



*City of Bristol
Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

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Meeting ID: 852 1033 3475

Passcode: 053493

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 12:00 PM in Room 1-3 in City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT.

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 4, 2026
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Program Quality
 - b. Health and Wellness
 - c. Governance
 - d. Community Outreach
 - e. Special Education Hub
 - f. Transition to Kindergarten
4. Strategic Framework
 - a. Reviewing Data for Local Needs Assessment
5. Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Liaison/Staff Report

- a. Office of Early Childhood and Shine Updates
 - b. Local Updates
 - c. Parent Ambassador Updates
- 6. Resignations
- 7. Appointments
- 8. Old Business
- 9. New Business
- 10. Community Sharing
- 11. Next meeting date May 6, 2026, at the Library and Zoom
- 12. Adjournment

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSONS, Maegan Adams and Sandra Godin

Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative
Regular Meeting
March 4, 2026

The regular meeting of the Early Childhood Collaborative (BECC), formerly School Readiness Council was held on March 4, 2026 on the Zoom Meeting Platform, and called to order by Co-Chair Maegan Adams and Sandra Godin at 12:04 PM.

A **recording of this meeting** is at: https://bristolct.gov.zoom.us/rec/share/XGbvFRWoKm4OclYVXU0PyiWK_OPMPHPdEUXMz29JUA0ygdRKUM6X_r_bcTFtaLi4.kDcD5TFaQoIOdT-9
Passcode: *RaLh4!S

Present: Maegan Adams, Stephanie Daniele, Michelle Fangiullo, Yesenia Fuentes, Sandra Godin, Cristina Gutierrez, Peter Kelley, Donna Koser, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Zach Maher, Liz McGuire, Melissa Mendez, Brenda Moore, Kaitlyn Rondeau, Kara Singleton, Claire Strillacci, Courtney Sugarman

Absent: Cecilia Garay, Michelle Herens, Valerie Pelletier, Whitney Shufelt

Also Present: Barbara Lozier, Donna Osuch, Jennifer St. John

- **Welcome and Introductions:**
- **Approval of Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Meeting Minutes held February 4, 2026:**
 - *Motion by BECC member Brenda Moore and seconded by Zach Maher, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the regular Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Minutes held February 4, 2026.*
- **Committee Updates:**
 - Program Quality – Michelle Fangiullo
 - Programs discussed staffing and enrollment – a few preschool openings at Bristol Child Development Center and 12 at Imagine Nation
 - Rest of updates shared during Liaison report
 - Next meeting is March 11 at 1:30 at Bristol Child Development Center and on Zoom
 - Health and Wellness Committee – Maegan Adams and Stephanie Daniele
 - Maegan reviewed how Lunch and Learn Zoom educational series is going
 - Discussion about new clothing drive for distribution at Family Fun Day
 - Discussion about uptick in house fires – suggestion to collaborate with Fire Dept. to make video with Molly to remind families to discuss escape route and meeting plans with children
 - UConn offering free seeds again this year, and our order will be ready next week
 - Next meeting is March 10 at 2:00 at City Hall Room 1-3 and on Zoom
- Governance – TBD – no report
- Community Outreach – Jennifer St. John
 - Weekend food backpack program has 37 families now, and one of the churches offered to provide food during the summer for the community program families

- Elks received a grant to build a new Little Free Library at Gloria Dei and buy books; they'll purchase a number of copies of Saturday at the Food Pantry
- The Read to Grow van is visiting BCDC and Imagine Nation
- 4th Annual Family Fun Day is June 27 at BAIMS from 11:00-2:00 with rain date 6/28
 - Next meeting is March 9 at 2:30; email Maegan or Jennifer if you want to join the committee
- Next meeting is April 16, 2026 at 4:00 on Zoom
- **Special Education Hub – Jennifer St. John**
 - Committee held an event, Special Education Advocacy Night, the evening after the blizzard, which was lightly attended
 - Holding event again April 2nd
 - Next meeting is April 6, 2026 at 4:00 on Zoom
- **Transition to Kindergarten – Courtney Sugarman**
 - Committee discussed the Dine & Discuss, building conversational skills for young children (and how to share with families) – April 7, from 5:30-7:00
 - Kindergarten registration opened February 1st – please tell everyone to register early
 - CT just passed new legislation that makes the Kindergarten waiver optional for districts this year and eliminates it next year; Bristol had 59 applicants as of 2/9
 - Discussed February and March activities, including transition meetings and early notification
 - Discussed play-based learning in Kindergarten
 - Families enrolled in Ready4K responded to poll saying they value the texts, so keeping
 - Next meeting is March 16 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **Strategic Framework:**
 - Update Strategic Framework: Maegan will update the first 3 strategies, and we will work together on strategies 4 and 5 in April
- **Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and Shine Early Learning Updates
 - No update on Quality Enhancement funding or timeline
 - Shine hosted a training with CT Data regarding the Local Needs Assessment and the data they compiled
 - Parent Trust Fund offering funding to current grantees (FRC), and Sandra working with Liaisons and Parent Ambassadors to determine project within guidelines
 - Legislative update:
 - Need advocacy to keep Early Childhood Endowment funded
 - Insurance companies look at 211 reports and deny coverage for minor (and fixed) violations, so Insurance Committee looking at issue
 - Need additional funding to help move families off Care4Kids wait list
 - Additional discussion and questions about Kindergarten waiver, such as how many children does this impact annually by community; birth cohorts dropping by 1,000 since Covid

- Family Resource Centers need testimony to support their funding
- Local Updates
 - Weekend Food Backpack Program has 37 families now
 - Special Education Advocacy Night February 24 at the Library
 - Hosting an event for family child care providers with Hartford March 5
 - BECC involved in homeless prevention program with Reinstitute – there are 129 homeless youth in Bristol, and 2% are in preschool
- Parent Ambassador Updates
 - Parent Ambassadors have attended many committee meetings and Shine trainings
 - Snack and Chat events to connect parents with each other at the library at 3:30 –
 - March 1 screen time and vision with Dr. Bartles went well
 - March 8 vision boarding
 - March 15 fairy tale and read-aloud dress up
 - March 22 Kindergarten readiness
 - 4th Parent Ambassador starting next week
- Resignations: none
- Appointments:
 - Janelle Cintolo, Parent Ambassador
- Old Business: none
- New Business: none
- Community Sharing:
 - The library shared that they're getting ready for the Summer Reading Program
- Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:02 PM

Next regular meeting: April 1, 2026 at City Hall and on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison

Health and Wellness Committee Notes

March 10th, 2026

The Health and Wellness Committee was held on March 10th 2026, on Zoom Meeting Platform and in person, called to order by Maegan Adams.

Present: Maegan Adams, Stephanie Daniele, Kaitlyn Rondeau, Jennifer St. John, Barbara Lozier, Donna Osuch, Michele Fangiullo

Welcome and introductions:

Update Health & Wellness committee goals, priorities, and activities:

- Need Michele to get updated data of babies born to addiction for Bristol vs previous years
- Jenn gave recap from new homeless prevention program “Reinstitute”
 - Approximately 80 families considered homeless in BPS = 129 students
 - Prek- 2%
 - K-5- 42%
 - 6-8- 25%
 - 9-12- 31%
 - Unaccompanied (living with relative) 29 22%
 - Doubled Up 75 58%
 - Hotel 17 13%
 - Shelter 2 1.5%
 - Unsheltered 6 4.5%

If anyone would like to be part of the 100 day task force team please let Jenn St. John know

- Maegan recapped how the lunch and learn series went
- Clothing Drive Discussion- Group decided it would be best to do a Food and Clothing drive at Family Fun Day and then will set a Day/Time for the disbursement.
- Barbara- Dental Clinics are happening now at schools
- WIC has booked a booth at the Farmers Market on August 8th
 - Group discussed doing the baby shower the same day, possibly at the library.
- Fire Prevention video has been delayed. Fire Fighter Hayden will be at the Library over the summer giving a talk on fire safety, we plan to connect and film parts of the presentation to use for the video.
- Cristina told the group when she moved to Bristol she received a welcome packet from Bristol All Heart with contact information in it, including the fire department who came and installed fire detectors in the home for free
- Seeds are in! Donna O will pick up for everyone.
- Wellness Wednesdays – Send any relevant information to Jennifer for posting
- Parent Ambassadors would like to start a post partum support group for new moms. Waiting to hear back from Michelle H on update from hospital.

Next steps:

- **Group to invite community members they feel would fit into the Health Committee**

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 14th at 2:00, meeting room 1-3 and on Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer St. John

Special Education Hub Meeting Minutes

March 2nd, 2026

4:00pm- 5:00pm

Meeting Attendance: Donna Osuch, Jennifer St. John, Kevin Dailey, Stephanie Daniele, Cristina Gutierrez, Maegan Adams, Megan Riley

Introductions- Welcome to Megan Riley

Advocacy Night

- Held on Tuesday 2/24- was the day after the blizzard and there was no school. Resulting in poor turn out. Amy and Kevin both willing to do the event again- Picked date of April 2, meeting room 2
 - Presentation was well received from people who were in attendance. One stating it was the clearest she had seen the information given

Parent Ambassador Update

- Ambassadors have been participating in trainings with SHINE
- Snack and Chat series just started and had great conversations with parents for the screen time awareness

Family Fun Day

- Saturday June 27 11-2, Rain date Sunday June 28
- Still looking for vendors, please share with anyone you think is relevant
- Megan Riley to share special education contacts to invite

Event Idea Planning

- Sensory bottle making event
- Music sensory event with home made music items like

Social Media

- Sent flyer for Special Ed event to BPS to share
- Group was reminded to share any special education content onto the facebook page or email it to jenniferstjohn@bristolct.gov

Next Meeting Monday April 6th at 4pm on zoom

Transition to Kindergarten Committee

March 16, 2026

The regular meeting of the Transition to Kindergarten Committee was held February 9, 2026 on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Donna Osuch.

Welcome and Introductions:

Attendees: Carly Boladz, Michelle Fangiullo, Latanya Farrell, Cristina Gutierrez, Maura Hopkins, Christina Macioci, Zach Maher, Donna Osuch, Stacy Rivoira, Jennifer St. John, Gail Zimmerman

Dine and Discuss

- Topic: building conversational skills for young children, and how to share with families
- April 7, at Imagine Nation with registration and dinner 5:30-6:00 and program 6:00-7:00
- Group discussed postponing or moving to virtual only due to low registration, or discontinuing all together, which is what we agreed.

Transition to Kindergarten Activities

- March and April activities
 - Central Registration opened Kindergarten Registration on February 1
 - 174 children registered already, same number as last year at this time
 - Hold Transition Meetings for students with IEPs and team meetings at each school for all incoming students
 - Early Notification is ready to send to schools
 - Transition summary sheets were distributed last week.
 - Start the process to educate PK4 parents on social media and website using videos made in 2023
 - Little Read books will be ordered to distribute in early April
 - Will start sharing the Fire Truck ride on social media for fully registered incoming kindergarteners
 - Sunday March 22nd is Parent Ambassadors Snack and Chat all about Kindergarten Prep- Stacy Rivoira volunteered to speak at event. Jenn to email principals to invite them
- Kindergarten age change and waiver process:
 - BPS has Removed the waiver option for the 26/27 school year
 - There was some confusion because some of the programs were never notified of the waiver change
- Kindergarten Orientation:
 - Not confirmed, but maybe May 21
 - Planning meeting to be held on March 30th at 3:45
 - Zach Maher will add the topic or Orientation to the Elementary Council meeting agenda for Donna to present
 - Latanya will share last years slides with Zach for review

- Discussed shortening the slideshow, building tours into the orientation especially for new families, possibly scheduling a separate time for them vs returning families who are familiar with the building and routine
- Play-based learning:
 - Teachers primarily need clarity on expectations and timing rather than additional materials
- Preschool and Kindergarten Curriculum Gap
 - The gap between PreK and K expectations is acknowledged as a systemic issue
 - Bridge building efforts between the 2 grades should focus on a mutual understanding rather than changing either program's fundamental approach
 - Community program teachers feel under valued

Update Goals

- Continue to improve transition to Kindergarten process and outcomes

Ready4K

- Will continue and was grandfathered into old rate

Next steps

- Donna will set up meeting for 3/30 for orientation planning meeting
- Committee to create FAQ for families in partnership with Central Office
- Determine who would email families when registration complete if not the system, and who (maybe multiple) should be listed on the FAQ to answer questions from families
- Subcommittee to work with BPS to edit slide deck
- Forward Dine & Discuss info to all stakeholders

Other

Next Meeting April 20, 2026 at 3:45 on Zoom