



*City of Bristol
School Readiness*

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MEETING*

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular School Readiness Council meeting will be held on September 4, 2024, at 12:15 PM at the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium, 129 Church Street, Bristol, CT, and on Zoom.

1. Call to Order and Swearing In
2. Appointments
 - a. Maegan Adams
 - b. Councilor Erick Rosengren
3. Welcome, Introductions and Elect Chairpersons
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting - June 5, 2024
5. Committee Updates
 - a. Program Quality
 - b. Health Services
 - c. Governance
 - d. Community Outreach
 - e. Infant and Toddler

- f. Transition to Kindergarten
 - 6. City School Readiness and Child Day Care Liaison Report
 - a. OEC Updates
 - b. Local Updates
 - 7. Quality Enhancement Report
 - 8. Monitoring Report
 - 9. Resignations
 - a. Councilor Andrew Howe
 - b. Siri Gilmore
 - 10. New Business
 - 11. Old Business
 - 12. Community Sharing
 - 13. Adjournment
 - 14. Next meeting date October 2, 2024
- PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSONS, Maureen Eaton and Jillian Romann

**Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
June 5, 2024**

- The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on June 5, 2024 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Chairperson Romann at 12:18 PM.

Present: Matt Baronowski, Cecilia Garay, Maureen Eaton, Michelle Fangiullo, Yesenia Fuentes, Siri Gilmore, Michelle Herens, Sarah Holmes, Donna Koser, Susan Adeife Lee, Alyssa McGhee, Wendy McGrath, Brenda Moore, Valerie Pelletier, Jillian Romann, Jennifer St. John, Kristina Tanguay, Valerie Toner

Absent: Andrew Howe, Amber Lipscomb, Dina Schaffrick, Courtney Sugarman

Also Present: Maegan Adams, Rachael Witkewicz

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held May 1, 2024:**
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Jennifer St. John and seconded by Val Toner, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held May 1, 2024.***
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Maureen Eaton and Maegan Adams
 - Discussed staff and enrollment updates
 - Graduation from BristolWORKS! CDA program was held May 7th
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) updates:
 - OEC held in-person meeting for CDC contractors and subcontractors May 7th and liaison meeting is May 21
 - Full-day/full-year preschool rates will increase to \$10,500 on July 1, 2024
 - There will be changes to ECE Reporter on July 1, including data sharing with SDE
 - Local updates:
 - Clarified process for children struggling in community programs
 - Family Fun Day June 29th at BAIMS from 11:00-2:00
 - Next meeting is June 12 at 11:00 at Edgewood Pre-K Academy and on Zoom
 - Health Committee – Kristina Tanguay
 - Discussed educational Zoom classes:
 - May 15 mental health awareness with child therapist
 - October 2 eye health with Sherry and Dr. Bartles
 - October 30 gardening and healthy eating rescheduled
 - Discussed dental clinic opportunity:
 - BBHD does not know of space that would work and is free
 - BBHD suggested sending dental hygienists to pre-K programs instead
 - Discussed ongoing projects:
 - Leo did program at Greene-Hills and South Side Schools with seeds donated by Ocean State Job Lot through the UConn Extension Program
 - Little Read book, Maisy Goes to the Eye Doctor, has been distributed

- Next meeting is June 11 at 11:00 on Zoom
- Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
- Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
 - Family Fun Day is June 29 with a rain date of June 30 - vendors and sponsors still welcome
 - The first of four surveys is done and is for parents of children under age 6
 - 2nd survey will be out July 8 - August 2
 - Parents who complete it will receive \$10 gift card
 - Bristol parents who send a screen shot of the completed survey will be entered to win a \$100 Amazon gift card
 - Next Family Fun Day meeting is June 8 at 12:00
- Infant and Toddler – Michelle Herens
 - Breastfeeding Awareness event is August 5 from 4:00-7:00 at the library
 - Sparkler has a prenatal version, and we will explore having Bristol families connect with the Family Resource Centers
 - DCF/Head Start Collaborative is looking for members, and several committee members are interested
 - Discussed Baby Bond information
 - Next meeting is June 18 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Rachael Witkewicz for Courtney Sugarman
 - As of June 1st, 362 students were registered for Kindergarten
 - 75 have requested the waiver for Kindergarten, and 56 were granted; remaining 19 may be assessed again in August
 - Time to Register media blitz still occurring
 - Pre-K teachers submitting Transition Summary Sheets to be shared with schools
 - Dine & Discuss postponed until the fall, and discussing the topic of play-based learning
 - One Night, One Purpose was May 22nd at every elementary school
 - Firetruck raffle will be held June 20th, and names will be drawn by Fire Chief Hart and Acting Police Chief Morello
 - Next meeting is September 16 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates
 - Bristol should receive our grant award from OEC in early June
 - Received legislative update at meetings with OEC on May 7th and 21st:
 - S.B. 14 - An Act Assisting School Districts in Improving Educational Outcomes, Implementing the Recommendations of the Department of Education and the Technical Education and Career System, and Establishing Early Start CT
 - Streamline the system
 - Reduce burden on providers
 - Simplify programs available for families
 - Center family and community needs

- Licensing ratios for toddlers over 2-years-old increases from 1:4 to 1:5
- H.B. 5002 - An Act Concerning Early Childhood Care and Education
 - Implementation language to the statute passed last year to establish the Early Childhood Education Fund
 - Creates Early Childhood Care and Education Fund Advisory Commission
 - Establishes wage supplement payment program
- S.B. 5 - An Act Concerning School Resources
 - Adds another priority group to the Care4Kids statute to include parents and legal guardians of children enrolled in Medicaid
- H.B. 5436 - An Act Concerning Educator Certification, Teachers, Paraeducators, and Mandated Reporters
 - Retroactively allows an educator endorsement to teach elementary grades 1-6, or K-6, issued prior to July 1, 2025, to be valid for grades prekindergarten to 6, and new endorsements after July 1, 2025, will also be valid for pre-K to 6
 - Requires that any elementary education teacher prep program be aligned with any professional standards and competencies for early childhood educators developed by NAEYC
- H.B. 5523 - ARPA Budget bill
 - \$18.8 M for Care4Kids to address wait list
- Local Updates
 - All School Readiness Council members' terms will expire in August and will be reappointed at August City Council meeting, and Donna will request City Clerk to swear in new Council at September meeting
 - Joint Board approved budget, and our request remained in the budget
 - Reminder that Kindergarten registration started February 1st, so please tell families to register in the next two weeks. 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.
- **Quality Enhancement Report:**
 - The library has many upcoming programs sponsored with Quality Enhancement funding
 - The Family Resource Center presented literacy enrichment at Imagine Nation and Bristol Child Development Center and gave out 260 books to their families
- **Monitoring Visits Report**
 - In May,
 - Edgewood Pre-Kindergarten Academy (EPKA) had 149/149 part day/part year spaces filled with wait list
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 124/129 full day/full year spaces filled and 56/56 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 will be a free lunch site for youth under age 18 from 6/24 - 8/16 from 11:30-1:30; there will be lots of activities going on every day for the Summer Reading Program
 - Maegan shared that Bristol Child Development Center is doing a Calendar Fundraiser - \$10 through June to win throughout July
 - Sarah shared that the Family Resource Centers are running 4 summer play and learn groups with 2 in June and 2 in July for children ages 0-5
 - Any donations made for lunch today (and at May's meeting) will be made to Early Learning - A PET Project Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation to support the School Readiness providers
- **Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:52 PM.**

Next regular meeting date: September 4, 2024 in person and on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison

Program Quality
Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Present: Renee Dailey, Maureen Eaton, Michelle Fangiullo, Laurie Nadeau, Donna Osuch, Courtney Sugarman

Absent: Maegan Adams, Laura Carlisle, Wendy McGrath, Val Pelletier, Cindy Rogers, Pam Testa, Rachael Witkewicz

Welcome and Introductions:

Staffing and enrollment update:

- **Staffing:**
 - BOE needs a teacher and a few paras
 - BCDC looking for a toddler floater at West St and preschool floater at Burlington Ave
 - INMELC looking for a preschool assistant teacher
- **Enrollment:**
 - BOE has 137 registered for September
 - BCDC is full at Burlington Ave and has 8 PK3 openings at West St
 - INMELC is full and needs 2 or 3 for September
 - Discussion held about children with special needs (parents not truthful about IEPs; outside services not always helpful; no backup; Edgewood trying to steer families toward ABA partnership in Southington; families can bill transportation to insurance):
 - Courtney will share a google doc of shared students with each program
- **BristolWORKS!:**
 - Discussed new class and asked for feedback on syllabus

OEC Updates:

- **Enrollment Grant Payment** - waiting for OEC to send report
- **New General Policy:** Donna shared highlighted addition to A-03 Data Submission and Reporting Requirements
- **Grant Award Letters** came out late, and one was incorrect - going before City Council tonight
- **Early Start CT Listening Sessions** - overview of 8/12 session:
 - Programs will apply to OEC directly this year
 - Programs only guaranteed to receive 90% of current allocation for FY26-27 (RFA)
 - Programs can apply for remaining 10% of current allocation for FY26-27 (RFP)
 - Next round of RFPs for FY28-29 will be fully competitive
 - Did not present information about RFA/RFP process or the new Local Governance Partners, but will in September
 - September Listening Sessions are 9/4 virtual and 9/10 in person at 6:00 PM
- **Early Start CT webpage:** <https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct/>

Local updates:

- **City Council (8/14) , Board of Finance (8/27) and Joint Board (9/10) approvals** process underway
- **Financial reports due August 16, 2024 - reminder**

Early Childhood Alliance Fall Advocacy Academy:

- Was moved from summer to fall, and Donna will share when more information is available

Next Meeting Date Wednesday, September 11 at 11:00 a.m. at Edgewood Pre-K Academy and Zoom

- We might need to change again since Wendy cannot attend, and Courtney does not know her schedule yet

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch

Health Committee Notes

June 10, 2024

The regular meeting of the Health Committee was held on June 10, 2024, on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Tina and Leo.

Present: Yesenia Fuentes, Donna Koser, Donna Osuch, Leo Suazo, Tina Tanguay

Welcome and introductions: add

New Priorities/Ideas:

- **Behavioral Health -**
- **Host Zoom series for parents -**
 - Host the following at 6:00 on Teams or Zoom, and all have started researching:
 - Wednesday, May 15 mental health awareness - committee debriefed
 - Post Zoom sooner with more time to respond
 - Create Save the Date with all of the upcoming topics and dates
 - Wednesday, October 2 eye health (Sherry and Dr. Bartles) - note date change
 - Wednesday, October 30 gardening and healthy eating rescheduled (Leo)
 - Record sessions and post for more to view
- **Dental Clinic for preschool children -**
 - BBHD and Tunxis have done it in the past, and Tina will invite dental hygienist to fall meeting to plan
 - Post during Dental Health Awareness Week

Updates about ongoing ideas:

- **Wellness Wednesday** – This project to promote health information on social media and the website continues, and Donna Koser is requesting content from all partners.
 - Public Health Calendar - <https://b2b.healthgrades.com/insights/blog/2024-health-observances-calendar/>
 - Be more proactive during meetings and look at calendar to determine posts together
- **Seed Project** – ended with 2 outreach events. We will plant seeds at Family Fun Day and give rest to Parent Ambassadors to give away.
- **Little Read** – *Maisy Goes to the Eye Doctor* by Lucy Cousins distributed
- **Senior Knitters** – no update until next fall

Next steps:

- Create Save the Date flyer for virtual educational series and share widely and
- Continue prepping for virtual educational series

Other:

- Diversity, equity and inclusion - do Facebook postings in English and Spanish separately and provide link in addition to QR code for those looking on their phone

Meeting schedule: The committee exploring changing the meeting from the second Tuesday of the month on Zoom at 2:00 PM. Donna will send email to committee with options.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch

Infant & Toddler Committee

Zoom Meeting Notes

August 20, 2024, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

In attendance: Maegan Adams, Stephanie Daniele, Yesenia Fuentes, Michelle Herens, Donna Koser, Tracy Krasinski, Donna Osuch, Kaitlyn Rondeau and Jennifer St. John

Members present discussed the following items.

Equity and Inclusion:

BECA has asked that all committees think about equity and inclusion. A recap was provided.

The first meeting of the Special Education Hub is scheduled for in person at United Way on Wednesday (8/21) at 2:00.

Events

- August Breastfeeding Awareness event held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Bristol Public Library – Noone showed up.
 - The committee will revisit this strategy.
 - BECA did a video of the lactation pod which gathered a good response on social media.
 - Review the trend of parents who are choosing to breastfeed.
 - Help moms feel committed to supports.
 - LaLeche might hold a virtual webinar?
 - Next year, the committee will look into a virtual celebration and/or increase the vendors. Provide in Spanish/English.
- BBHD Baby Shower 8/10/24 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Maegan was present and there was low attendance. It was a very nice day outside (the first in many)
 - Summer Farmer's Market -BECA was present on August 10th with many families stopping by. Donna O. secured November 2nd at the Farmer's Market. The group agreed that the committee will collect clothing for the clothing drive.
- Clothing Swap
 - October 2nd through November 2nd – collect clothing
 - November 14th from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. families/agencies can pick up clothing.

The committee discussed “What are we missing and why is no one coming out to events?”

- Perhaps a BECA calendar with events posted for the year will help?
- Registration might help.
- Event timing? For instance, perhaps, the breastfeeding event was held too late for moms?

Other discussion:

- There may be a need for a weekly support group
- Bristol Health does not currently have a certified facilitator.

Opportunities for Infants and Toddlers –

- Families with children birth to age 6 are encouraged to complete the CT Rapid survey. Please let Donna K know of an opportunity to reach families with children who are Birth to age 6.
- Pencil Hunt
- Back to School Bash

Next Steps / Updates

- Maegan to create a flier for the clothing drive.

Next Meeting: *September 17,2024, at 1:30 p.m. on ZOOM*

Transition to Kindergarten Committee

May 20, 2024

The regular meeting of the Transition to Kindergarten Committee was held May 20 2024 on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Courtney Sugarman at 3:48 PM.

Welcome and Introductions:

Attendees: Maegan Adams, Donna Koser, Yolande Lazarus-Guerrero, Christina Macioci, Meghan Nadeau, Donna Osuch, Misty Palaia, Jennifer St. John, Courtney Sugarman, Rachael Witkewicz, Barbara Tedesco, Gail Zimmerman

Transition to Kindergarten Activities

- Kindergarten age change and Bristol's waiver process
 - Waiver process dwindling down – About 80 applied
 - No plan for next year about waiver process- Waiver process is in legislation and will be in place until removed from legislation
 - Social media video being made, and two billboards and several gas stations will be sharing message about age change process
- Central Registration opened February 1, 2024
 - As of April 1st, total of 299 students registered (includes all BOE of students already in BOE program)
- "Time to Register" media blitz
 - Still occurring
- Little Read books were distributed last week to BOE and this week to community programs- *Maisy Goes to the Eye Doctor* by Lucy Cousins- newly released book

Dine & Discuss

- Postponed
- Fall event will be planned
- Ideas: Pre-K/K standards, **Play based learning- what does this mean for teachers, possible guest speaker**

One Night, One Purpose

- City-wide parent orientation- May 22nd 5:30 to 6:30
- Survey converted to Google Form- QR code in PowerPoint – to be given at arrival
- English and Spanish option in one

Firetruck Raffle

- June 20th names will be drawn for raffle by Fire Chief Hart and Acting Police Chief Morello

Ready 4K

- Survey went out via text

Other

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Idea for next year - have Kindergarten teachers read to community pre-K4 classrooms in spring and answer questions about Kindergarten

Next Meeting September 16, 2024