - To ensure timely updates, we need accurate contact information for all members. If you're new to the district or have changed your email, please send your current **personal** email to lbctapac@gmail.com so we can update our list. Thank you for helping us stay connected!
6. Please follow us on Instagram @LongBeachClassroomTeachers.
7. If you have ideas on how the LBCTA PAC can better support our members, we'd love to hear from you. Please send your suggestions to LBCTAPAC@gmail.com.



E. Public Relations Committee - Jennifer Maggio and Matthew Hartmann

1. Welcome Back!
2. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer



Music Bingo QR Code

- a) **Music Bingo Fundraiser** - Team NYSUT Nassau LBCTA and LBSEA Team 11561 is back! We are kicking off our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer events with our Music Bingo Fundraiser held October 9th at Riko's Pizza in Merrick! All proceeds will go to Team NYSUT Nassau LBCTA and LBSEA Team 11561 for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Campaign. Registration is open and spaces are filling up! Scan the QR code to reserve your spot or click [here](#) for the registration form.
- b) **Wear Pink** - This will be followed by our PINK OUT DAY on Friday, October 17th. Please show your support in the fight against breast cancer by wearing pink or your favorite Team 11561 shirt.
- c) **The Walk** - The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk will take place on Sunday, October 19, 2025 at Jones Beach.
- d) **Donation Link** - Also, our Donation Link remains open! As always, we are overwhelmed by everyone's generosity and support towards reaching our goal. Thank you to everyone who has already donated.



Donation Link

3. Please follow Long Beach Classroom Teachers on Instagram.
4. Save the Date! Our LBCTA 9th annual bowling event will be held on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes in RVC. More information will be available soon.

F. Social Committee - Tamara Sommers

1. Welcome back and hope everyone had a great start to the school year! I am looking forward to working with everyone and hope to bring members together this year.

2. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members. Old members please consider being a buddy to one of our new members.
3. I'd like to encourage all members to consider joining a union committee and participating in events throughout the year.
4. Please save the date for our first new member gathering event on November 7th at EGP.

G. Long Beach Teacher Center - John Marr

1. The Long Beach Teacher Center welcomes all of our educators back. Over the summer the Center added banner roll paper and can now print 16X20 digital PDF or Canva files. There is currently no cost for this service. If you would like a poster in your room, please email the file to the director with your school location and we will interoffice the poster when it is finished.
2. If you are interested in running a PD course through the district, the Center pays \$800 for a 10 hour class. Please contact the Director at LBTC@lbeach.org and we can help you develop and run the class.

III. Executive Vice President's Report - Jennifer Garrett

- A. Welcome back! Thank you to everyone who helped ensure a smooth and successful start to the school year. Your dedication and commitment do not go unnoticed and are deeply appreciated. A special shoutout to our custodial staff and buildings and grounds teams. Your hard work in preparing our schools made all the difference.
- B. Congratulations and a warm welcome to Dr. Fran Newman, Richard Rogers, and Sarah Scully as they begin their new roles as Director of Instructional Support, Director of Social Studies, Business, FACS, and Work Based Learning, and Special Education Coordinator. We look forward to a successful and collaborative school year working together!

C. APPR → STEPS Update

1. We are currently negotiating a new professional performance plan under the updated Standards-based Educator Evaluation and Professional Support (STEPS) guidelines. While discussions continue, Administration has agreed that no formal observations will take place before October 1st.
We remain hopeful for a successful renegotiation and improving our current plan. If no agreement is reached in time, the existing plan will remain in effect until a new one is finalized. Regardless, adjustments will be made to remove student performance as an evaluation factor, in accordance with the new state guidelines.
Please note that you will no longer receive a composite score, as these were part of the previous evaluation system.
2. You should be receiving a notification shortly identifying your evaluators for this school year. If you do not receive this information, please reach out to your immediate supervisor.
3. We encourage you to actively participate in the observation and evaluation process. Our evaluation system is based on the Danielson Framework, which focuses on observable, research-based best practices. Evaluations should be evidence-based, not opinion-based. Please share any concerns during your post-observation conferences.
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.

D. Health & Safety Committee

1. Air quality testing was conducted in all buildings by J.C. Broderick over the past school year. We appreciate the district's continued commitment to prioritizing the health and safety of staff and students. The results identified only a few areas of concern, all of which were addressed and remediated. If you have any questions about the testing or results, please see your building principal or feel free to contact me directly.
2. While we appreciate the progress made through the summer on capital projects at the Lido Complex, several concerns have been raised. The late completion of the work left little to no time for our custodial staff to clean and prepare the building for the start of school. As a result, many teachers were unable to access their classrooms in time to adequately set up for the new school year.

Teachers returned to find classrooms covered in construction dust, with furniture and boxes piled high. Some personal classroom items were damaged or even discarded. This included irreplaceable materials such as cultural artifacts from world language classrooms and a multi-year photo collage of team field trips. Teachers would have removed these items if given the opportunity.

Additionally, the delayed completion of construction left some aspects of the project incomplete. The new HVAC units had not been configured, causing the units to circulate what felt like warm air into already warm rooms and resulting in inconsistent temperatures throughout the building.

Technicians worked to finalize the project; however, since school was already in session, remaining tasks had to be completed outside of regular hours. We are optimistic that the new units will be fully installed and the system will be functioning as intended very soon.

Thank you to our custodial staff for their hard work and flexibility in addressing these challenges. Your efforts in the face of difficult conditions are truly appreciated.

3. Workplace Violence Prevention

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.

Additionally, the district added the Workplace Violence Prevention Module to the GCN platform.

If you experience a workplace violence incident, the reporting form is available on the district website under **Staff Resources > Health and Safety**. Once completed, the form should be submitted to Mr. Devito and shared with me at

LBCTAexecutivevp@gmail.com.

All submitted forms and previous findings from our Workplace Violence Risk Assessment are carefully reviewed, and we will actively pursue any necessary remediation across our buildings.

We look forward to working with Administration regarding updates to workplace violence protocols, specifically the teacher training component.

4. Please take a moment to confirm that your classroom phone is functioning properly. If you encounter any issues, notify your main office or a building representative as soon as possible.

5. The first Health & Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for October 20th at 11:00 AM via Zoom.
6. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at LBCTAexecutiveVP@gmail.com.

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

- A. Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer to recharge. I hope the start to the 2025-2026 school year has been an enjoyable one. I'm assuming our buses are off to a great start too since I haven't heard from anyone about that.
- B. I would like to welcome all our new teachers and staff. I would also like to welcome our new - and returning - elementary building representatives.
 1. At Lido, we have Dana coming back , and two new building reps, Emily and Erica. Thank you Justin Sulsky for being an alternate.
 2. At East School, Jeanne Richards and Melissa Zimmerman are returning. Thank you Eileen Bauer, for being an alternate.
 3. At Lindell, we have our returning crew Sue, Heather and while not a former rep from Lindell she was a building rep at East, Melissa Canner. I love that we have three alternates at Lindell - Molly, Cathy and Stephanie.
 4. And last, but not least, West has three returning building reps Claudine, Annie and Julie. Thank you Chelsey Blum - for being an alternate.

I look forward to working closely with all of you.

- C. October is going to be a fun, busy month for the LBCTA. Please sign up for the Music Bingo event on Thursday, October 9th from 4 - 6:30 pm at Riko's Pizza in Merrick. This is the LBCTA fundraiser for the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk.
- D. The district wide "Pink Out" Day will be Friday, October 17th.
- E. The annual Making Strides Walk at Jones Beach is Sunday, October 19th.
- F. I would like to thank everyone in payroll who worked tirelessly to make sure those teachers who are supposed to get Longevity in their first paycheck did. We had many happy teachers on Friday and they deserve to know that!
- G. Our first Elementary Council meeting will be Monday, September 29, at 4:00. We will meet at East School in the library (2nd floor).
- H. I would like to thank all the reps who work hard to keep me in the loop as to happenings in your buildings. Please continue to email me - especially any issues that you are unable to work out. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at jmaggio@lbeach.org.

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

- A. Welcome back! I would like to extend a special welcome to our new teachers and building reps. We look forward to working with you!
- B. Welcome to those in new administrative positions: Dr. Andrew Smith - High School Principal; Christopher Webel - High School Vice Principal; Richard Rogers - Director of Social Studies, Business, FACS, and Work Based Learning; Sara Scully - Special Education Coordinator; and Dr. Francine Newman - Director of Instructional Support. We look forward to working with you.
- C. Your Building Reps are here to answer any questions or assist you with any issues/concerns you may have. HS Reps. are: Tim Cabasino - Senior Rep., Lisa Casey, Ronnie Destio, Camila Gamboa, Carina Morales Hauser, Greg Milone, and Andy Rossi. MS Reps. are: Billy Papetti - Senior Rep., Dan D'Dottavio, Ali Katulka, John Marr, and Kerri Rehnback.
- D. Global Compliance is due December 12, 2025.

- E. Please consider volunteering to serve on a district committee. It is important we have member representatives on each of the committees to make our voices heard! Stay tuned for Dr. Gallagher's email for the list of committees, their meeting dates, and how to sign up.
- F. Thank you to our members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Day Bank. Please consider donating to our sick bank if you have not done so already.
- G. If you have any unresolved issues from last year or current questions/concerns, please reach out to me at lbctasecondaryvp@gmail.com.

VI. Treasurer's Report - Jonathan Bloom

- A. Welcome Back to All! A special welcome to all of the new teachers and staff and to our building reps. I hope that you all had a relaxing summer and wish everyone a wonderful school year.

B. Financial Reports

June 2025		July/August 2025	
<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	
Union Dues	\$43,161.02		
Payroll Refund	\$223.86		
Vote Cope	\$2,638.40		
Total	\$46,023.28	Total	\$0
<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
NYSUT Dues	\$16,174.63	NYSUT Dues	\$16,337.45
AFT Dues	\$9,685.13	AFT Dues	\$9,791.97
Officer & Building Rep Stipends	\$29,000.81	Legacy Award	\$500.00
Payroll Taxes	\$9,121.50	Newspaper Ad	\$499.00
Training	\$731.86	Election Website Subscription	\$31.94
PAC Spring Newsletter	\$3,869.34	Gift Cards	\$17.32
Newspaper Ads	\$889.00	Meeting Expense	\$496.98
Retirees Assoc. Dues	\$363.00	New Teacher Orientation	\$347.80
Payroll Fee	\$495.32	Works Comp. Ins.	\$22.50
EOY Party Supplies	\$187.43	Payroll Quarterly Taxes	\$45.00
Telephone	\$138.54	Disability Insurance	\$237.27
Meeting Expense	\$76.03		
DJ Deposit - Music Bingo	\$500.00		
Election Website Subscription	\$63.88		
Workers Comp	\$22.50		
TALAT Costs	\$47.22		
Total	\$71,361.81	Total	\$28,327.23

- C. Union dues for 2025/2026 for full-time members will be \$1,062.16 The breakdown is \$407 for local dues, \$402 for NYSUT dues, \$245.16 for AFT dues and \$8 for PTA membership. \$106.21 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column "Dues-Teachers". We are determined to keep your dues as low as possible while still meeting our local obligations and making charitable contributions to the Long Beach community.

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Welcome back to a new school year!
2. Congratulations to Chelsea Blum on her marriage to Tom.

3. Condolences to Laura Borawski on the loss of her mother-in-law, Patricia Borawski.
4. Welcome to new and returning members of our West School family: Jean McKeon, Sydney Caven, Marisa D'Angelo, Gabriella Febrizio, Hannah Jean.
5. Thank you to our custodial staff for getting the building ready for students and staff.
6. Thank you to the West PTA for their help with the Kindergarten and Pre-K playdates.
7. Please join us and [sign up](#) for Music Bingo Thursday, October 9th 4:00 at Riko's of Merrick. Proceeds go to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.
8. Please join us in wearing pink on our annual Pink Out Day on October 17th and consider joining us at the Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach on October 19th..
9. Thank you to all who have donated to the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser. Please consider donating to Team 11561, if you haven't already.
10. As per Article VIII, Section 4. A. of the LBCTA Constitution I am appointing Chelsea Blum and Nicole Petrullo as alternate reps for the 2025-26 school year.

B. Lindell School

1. Welcome back to the 2025-2026 school year!
2. Thank you to Scott and the custodial staff for having our building clean and ready for our students and staff to begin this new school year!
3. Welcome Rebecca Wertling as our new Assistant Principal.
4. We welcome Molly Drake (Pre-K), Grace O'Rourke (1st grade), Kayla Connolly (2nd Grade), Alexis Kichten (Romero's Maternity leave), Cassin Loughry (Per. Sub.), Nora Strecker (Psychologist), Hannah Jean (Guidance Counselor), Priscilla Edwards (ENL), and Jaden Garelle (PE/Health) to our Lindell family.
5. Many thanks to the Lindell PTA for a fantastic Family Fun Night.
6. Congratulations to Christina Romero on the birth of her son, Joseph Anthony.
7. Congratulations to Jessica Kappauf on the birth of her son, James Charles.
8. Congratulations to Dana Runfolo on the birth of her daughter, Reagan Rose.
9. Congratulations to Katrina Rossi-Fuchs on the birth of her daughter, Faye Marie Fuchs.
10. Please join us and [sign up](#) for Music Bingo Thursday, October 9th 4:00 at Riko's of Merrick. Proceeds go to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.
11. Please join us in wearing pink on our annual Pink Out Day on October 17th and consider joining us at the Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach on October 19th. Details to come.
12. Thank you to all who have donated to the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser. Please consider donating to Team 11561 if you haven't already.
13. Wishing everyone a successful new school year!

C. East School

1. Welcome back to the 2025-2026 school year. We hope everyone had a restful summer and is ready for a great year.
2. Thank you so much to all of the custodians for working so hard to have the building ready for students, everyone was excited to see the new paint job on the 1st floor!
3. Thank you to the PTA for the welcome back breakfast for the teachers and staff, it was greatly appreciated.

4. Welcome to Mollie Fitzgerald, our new nurse, Holly McAvoy, our new permanent sub, Mallorie Siccone, our part time social worker and Hannah Jean, elementary school counselor.
5. Our condolences to Tasha Phillips on the loss of her mother.

D. Lido School

1. Welcome back to everyone to the start of another school year!
2. Thank you to the entire custodial staff for getting Lido School ready for the start of the school year.
3. Welcome to our new assistant principal, Lindsay Voight! We look forward to working with you to continue making Lido amazing!
4. Congratulations and a warm welcome to the following on their new assignments to Lido Elementary this school year: Ms. Dempsey- 5th Grade, Ms. Szymendera- 3rd Grade, Ms. Tamborello- Art, Ms. Ricardo- Nurse, Ms. Fauth- PreK School Psychologist, Mrs. Yates- PreK, Ms. Jean- Guidance, Ms. Muratori- Permanent Substitute, and Ms. Zassman- Permanent Substitute.
5. Welcome back Ms. LaMarca and Ms. Megias!
6. Congratulations Michelle Root on her new home!
7. Congratulations to Jess Risso on her marriage!
8. Condolences to Jean Kushel on the loss of her brother, Robert Butcher Jr.
9. Congratulations to Matt DeFranco on the birth of his son, Leo Dominick DeFranco!
10. Congratulations to Yessica Reyes on the birth of her daughter, Fabia Skye Amaya Reyes!
11. Condolences to Christine Toppi on the loss of her mother, Marie Bulone.
12. We send out our full support to the changes in leadership at LBCTA: Dr. Jennifer Garrett (VP), Matthew Hartman (VP of Secondary Schools), and Tamara Sommers, (Corresponding Secretary).
13. Thank you to the Lido PTA for a great Back to School event. A great time was had by all!
14. Please [join us](#) for Music Bingo on Thursday, October 9th from 4-6:30 pm at Riko's of Merrick. All proceeds will go to Making Strides.
15. In support of the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, please **wear PINK on Friday, 10/ 17 /25 to show your solidarity.**
16. Please save the date for our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on the Jones Beach Boardwalk on Sunday, October 19, 2025. Join Team LBCTA & LBSEA 11561 and please consider making a donation for a worthy cause.
17. The New Member Fall Gathering will be held on November 7th at EGP Land and Sea. All new members welcome!
18. Save the date for our Bowling Fundraiser on Thursday, February 26th at Maple Lanes.
19. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating a day.

E. LBMS

1. Welcome back to the 2025-2026 school year! We hope you had a great summer to relax and recharge.
2. Thank you to Fawwas Persaud, the entire custodial staff, and everyone else involved in getting the building prepared for the opening of school.

3. Welcome to our new faculty members: Alexander Austein (Theatre/Permanent Sub), Sam Tamborello (Art Leave), Danielle Callahan (Permanent Sub), Marissa D'Angelo (Permanent Sub).
4. Best wishes to Sandra Hnis on her retirement.
5. Thank you to Mike Callahan, husband of Danielle Callahan, for creating the amazing LBMS mural outside the cafeteria.
6. Congratulations to Caroline Espinet on receiving tenure!
7. Congratulations to Mike Vasikauskas on being appointed to a probationary social studies position.
8. Congratulations to Krystal Ferraro on the birth of her daughter, Kaia!
9. Congratulations to Richard Rogers on his appointment to Director of Social Studies, Business, FACS, and Work Based Learning. We look forward to working together.
10. While we appreciate the progress made through the summer on capital projects at the Lido Complex, several concerns have been raised.
 - a) The late completion of the work left little to no time for our custodial staff to clean and prepare the building for the start of school. As a result, many teachers were unable to access their classrooms in time to adequately set up for the new school year.
 - b) Teachers returned to find classrooms covered in construction dust, with furniture and boxes piled high. Some personal classroom items were damaged or even discarded as trash. This included irreplaceable materials such as cultural artifacts from world language classrooms and a multi-year photo collage of team field trips. Teachers would have removed these items if they had been given the opportunity.
 - c) Additionally, the delayed completion of construction left some aspects of the project incomplete. The new HVAC units had not been configured, causing the units to circulate what felt like warm air into already warm rooms and resulting in inconsistent temperatures throughout the building.
 - d) Technicians worked to finalize the project; however, since school was already in session, remaining tasks had to be completed outside of regular hours. We are optimistic that the new units will be fully installed and the system will be functioning as intended very soon.
 - e) Thank you to our custodial staff for their hard work and flexibility in addressing these challenges. Your efforts in the face of difficult conditions are truly appreciated.
11. Please [join us](#) for an evening of Music Bingo from 4:00PM - 6:30PM at Riko's in Merrick on Thursday, October 9.
12. Reminder: Friday, October 17 will be our annual Pink Out for Making Strides. Please wear Team 11561 apparel, or anything pink to show your support for Making Strides.
13. Please save the date for our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on the Jones Beach Boardwalk on Sunday, October 19, 2025. Join Team LBCTA and please consider making a [donation](#) for a worthy cause.



F. LBHS

1. Welcome back to all returning and new staff for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - a) Welcome Dr. Smith and Mr. Webel as our new Principal and VP.
 - b) Congratulations to Rich Rogers on his new position as Director of Social Studies, Business, Work-Based Learning and FACS.
 - c) Thank you Dr. Newman for your years of service at LBHS. Congratulations on your new position as Director of Instructional Support.
 - d) Congratulations to Kristen Ford on her new role as the Wellness Center Teacher at The Well (a student-based wellness center). We look forward to watching The Well continue to grow intentionally while meeting the evolving needs of our students and school community.
2. A special welcome to our new staff:
Joseph Migliano – Math/SPED Teacher, Michael Speziale – Social Studies/SPED Teacher, Corinne Schmid – Math Teacher, Alexander Austein– Theater Teacher, Thomas Morris – SPED Teacher, Sam Fiallos – World Language Teacher, Julie Lefing – Library Clerk, Jessica Kwasnik – Permanent Substitute, Mason Benvenuto – TA (SPED), Joseph Malizia- Chemistry Leave replacement
We are wishing you a successful school year!
3. Welcome to LBHS to our transfer staff: Dr. Kate Smith – Reading, Kirstyn Golden – School Counselor, Julie Gobetz – Science
4. Congratulations to Dr. Julia Budassi on the birth of her son, Oliver, Jeannie O'Shea-Saroka on the birth of her daughter, Margaret, and Lorraine Levchenko on the birth of her son Theodore (Teddy). All mothers and babies are happy and healthy!
5. Thank you to Chris Genduso, our custodial, buildings & grounds staff for getting our building ready for the school year and for being so attentive these first few weeks of school.
6. Thank you to Orlando Garcia and the staff at Allied Universal Security for keeping our schools safe; ensuring our lockdown on 9/10 went smoothly.
7. Thank you to Kyle Swan and the workers at Food & Nutrition services for making and providing food for all students and staff in the district. We appreciate what you do on a daily basis.
8. Thank you to the Administration and Deans for their diligence with enforcing the NYS cell phone policy. We appreciate your presence in the hallways and ensuring a smooth start of the school year. We also want to thank you for your open dialogue with the building representatives.
9. Please consider [attending](#) Music Bingo to raise funds for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on October 9th, 2025 @ Riko's Pizza in Merrick.
10. October 17th 2025, is Pink Out Day. Please wear pink or your favorite 11561 shirt and purchase tickets for our 50/50 to support Making Strides against Breast Cancer.
11. Please save the date for our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on the Jones Beach Boardwalk on Sunday, October 19, 2025.
12. Wishing everyone a happy and successful school year!

VIII. New Business

A. Legacy Fund Award

We presented Frank Volpe with the NYSUT Legacy Fund Award, and he will be featured in NYSUT United at some point in the fall! We will also be making a presentation at the End of the Year Party in May! Congratulations Frank!

At 5:28pm, a motion was made by Dan D'Ottavio to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Dana Monti.

In attendance:

West: Claudine Clark, Julie de Bruin, Anne LaPenna

Lindell: Susan Simons, Melissa Canner, Heather Puckhaber

East: Melissa Zimmerman

Lido: Dana Monti, Emily Ciavarella, Erica Yoo

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

LBHS: Tim Cabasino, Lisa Casey, Ron Destio, Camila Gamboa, Carina Morales Hauser, Andrew Rossi

Long Beach Teacher Center: John Marr

Retiree Representative: Frank Volpe

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

Guests: Sandy Volpe and Lloyd Berko, LRS

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.



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All in-service and retiree members receive

unlimited access to the full Calm library of sleep, meditation, and relaxation content. The popular Calm app includes specialized playlists dealing with stress and focus, mindful movement video and audio, nature scenes and sounds, children's content, and more. Members can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription. Note: You will need your NYSUT ID number (which can

be found at nysut.org/memberid) to create your Calm account.

Peer Support

Line – Life can throw lots of curveballs at us, and sometimes we don't readily know where to turn for help. The Peer Support Line is a confidential helpline that is available to all NYSUT members and their loved ones for answers, resources, and support when it's needed most. Chat, email, or call toll-free 844-444-0152 to connect with a peer today.



AD&D Insurance & 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.

New Member Life Insurance

– All new NYSUT 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.

September/October 2025

JOIN US FOR A LBCTA / LBSEA FUNDRAISER!



Raffles



Food

Cash Bar

MUSIC BINGO

\$40 per person

Scan to Register



**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 9TH**

**RIKO'S OF
MERRICK**
68 MERRICK AVE., MERRICK

4-6:30 PM

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO

