

**Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
October 2, 2024**

- The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on October 2, 2024 in person at the Bristol Board of Education and on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Jillian Romann at 12:20 PM.

Present: Maegan Adams, Matt Baronowski, Cecilia Garay, Maureen Eaton, Yesenia Fuentes, Michelle Herens, Donna Koser, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Wendy McGrath, Brenda Moore, Valerie Pelletier, Jillian Romann, Erick Rosengren, Sarah Roy, Dina Schaffrick, Jennifer St. John, Courtney Sugarman, Valerie Toner

Absent: Alyssa McGhee, Kristina Tanguay

Also Present: Michelle Fangiullo, Yolande Lazaruz-Guerrero

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held September 4, 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 September 4, 2024.***
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Maureen Eaton and Michelle Fangiullo
 - Discussed staff and enrollment updates
 - Discussed new class at BristolWORKS! and that it might benefit staff new to ECE
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) updates:
 - Donna shared document about how to update the Registry
 - Highlights from Early Start CT Listening Sessions were shared
 - Local updates:
 - Still need City Council, Board of Finance and Joint Board approvals for the Private Provider Payment (PPP)
 - Donna requesting family information for Ready4K text alerts
 - Committee planning to hold a fall legislative event
 - Next meeting is October 9 at 10:00 at Edgewood Pre-K Academy and on Zoom
 - Health Committee – Donna Osuch for Kristina Tanguay
 - Ideas shared to perhaps share information about “How to develop a Safety Plan” or bring “Circle of Security” class to community to address child mental health
 - Zoom educational classes for parents are being rescheduled
 - Discussion about dental screening of children by BBHD dental hygienists and creating follow up guide for families
 - Committee is asked to bring ideas for Little Read books that address mental health and feelings
 - Discussion about how to connect with Polish speaking families and growing committee
 - Next meeting is October 8 at 2:00 on Zoom

- Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
- Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
 - Parent Ambassadors planning sensory friendly movie night November 7 with a Community Conversation; movie is Winnie the Pooh, and looking for sponsors to pay for the movie license and snacks
 - Third part of Survey Project started last week 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
 - Parent Ambassadors partnering with Library for Halloween costume swap October 5
 - November 2 will be at the Farmers Market
 - Next meeting is October 17 at 10:00 on Zoom
- Infant and Toddler – Maegan Adams and Michelle Herens
 - Children’s clothing drive details are being confirmed with everything now happening at the library - more to come
 - November 2 will be at the Farmers Market
 - Discussion about committee working with the Police Dept. on a car seat safety event with outreach and children’s books
 - Next meeting is October 15 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Courtney Sugarman
 - Parent survey report highlights:
 - 160 surveys returned (much fewer than previous years)
 - Fewer children attended preschool, or parents have high school diplomas
 - More parents read to their child daily, and more children getting adequate sleep and engaging in 4 hours of physical activity
 - New questions re: napping and familiarity with programs used in Kindergarten
 - Ask if we can include survey with registration process to ensure better data
 - Discussed Transition of children with IEPs:
 - Kindergarten teachers said transition team was “spot on”, and they called community teachers for more information when they noted a concern
 - Discussed community preschool programs have 25-40% children with IEPs and some children with challenging behaviors
 - Planning Fall Dine & Discuss:
 - Donna sent a survey to decide between special needs and play based learning
 - Donna sent the Ready4K template to providers to gather family information
 - Next meeting is October 21 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates
 - Liaisons were told that this year we would pay programs up front and quarterly, but at a meeting with OEC, we were told to go back to monthly reimbursement starting in the 2nd quarter. After requesting clarification, communities can choose their preference.

Bristol's Comptroller's Office prefers to pay monthly, which was communicated to programs.

- OEC is holding Listening Sessions regarding the upcoming policy and programmatic changes with the implementation of Early Start CT. The changes being discussed in the upcoming session includes the Local Governance Partners (LGP), which are currently School Readiness Councils. Responsibilities of the council and liaison will change, including not deciding program funding. Next session is 10/3 at 6:00 PM on Zoom.
- Our membership with CT Early Childhood Alliance includes 2 free opportunities to attend an Advocacy Academy. Donna and Yesenia will attend.
- **Local Updates**
 - Bristol has two groups working on early childhood issues, Bristol Early Childhood Alliance (BECA) and the School Readiness Council. At the BECA meeting we started conversations to combine the two groups, which will continue. We want to streamline efforts and be ready for the State's requirement that we have one council, the LGP (see above).
 - Private Provider Payment has been submitted for approval by City Council and Board of Finance. Once they're approved by the Joint Board on 11/12, Donna will get the first payments processed
 - Donna passed Program Administration Scale Reliability Training. Maegan also passed.
- **Quality Enhancement Report:**
 - The first quarter funds for Quality Enhancement were drawn down, and Donna will inform programs when the second quarter are available
- **Monitoring Visits Report**
 - In October, so far,
 - Edgewood Pre-Kindergarten Academy (EPKA) has 147/149 part day/part year spaces filled
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) has 122/129 full day/full year spaces filled 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:** none
- **Appointments:** none
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Val Toner shared that story times begin next week for the next 10-week session; library is hosting a costume swap this Saturday; and she will be out for surgery in two weeks for an extended period
 - Jenn shared that the newest parent survey is available and asked if Courtney could share on Parent Square and if Donna could send to all Bristol providers

- 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
 - Donna Koser shared that United Way is hosting its Community Impact celebration October 29 at the DoubleTree by Hilton
 - Any donations made for lunch today 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 1:08 PM.**

Next regular meeting date: November 6, 2024 on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison