

**Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
January 3, 2024**

- The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on January 3, 2024 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Chairperson Romann at 12:19 PM.

Present: Matt Baronowski, Maureen Eaton, Michelle Fangiullo, Siri Gilmore, Michelle Herens, Sarah Holmes, Andrew Howe, Donna Koser, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Alyssa McGhee, Valerie Pelletier, Jillian Romann, Dina Schaffrick, Jennifer St. John, Courtney Sugarman, Kristina Tanguay, Valerie Toner

Absent: Cecilia Garay, Wendy McGrath, Brenda Moore

Also Present: Maegan Adams, Yesenia Fuentes, Pam Testa, Rachael Witkewicz

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Appointments**
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Andrew Howe and seconded by Val Toner, it was a unanimous vote to approve the appointment of Matt Baronowski to the School Readiness Council.***
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held December 6, 2023:**
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Maureen Eaton and seconded by Andrew Howe, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held December 6, 2023.***
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Maureen Eaton
 - Discussed staff and enrollment updates and need for good staff
 - Discussed follow up with CDA students at BristolWORKS!, specifically letter to first cohort about applications and list of names to follow-up in second cohort
 - Discussed Office of Early Childhood (OEC) updates
 - Blue Ribbon Panel for Early Childhood has final report on website:
<https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/oec-blue-ribbon-panel-report-2023-12.15.pdf>
 - Conversion of spaces now allowed for infants/toddlers, and if programs want to convert, they must do so before March 30
 - Bristol working on waiver process related to Kindergarten age change
 - Donna will ask Wheeler Clinic for an update about a clinician to be housed at community programs
 - Financial reports are due in January
 - Next meeting is January 11 at 9:30 at Edgewood Pre-K Academy and on Zoom
 - Health Committee – Kristina Tanguay
 - Discussed behavioral health and new idea to host Zoom health classes for parents
 - Discussed ongoing projects:
 - Wellness Wednesday, Seed Project, Little Read and Senior Knitters are ongoing

- Putting Tasty Tuesdays on back burner for now and moving Community Baby Shower to Infant Toddler Committee
 - Next meeting is January 9 at 2:00 on Zoom
- Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
- Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
 - Website in process of transitioning from Webley to WIX, hopefully by end of the month
 - Appetite for Reading volunteers are needed, and new Little Free Library opened at St. Vincent DePaul Homeless Mission
 - Possibly planning a Sparkler Preschool Fair in April/May and August/September
 - Guest speaker from Favor spoke about their programs
 - Next Family Fun Day is June 29 with a rain date of June 30, 2024, and need sponsors and vendors
 - Next Family Fund Day meeting is January 8 at 11:30, and Outreach meeting is April 18 at 10:00
- Infant and Toddler – Michelle Herens
 - Goal is to be at all of the Farmers Markets this year and will need volunteers
 - Next meeting is January 16 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Courtney Sugarman
 - No report
 - Next meeting is January 8 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates
 - Blue Ribbon Panel for Early Childhood shared their plan with the Governor and it's on their website
 - Due to the Blue Ribbon Plan and not knowing what might change in the upcoming legislative session, OEC is seeking permission to extend all grants and contracts
 - Local Updates
 - City changing platforms to post meeting agendas and minutes, looking for uniform agendas going forward. All School Readiness Council members will receive an email from the City (probably from Jodi McGrane) providing information to access the site.
 - Donna presented the draft School Readiness City budget for \$39,000. ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Andrew Howe and seconded by Dina Schaffrick, it was a unanimous vote to approve the School Readiness Council City budget for FY 2024-2025.***
- **Quality Enhancement Report:**
 - Donna just drew down the 3rd Quarter funds
 - Dates for the Toddler Development and Preschool Development classes are set in February and March
 - The library is drawing down its funds for puppet and music shows as well as special story times

- **Monitoring Visits Report**
 - In December,
 - Edgewood Pre-Kindergarten Academy (EPKA) had 149/149 part day/part year spaces filled.
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 118/129 full day/full year spaces filled and 54/56 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
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Valerie Toner shared that the library is open Sundays from 1:00-5:00 January through March, and that there will be story time at 2:00
 - Jenn shared that books from the School Readiness Council went home to Edgewood Pre-K Academy students
 - Donna Koser shared that United Way is starting the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program later in January
 - Sarah shared that the FRC is starting their People Empowering People class January 10 at EPKA with a full class
- **Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:53 PM.**

Next regular meeting date: February 7, 2024 on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison