

Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
June 7, 2023

- The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on June 7, 2023 at the Bristol Board of Education (and on Zoom Meeting Platform) and called to order by Chairperson Redzic at 12:19 PM.

Present: Jennifer Bilbraut, Maureen Eaton, Michelle Fangiullo, Cecilia Garay, Tatiana Garcia, Siri Gilmore, Sarah Guerette, Erin Hamilton, Sarah Holmes, Donna Koser, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Wendy McGrath, Brenda Moore, Kristen Peck, Azra Redzic, Jennifer St. John, Valerie Toner

Absent: Andrew Howe, Alyssa McGhee, Valerie Pelletier

Also Present: Maegan Adams, Rachael Witkewicz

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held May 3, 2023:**
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Valerie Pelletier and seconded by Donna Koser, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held May 3, 2023.***
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Maureen Eaton
 - Discussed staff and enrollment updates
 - Discussed BristolWorks
 - Second and third CDA classes started in May
 - Second cohort is open for enrollment in the fall
 - Discussed Office of Early Childhood updates
 - School Readiness Grant was submitted
 - Still waiting to hear about OEC ARPA Grant
 - Advocates are pushing to have the Enrollment Grant bundled into the School Readiness Grant next year
 - Blue Ribbon Panel for Early Childhood holding listening sessions, and Donna attended May 11th - recommendations being presented June 12th at 6:00
 - COLA grant unexpectedly added to FY 24 and maybe FY 25 budgets
 - Discussed legislative session
 - Discussed Kindergarten registration and Ready4K
 - Discussed Professional Development on August 21 from 8:30-11:30 at Tunxis with the topic of trauma informed practice and three additional evening sessions through the fall
 - Next meeting is June 8 at 9:00 on Zoom
 - Health Committee – Erin Hamilton
 - Discussed hosting a Child Mental Health Fair in the fall
 - Discussed hosting a Teddy Bear Clinic at next year's Family Fun Day
 - Discussed two Community Baby Showers: Library May 31 and BBHD August 12
 - FRC will distribute free seeds to all after school programs with books and bookmarks
 - Next meeting is June 13 at 11:30 on Zoom

- Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
- Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
 - Family Fun Day is June 17, 2023 from 11:00-3:00 with free activities for young children, including touch-a-truck, helicopter landing, food trucks, ice cream, food vouchers
 - Summer Music in the Park is every Tuesday at Rockwell, and hopefully will have Reading Buddies Grant
 - Summer activities to help children get outside and visit the parks this summer through story time scavenger hunt - local author will read her book about ladybugs and frogs, and children will paint rocks - then find hidden rocks in the park
 - BECA will be at the Farmer's Market on July 15
 - Next Outreach meeting is July 20 at 10:00 on Zoom
- Infant and Toddler – Sarah Guerette
 - Maternal Mental Health Day event held on May 21 at Rockwell Park - while lightly attended, it was a positive event
 - World Breastfeeding event is August 3 from 3:00-6:00 at the library
 - Next meeting is June 20 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Rachael Witkewicz
 - Discussed Fire Truck raffle being pulled June 14 by Chiefs Gould and Hart, so we will have a second winner going to their first day of school in a Police Car
 - Discussed the Dine and Discuss event which will be moved to the fall
 - This year had more Kindergarten teachers participating, which has taken the conversations in different directions - good to work as a team
 - As of June 1, 390 children were registered for Kindergarten, which is more than last year
 - Next meeting is September 18 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates
 - 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
 - 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 by end of 2023, and Liaison attended the Workforce and Quality convening on May 11 in Norwalk
 - Was told that COLA is being added to FY 2024, but only for private programs, not BOE
 - EC Reporter starting a new process where liaisons have to approve program reports
 - Local Updates
 - Tunxis organizing regional professional development on trauma informed practice with Dr. Peg Oliviera on August 21, 2023
 - Programs encouraging eligible staff to register for second CDA cohort at BristolWorks
- **Quality Enhancement Report:**
 - Reminder to draw down funds if have not already

- **Monitoring Visits Report**
 - Programs are working hard to maintain qualified staff
 - In May,
 - Bristol Board of Education (BOE) had 139/149 part day/part year spaces filled.
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 124/124 full day/full year spaces filled, 8/14 infant/toddler spaces filled, and 40/42 CDC infant/toddler spaces filled.
 - Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center (INMELC) had 119/119 full day/full year Pre-K spaces and 8/8 infant/toddler spaces filled.
- **Resignations:** none
- **Appointments:** none
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Wendy shared that the trauma informed practice PD on August 21 is available to everyone, and additional sessions will include Redefining Challenging Behaviors (9/20), Social/Emotional Learning (10/11), and another session on 12/11 - all from 5:30-7:30 at TCC
 - Sarah G said that WIC clients have Farmers Market credits on their card, and that it's more than previous years
 - Brenda said they're serving summer meals at Cambridge park, and that Family Day is August 18
 - Sarah H shared that the FRC Play and Learn Group will meet Thursday mornings at South Side in June and July, and registration is required
 - Val T discussed the Summer Reading Program, and that the Library will also serve summer meals
 - Donna Koser shared that United Way's Adopt-a-Child backpack program is underway and invited people to take Family Fun Day signs to display in front of their workplaces
 - The WOW Mobile is adding STEM activities this summer
- **Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:02 PM.**

Next regular meeting date: September 6, 2023 in person at the BOE Auditorium

Respectfully Submitted,
 Donna Osuch
 School Readiness Liaison