

Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
May 3, 2023

- The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on May 3, 2023 at the Bristol Board of Education (and on Zoom Meeting Platform) and called to order by Chairperson Redzic at 12:17 PM.

Present: Maureen Eaton, Cecilia Garay, Tatiana Garcia, Siri Gilmore, Sarah Guerette, Erin Hamilton, Andrew Howe, Donna Koser, Amber Lipscomb, Wendy McGrath, Brenda Moore, Valerie Pelletier, Azra Redzic, Jennifer St. John

Absent: Jennifer Bilbraut, Sarah Holmes, Susan Adeife Lee, Alyssa McGhee, Kristen Peck, Valerie Toner

Also Present: Maegan Adams, Michelle Fangiullo, Jillian Romann, Rachael Witkewicz

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held April 5, 2023:**
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Jennifer St. John and seconded by Wendy McGrath, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held April 5, 2023.***
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Maegan Adams
 - o Discussed staff and enrollment updates
 - o Discussed BristolWorks
 - Started first CDA class March 22 with 22 students registered
 - Second class is enrolling with additional students
 - o Discussed Office of Early Childhood updates
 - School Readiness Grant is due May 4, 2023, and is submitted
 - Still waiting to hear about OEC ARPA Grant
 - Enrollment Grant for 3rd quarter due April 14, 2023
 - o Discussed legislative session
 - o Discussed Kindergarten registration and Ready4K
 - o Everyone completed CLASS training and need to get certified
 - o Next meeting is May 11 at 9:00 on Zoom
 - Health Committee – Erin Hamilton
 - o Reviewed draft behavioral health resource guide
 - o Discussed hosting a Child Mental Health Fair in the fall
 - o Discussed participation at Family Fun Day - Teddy Bear Clinic
 - o Discussed two Community Baby Showers: Library May 31 and BBHD August 12
 - o FRC will distribute free seeds to all after school programs with books and bookmarks
 - o Little Read book is *It's Okay to Not Be Okay* by Emily Hayes
 - o Next meeting is April 18 at 3:00 on Zoom
 - Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - o No report

- Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
 - o Family Fun Day is June 17, 2023
 - o Parent Ambassadors have plans to help children get outside and visit the parks this summer through story time scavenger hunts, “celebrities” reading out loud
 - o Next Outreach meeting is July 20 at 10:00 on Zoom
- Infant and Toddler – Sarah Guerette
 - o Maternal Mental Health Day event on May 21 from 1:00-3:00 at Rockwell Park - flyer attached
 - o Next meetings are May 9 (event planning) and May 16 (regular meeting) at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Rachael Witkewicz
 - o Discussed ongoing transition to kindergarten activities, including City-wide orientation May 10th in the evening at every elementary school, where every child whose family attends will get Sneeches book, ABC cards, and math activities from the BOE
 - o Discussed the Dine and Discuss event which will be moved to the fall
 - o Finalized parent survey and added a question about children’s socialization
 - o Donna confirmed that the Fire Dept. agreed to continue the Fire House Tour and T-Shirt
 - o Next meeting is May 15 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates
 - o The 2023-2024 School Readiness Grant is due May 4, 2023 and was submitted last week
 - o We have not heard about approval for new ARPA grants for the community providers, which were submitted March 30, 2023, for one-time COVID-related infrastructure grants
 - o Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel for Early Childhood is convening listening sessions to hear from providers and families in order to present plan to the Governor before December 2023
 - o Listening session on workforce and quality on May 11, 2023 in Norwalk from 11:30-5:00
 - Local Updates
 - o Six providers and the liaison completed CLASS training, which will provide internal capacity to conduct classroom observations
 - o Liaison shared legislative update
- **Quality Enhancement Report:**
 - FRC offering preschool series
 - Reminder to draw down funds if have not already
- **Monitoring Visits Report**
 - Programs are working hard to maintain qualified staff
 - In April,
 - o Bristol Board of Education (BOE) had 139/149 part day/part year spaces filled.
 - o Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 124/124 full day/full year spaces filled, 7/14 infant/toddler spaces filled, and 40/40 CDC infant/toddler spaces filled.
 - o Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center (INMELC) had 115/119 full day/full year Pre-K spaces and 8/8 infant/toddler spaces filled.

- **Resignations:** Leah Zukauskas
- **Appointments:** Michelle Fangiullo
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Donna Koser and seconded by Siri Gilmore, it was a unanimous vote to approve Michelle Fangiullo's appointment to the School Readiness Council.***
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Siri Gilmore shared an event in Waterford for children with disabilities
 - Erin Hamilton asked that we remind parents that children entering Kindergarten need physicals
 - Jennifer St. John reminded everyone to Like and Share the Family Fun Day Facebook page
 - Wendy McGrath informed us that the second class at BristolWORKS has 25 students, and they are starting a waitlist for the fall
 - Wendy also shared that she is planning the half-day professional development day about trauma-informed care
 - Donna Koser shared that United Way's Day of Caring is May 19, and the golf tournament is in June
- **Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:59 PM.**

Next regular meeting date: June 7, 2023 in person at the BOE Auditorium

Respectfully Submitted,
 Donna Osuch
 School Readiness Liaison