

Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
October 5, 2022

1. The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on October 5, 2022 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Chairperson Redzic at 12:17 PM.

Present: Maureen Eaton, Cecilia Garay, Tatiana Garcia, Siri Gilmore, Sarah Guerette, Erin Hamilton, Sarah Holmes, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Alyssa McGhee, Wendy McGrath, Brenda Moore, Valerie Pelletier, Azra Redzic, Jennifer St. John, Valerie Toner, Leah Zukauskas

Absent: Andrew Howe, Kristen Peck

Also Present: Sara Castle, Renee Dailey, Jillian Romann, Pam Testa, Rachael Witkewicz

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

3. **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held September 7, 2022: *Motion by School Readiness Council member Donna Koser and seconded by Wendy McGrath, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held September 7, 2022.***

4. **Committee Updates**

- Program Quality – Maureen Eaton
 - Maegan Adams agreed to serve as co-chair with Maureen
 - Discussion about shortage of staff and working with high school guidance and job placement staff
 - New fee guidance and schedule from the State
 - Joint professional development afternoons of October 7 and February 17
 - Trying to plan meetings and site visits with Bristol State candidates and share with parents
 - Next meeting is October 13 at 9:30 on Zoom
- Health Committee – Erin Hamilton
 - No new report
 - Next meeting is October 11 at 3:00 on Zoom
- Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
- Community Outreach – Donna Koser
 - 8 cases of books for Appetite for Reading shelves were just distributed
 - Family Fun Day committee has been meeting to plan an event for June 17 – please plan to join that day and let Donna know if you want to help the committee.
 - Next planning meeting is October 17 at 11:30 on Zoom
- Infant and Toddler – Lauren Kittle and Sarah Guerette

- Had guest from Bristol Health Labor and Delivery Unit at last meeting to discuss neonatal abstinence
- Next meeting is October 18 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Rachael Witkewicz
 - Debriefed May 26, 2022 Parent Orientation – lots of helpful feedback
 - 383 children registered before the last day of school, and 520 in attendance on 9/13/2022 with 74% registered on time. Schools are seeing increased enrollment even since first day of school.
 - Case Consultation Committee – figuring out best time to meet on the third Tuesday of the month
 - 61 Mini Voice Amplifiers distributed
 - Discussed survey results from parents of incoming kindergarten children – 243 surveys returned with some data better than last year and some data worse than last year:
 - 87% of children attended preschool, up from 75% last year
 - 44% of parents report reading to their child daily, up from 40% last year. It's still 11% less than 2014 when 55% of parents reported reading to their child daily.
 - 77% of parents report their child receiving 10-13 hours of sleep daily, up from 70% last year
 - 56% of parents report their child engages in 3 hours or more of physical activity, down from 62% last year
 - Use of hand-held devices (outside of virtual learning) was slightly up by 2%
 - Next meeting is October 17 at 3:45 on Zoom

5. School Readiness Liaison Report

- Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Updates
 - Infant/toddler reimbursement rate increasing to \$13,500 and State creating 1,300 new spaces – the first rollout is to CDC programs, and Donna applied on behalf of BCDC 9/23. OEC said the next rollout to School Readiness Councils would be soon, likely in October. We need to approve the Council's intent to apply to be included on the October City Council agenda. ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Maureen Eaton and seconded by Jennifer St. John, it was a unanimous vote to: Approve the request that the City of Bristol School Readiness Council apply for a grant from the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood for new Infant and Toddler spaces.***
 - OEC's ECE Reporter still has issues, but programs were required to submit their August reports through it. September reports are due next week. Liaisons finally will have access and training next week.
 - OEC releasing Enrollment Grants soon. All School Readiness sites are eligible to receive the funds quarterly for each month they can attest to enrolling a minimum of 50% of families at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. We do not know how much providers will receive at this point, but every dollar helps.
- Local Updates
 - Workforce issues – BristolWorks is in process of hiring its Executive Director. Donna is on the board and hiring committee and chairing the ECE committee. Please let her know if interested in participating on ECE committee.
 - Mary-Alice received a score of 98/100 on the grant she submitted last spring!

6. Quality Enhancement Report:

- No report

7. Monitoring Visits Report

- In September,
 - Bristol Board of Education (BOE) had 127/149 part day/part year spaces filled.
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 114/124 full day/full year spaces filled. They will not be full until January as they are holding spots for toddlers moving into preschool at that time.
 - Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center (INMELC) was filled with 119 full day/full year spaces.

8. Resignations: none

9. Appointments: none

10. Old Business: none

11. New Business: none

12. Community Sharing

13. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison

Next regular meeting date: November 2, 2022