

Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
April 5, 2023

- The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on April 5, 2023 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Chairperson Redzic at 12:17 PM.

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

Absent: none

Also Present: Renee Dailey, Jackie Furniss, Pam Testa, Rachael Witkewicz

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held March 1, 2023 and Special Meeting Minutes held March 8, 2023:**
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Jennifer St. John and seconded by Sarah Holmes, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held March 1, 2023.***
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Donna Koser and seconded by Amber Lipscomb, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the Special School Readiness Council Minutes held March 8, 2023.***
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Maureen Eaton
 - Discussed staff, turnover, and enrollment updates
 - Discussed BristolWorks
 - Started first CDA class March 22 with 26 students registered
 - Ribbon cutting was April 3
 - Discussed Office of Early Childhood updates
 - School Readiness Grant is due May 4, 2023
 - Discussion about unutilized slots statewide
 - Enrollment Grant for 3rd quarter due April 14, 2023
 - Confirmed CLASS training schedule
 - Rachael continues to receive large number of intervention referrals and requests
 - Discussed legislative session and proposed salary scale and legislative talking points
 - Next meeting is April 20 at 9:00 on Zoom
 - Health Committee – Erin Hamilton
 - Drafting a behavioral health resource guide
 - Discussed Build Your Village Groups and the need to reduce stigma of mental health
 - Wellness Wednesdays – adding tick information and kindergarten health forms, and always looking for material
 - Committee members received free seeds from Ocean State Job Lot from grant through UConn – FRC will distribute to all preschool programs with books and bookmarks

- Little Read book is *It's Okay to Not Be Okay* by Emily Hayes to help destigmatize behavioral health services
 - Senior Knitters gave large donation of hats and mittens, which were put at WIC Appetite for Reading and Rec & Read shelves
 - Next meeting is April 18 at 3:00 on Zoom
- Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
- Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
 - Family Fun Day is June 17, 2023, and committee wants vendor forms returned ASAP
 - Parent Ambassadors have plans to help children get outside and visit the parks this summer through story time scavenger hunts, “celebrities” reading out loud
 - Next Outreach meeting is April 20 at 10:00 on Zoom
- Infant and Toddler – Sarah Guerette
 - Announcement about new co-chair, Michelle Herens
 - Planning an event for Maternal Mental Health Day in May
 - Next meeting is April 18 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Kristen Peck
 - Discussed ongoing transition to kindergarten activities, including:
 - New lawn signs purchased and distributed
 - Media blitz continues with social media, electronic signs and lawn signs about registration for kindergarten
 - Donna will send flyer to pediatricians to promote registration
 - Hope to learn date of One Night One Purpose soon
 - Visits by Kindergarten teachers to BECC continue
 - Discussed the Dine and Discuss event that is held by the committee, and topic this year will be sharing handwriting curriculum BOE uses
 - Looked at parent survey and possible edits
 - Edits made to transition summary sheet
 - Next meeting is April 17 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates
 - OEC reallocating unutilized slots statewide, and Bristol did not have any removed but will gain 8 new school day/school year slots
 - OEC had a quick turnaround for new ARPA grants for the community providers
 - Opportunity came out March 17, and grants were due March 31
 - BCDC is eligible for \$52,233.04 for School Readiness and \$27,926.71 for their Child day Care grant and will replace flooring, cabinets and other deferred maintenance
 - INMELC is eligible for \$52,126.87 and will build outdoor classrooms
 - Local Updates
 - The 2023-2024 School Readiness Grant is due May 4, 2023
 - Donna reviewed the 2023-2024 School Readiness Grant required affirmations with Council members and reminded them to complete Google Survey affirming their

understanding of the: 1) SR Grant Overview and Description; 2) General Policy C-01; and, 3) Quality Enhancement Overview and Allowable Uses

- School Readiness Council members voted to approve the following:
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Andrew Howe and seconded by Val Toner, it was a unanimous vote to approve the Board of Education's request for 149 PD/PY spaces for \$670,500 for FY 2024. Kristen Peck and Azra Redzic abstained.***
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Donna Koser and seconded by Wendy McGrath, it was a unanimous vote to approve Bristol Child Development Center's request for 124 FD/FY spaces for \$1,106,576 and 8 SD/SY spaces for \$48,000 for FY 2024.***
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Kristen Peck and seconded by Jennifer Bilbraut, it was a unanimous vote to approve Imagine Nation - A Museum Early Learning Center's request for 119 FD/FY spaces for \$1,061,956 for FY 2024. Leah Zukauskas abstained.***
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Donna Koser and seconded by Andrew Howe, it was a unanimous vote to approve the same Quality Enhancement programs for \$18,756 for FY 2024.***
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Siri Gilmore and seconded by Jennifer St. John, it was a unanimous vote to approve the Board of Education's request to move their School Readiness classrooms from Ivy Drive School, Mountain View School and South Side School to the new Pre-K Academy, effective August 28, 2023. Kristen Peck and Azra Redzic abstained.***
- School Readiness providers and members presented to parents at Cambridge Park March 8, 2023, thanks to Brenda Moore who requested providers
- Liaison attended City required Agenda and Minutes Training March 3, 2023, which was about ensuring everything is posted to the City portal in a timely manner
- BristolWORKS started CDA classes March 22, and is full; its ribbon cutting was April 3rd
- Fact sheet for legislators turned into a beautiful brochure, and Donna will share

- **Quality Enhancement Report:**

- Reminder to draw down funds if have not already

- **Monitoring Visits Report**

- Programs are working hard to maintain qualified staff
- In March,
 - Bristol Board of Education (BOE) had 140/149 part day/part year spaces filled.
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 121/124 full day/full year spaces filled, and 40/40 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 spaces filled.

- **Resignations:** none

- **Appointments:** none

- **Old Business:** none

- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Sarah Holmes shared that the FRC's next Toddler Discipline class is April 6, and the 2 Preschool classes are May 2 and May 30, all in the library in the evening – she will email the flyer if you ask
 - Val Toner shared that the library has lots of programming during school vacation next week, and that they're gearing up for Summer Reading with free lunch and raffles for reading
- **Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:11 PM.**

Next regular meeting date: May 3, 2023 in person at the BOE Auditorium

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison