

Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
April 3, 2024

- The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on April 2, 2024 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Chairperson Eaton at 12:16 PM.

Present: Cecilia Garay, Maureen Eaton, Michelle Fangiuillo, Michelle Herens, Sarah Holmes, Andrew Howe, Donna Koser, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Alyssa McGhee, Wendy McGrath, Brenda Moore, Valerie Pelletier, Jillian Romann, Dina Schaffrick, Jennifer St. John, Courtney Sugarman, Valerie Toner

Absent: Matt Baronowski, Yesenia Fuentes, Siri Gilmore, Kristina Tanguay

Also Present: Laura Carlisle, Yolande Lazarus-Guerrero, Pam Testa

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held March 6, 2024:**
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Michelle Fangiuillo and seconded by Amber Lipscomb, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held March 6, 2024.***
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Maureen Eaton
 - Discussed staff and enrollment updates
 - Discussed BristolWORKS!, and celebration of first cohort will be May 7th
 - Discussed Office of Early Childhood (OEC) updates
 - Discussed the grant extension
 - School Readiness Councils will become Local Governance Councils in future
 - Care4Kids child care subsidy program is months behind which is impacting early childhood programs; new change is DCF will submit forms on behalf of DCF kids
 - Wheeler Clinic said the number of children projected to be served in community programs are too low, so we will try again
 - Bristol Services Open House was held March 20th from 2:00-6:00 at Adult Ed
 - Kindergarten Registration opened February 1st
 - Spring Dine & Discuss is April 30th at Imagine Nation
 - NAEYC is making changes to their processes, and we'll learn more as they roll them out
 - Legislative session started February 7th, and Donna will share updates as she gets them
 - 378 families were registered for Ready4K text platform as of March 14th
 - Next meeting is TBD at Edgewood Pre-K Academy and on Zoom
 - Health Committee – Donna Osuch for Kristina Tanguay
 - Discussed educational Zoom classes:
 - April 17 gardening and healthy eating with Leo
 - May 15 mental health awareness with child therapist
 - September 18 eye health with Sherry and Dr. Bartles
 - Will offer Spanish and perhaps Polish translation
 - Will record sessions and post for more parents to view

- Discussed ongoing projects:
 - Wellness Wednesday has health posts on Making Bristol Better FB page
 - Seed Project will have seeds donated by Ocean State Job Lot through the UConn Extension Program with committee members picking up seeds
 - Leo will do activity at Greene-Hills and South Side Schools
 - Planning a seed/planting activity at Family Fun Day
 - Little Read book, Maisy Goes to the Eye Doctor, has been ordered
 - Committee delivered a thank you card to the Senior Knitters
- Next meeting is April 9 at 2:00 on Zoom
- Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
- Community Outreach – Donna Koser
 - Making Bristol Better Facebook Page is <https://www.facebook.com/MakingBristolBetter> - look for the event page
 - Next Family Fun Day is June 29 with a rain date June 30, 2024; looking for sponsors and vendors, and the form to register for both is **attached**
 - Appetite for Reading has a new basket for books at Head Start on Lake Ave and a new composite Little Free Library at St. Vincent DePaul Mission - would like to build 2 more at \$500-700/each; first Little Free Library at WIC being refurbished by a Scout
 - Next Family Fun Day meeting is April 15 at 12:00
 - Next Outreach meeting is April 18 at 10:00
- Infant and Toddler – Michelle Herens
 - Baby Shower at the library is April 17, 2024 from 10:00-7:00
 - May is Maternal Mental Health Month, and committee hosting an event at Rockwell Park on May 5, 2024. Check out Maternal Mental Health Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/3497821237105169/?ref=newsfeed>, and Michelle's email address is mherens@bristolhospital.org if you want to participate
 - Next meeting is April 16 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Courtney Sugarman
 - At the time of the meeting, 67 students had completed the process for the Kindergarten age waiver
 - As of February 29th, the numbers for registration were lower than they were for this time last year
 - We are waiting for early notification responses to come in from community programs
 - Kindergarten staff have begun observations of both Edgewood and community students that would be attending their schools in the Fall
 - Dine & Discuss scheduled for April 30th at Imagine Nation and will be about Fostering Connections & Collaboration Between Pre-K and Kindergarten staff
 - Next meeting is April 15 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates

- We received most of the grant extension materials, and have begun to submit requests to City Council and complete tasks due before May 3, 2024.
 - Donna described the three documents that must be read and understood by all Council members and the process we will use to ensure compliance- all Council members will certify they have read and understood the documents through a google survey by April 24, 2024 (**emailed and attached**):
 - General Policy C-01 School Readiness Council Membership, Responsibilities, and the Role of the Liaison
 - Overview and Description – Connecticut School Readiness Grant
 - Quality Enhancement Overview and Allowable Uses
 - Enrollment Grant by programs is due by April 12, 2024
 - Donna downloaded the remaining COLA and Quality Enhancement funds from State
- Local Updates
 - Kindergarten registration started February 1st, so please tell families to register as soon as possible. Even if they're waiting for their well-child visit, they should upload everything else now. Children registered by the last day of school will be entered into a raffle to be taken to their first day of Kindergarten on a fire truck.
 - Waiting for confirmation of "One Night, One Purpose," an evening when every school hosts Kindergarten orientation
 - Donna will attend Board of Finance budget workshop tonight, April 3rd
 - Dine & Discuss is April 30, 2024 at Imagine Nation
 - Approval of Quality Enhancement activities for FY 2025:
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Dina Schaffrick and seconded by Michelle Herens, it was a unanimous vote to approve the same Quality Enhancement activities for FY 2025 as FY 2024, except "Health Committee activities" will be changed to "Committee activities" to support all of the committees.***
- **Quality Enhancement Report:**
 - The library is running numerous animal, puppet and magic events as well as special story time programs with Quality Enhancement funding
 - Family Resource Center's Road to Reading in April and May with a free book to all community preschool children, and Kith and Kin and licensed Family Child Care providers
- **Monitoring Visits Report**
 - In March,
 - Edgewood Pre-Kindergarten Academy (EPKA) had 149/149 part day/part year spaces filled with wait list
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 121/129 full day/full year spaces filled and 55/56 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 with wait list for August enrollment
- **Resignations:** none
- **Appointments:** none

- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Val shared that the Library has many activities planned for school vacation week, including a free lunch, presentation and book signing with Rajani LaRocca (Newberry Honor winning author)
 - Andrew shared that Parks, Rec, Youth and Community Services summer programming is out at <https://bristolct.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>
 - Donna Koser shared that United Way is running the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program through tax season and has a few appointments left: <https://fb.watch/rdgQewUbM8/>
 - Sarah shared that they received positive feedback on their toddler and preschool development series, funded by QE, and that they're offering their Road to Reading program for preschool and kith & kin providers
- **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.

Next regular meeting date: May 1, 2024 in person and on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison