

**Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
September 4, 2024**

- The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on September 4, 2024 in person at the Bristol Board of Education and on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Liaison Donna Osuch at 12:18 PM.

Present: Maegan Adams, Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano, Cecilia Garay, Maureen Eaton, Yesenia Fuentes, Michelle Herens, Sarah Holmes, Donna Koser, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Alyssa McGhee, Wendy McGrath, Brenda Moore, Jillian Romann, Erick Rosengren, Dina Schaffrick, Jennifer St. John, Courtney Sugarman, Kristina Tanguay, Valerie Toner, Superintendent Iris White

Absent: Matt Baronowski, Valerie Pelletier

Also Present: Erica Cabiya, Michelle Fangiullo, Yolande Lazaruz-Guerrero

- **Swearing In:** Town & City Clerk Erica Cabiya swore in Council members who were present in person and distributed letters. Donna will distribute remaining letters.
- **Appointments:**
 - Meagan Adams, Bristol Child Development Center representing community-based programs
 - Erick Rosengren representing the Mayor and City Council
- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Elect Chairpersons:**
 - *Motion by School Readiness Council member Donna Koser and seconded by Jennifer St. John, it was a unanimous vote to approve the appointments of Maureen Eaton and Jillian Romann as co-chairs of the Bristol School Readiness Council through August 31, 2025.*
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held June 5, 2024:**
 - *Motion by School Readiness Council member Val Toner and seconded by Amber Lipscomb, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held June 5, 2024.*
- **Comments by Superintendent Iris White**
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Maureen Eaton and Michelle Fangiullo
 - Discussed staff and enrollment updates
 - Discussed new class at BristolWORKS!
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) updates:
 - Waiting for OEC to send Enrollment Grant report
 - Grant Award Letters came out later than prior year
 - Early Start CT Listening Sessions held August 12 and September 4 and 10
 - Local updates:
 - City Council, Board of Finance and Joint Board approval process underway for most SR grants

- Financial reports due August 16, 2024
 - Next meeting is September 11 at 10:00 at Edgewood Pre-K Academy and on Zoom
- Health Committee – Kristina Tanguay
 - No meetings over the summer, but planning to continue the focus of child mental health and educational health awareness series
 - Next meeting is September 10 at 2:00 on Zoom
- Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
- Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
 - Parent Ambassadors started Special Ed HUB because parents were looking for support
 - Gaining momentum and has Bristol Public School's support
 - Planning sensory friendly movie night in fall with a Community Conversation
 - Third part of Survey Project is end of September and for parents of children under age 6
 - 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 \$50 Amazon gift card; gave away \$100 card for second survey
 - Little Free Libraries looking for books
 - Parent Ambassadors partnering with Library for Halloween costume swap
 - Drop off costumes between now and October 3, and families can pick out costumes October 5
 - November 2 will be at the Farmers Market collecting children's clothing up to size 6
 - Next meeting is October 17 at 10:00 on Zoom
- Infant and Toddler – Maegan Adams and Michelle Herens
 - Children's clothing drive is October 2 - November 2, and families and agencies can pick up clothing November 14 from 1:00-6:00
 - Next meeting is September 17 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Courtney Sugarman
 - No meetings over the summer
 - Winners of Firetruck raffle were brought to school on firetrucks
 - Piper McKee won and is at West Bristol
 - Xander Fuentes won and is at Mountain View
 - Mayor and Liaison went to both children's homes and schools
 - 403 children were registered on time, and 477 were enrolled as of 9/3 for 84.5% registered on time
 - Next meeting is September 16 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates
 - OEC is holding Listening Sessions regarding the upcoming significant policy and programmatic changes with the implementation of Early Start CT. Some of the changes being discussed include:
 - Programs will apply to OEC directly rather than go through the SRC

- Programs are only guaranteed to receive 90% of current allocation for FY26-27
 - Next round of RFPs (FY28-29) will be fully competitive
 - No information about the RFA/RFP process or new Local Governance Partners, but OEC welcoming questions
 - Next Listening Sessions are at 6:00 PM on 9/4 virtual and 9/10 in person and need to register - Donna will send the flyers
- **Local Updates**
 - Donna will send a short demographic survey through Google to collect required information
 - Financial Updates:
 - Bristol received new money in June for community programs only, Private Provider Payment (PPP), and new FY24 funds were paid in early July
 - The Q4 Enrollment Grant is being processed this week, and programs should receive payment very soon
 - Donna worked with the Comptroller's office over summer to close out all FY24 grants
 - All FY25 grants, except new PPP, have been approved by City Council and Board of Finance. Once they're approved by the Joint Board on 9/10, Donna will get the first quarter payments processed
 - Programs will be paid quarterly going forward rather than monthly
 - Donna attending CTAEYC Conference September 20, and Program Administration Scale Reliability Training at CREC September 23-27
- **Quality Enhancement Report:**
 - Funds for Quality Enhancement will be drawn down after the Joint Board approves grants
- **Monitoring Visits Report**
 - In September, so far,
 - Edgewood Pre-Kindergarten Academy (EPKA) has 135/149 part day/part year spaces filled
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) has 122/129 full day/full year spaces filled (five 3-year-old and two 4-year-old openings) and 56/56 CDC infant/toddler spaces filled
 - Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center (INMELC) has 119/119 full day/full year Pre-K spaces and 8/8 infant/toddler spaces filled
- **Resignations:**
 - Councilor Andrew Howe
 - Siri Gilmore
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Sarah shared that the Family Resource Centers are setting up their play and learn groups to start at the end of September on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings; flyers will be posted

- Tina shared that the Bristol-Burlington Health District is hosting a Health Fair October 5 at Rockwell Park Amphitheater from 10:00-1:00; let her know if you want to be a vendor
 - Michelle Fangiullo shared that Bristol Boys & Girls Club is hosting its 5K Color Dash this Saturday; she also shared flyers for Playful Learners, a 4-week session for children under age 3; and Harvest Time on October 3 from 1:00-4:00
 - Michelle Herens shared that Bristol Health is remodeling its Labor and Delivery Unit currently and Birthing Center soon.
 - Jennifer shared that the Parent Ambassadors have their statewide quarterly meeting next Wednesday from 6:00-8:00; she will also attend the Parent Cabinet Retreat on behalf of Region 6; and, she has been asked to help New Britain Parent Ambassadors with their Community Café
 - Val shared data about Summer Reading at the Library: between 900-1,000 children participated reading the equivalent of 50 years! Greene-Hills School won, and their principal said he would dye his hair pink and sleep on the roof. Also, they served 5,000 free lunches from 6/24 - 8/16.
 - Any donations made for lunch today (and at October'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 1:00 PM.**

Next regular meeting date: October 2, 2024 in person and on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison