

**Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
September 7, 2022**

1. The regular hybrid meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on September 7, 2022 in the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium and on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by School Readiness Liaison Osuch at 12:18 PM.

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

Absent: Tatiana Garcia, Valerie Pelletier, Valerie Toner

2. **Swearing in of Council Members by Therese Pac, Town and City Clerk**
3. **Welcome, Elect Chairpersons and Introductions: *Motion by School Readiness Council member Donna Koser and seconded by Andrew Howe, it was a unanimous vote to: Approve the nomination of Azra Redzic and Maureen Eaton to serve as co-chairpersons through August 2023.***
4. **Approval of Regular School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held June 1, 2022 and Special Meeting Minutes held August 10, 2022: *Motion by School Readiness Council member Kristen Peck and seconded by Andrew Howe, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the regular School Readiness Council Minutes held June 1, 2022 and Special Meeting Minutes held August 10, 2022.***
5. **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Maureen Eaton
 - Discussion about shortage of staff and meeting with City August 18
 - New COVID-19 guideline from the State
 - Looked at CLASS data and joining together for professional development afternoons
 - Next meeting is September 8 at 9:30 on Zoom
 - Health Committee – Erin Hamilton
 - Three new co-chairs – Erin, Leo Suazo and Tina Tanguay
 - Reviewed ongoing programs (Tasty Tuesdays, Wellness Wednesdays, Community Baby Shower, Seed Project and Senior Knitters)
 - Eye Health Week is September 19-25, and nearsightedness in children has doubled since the pandemic
 - Learned that Bristol is #1 in CT in neonatal abstinence syndrome
 - Next meeting is October 11 at 3:00 on Zoom
 - Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
 - Community Outreach – Donna Koser
 - Funded by Bristol Rotary grant, gave away 900 Reading Buddies and 1,800 books

- Purchased 60 Early Learning Kits and gave away 20 – saving remaining for next summer
- Let Donna K know if you want to order a hot pink t-shirt for outreach events
- Infant and Toddler – Lauren Kittle
 - Goal will be to address neonatal abstinence syndrome
 - World Breastfeeding event was postponed and held August 16, 2022 at the library, and will be held indoors at the library going forward
 - Next meeting is September 20 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – TBD
 - Firetruck rides were held successfully with two young boys winning a ride to their first day of kindergarten on a firetruck. They attend Greene-Hills and Ivy Drive Schools. We appreciate the partnership with the Fire Dept. and received coverage from WFSB and *The Bristol Press*.
 - Need to select chairpersons
 - Next meeting is September 19 at 3:45 on Zoom.

6. School Readiness Liaison Report

- Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Updates
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) was approved for their space change retroactive to July 1, 2022 – moving one slot from West St to Burlington Ave
 - OEC went back to reimbursing programs by children’s attendance July 1. Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center (INMELC) was full in July at 119, and BCDC had 118/124 enrolled. BOE starts with September report.
 - COLA for 2021-2022 came in mid-June. City held special meeting so we could get checks to programs before June 30th to be in compliance (BCDC - \$40,689; INMELC - \$39,048)
 - COLA for 2022-2023: BCDC - \$96,637; INMELC - \$92,740
 - Infant/toddler reimbursement rate increasing to \$13,500 and State creating 1,300 new spaces
 - OEC requiring FD/FY programs to be open 48 weeks rather than 50 weeks, and community programs planning to close two afternoons for PD – the Fridays before Columbus and Presidents’ Days.
 - OEC updating parent fee structure to reflect rising medium income and % of income rather than flat rate. It just came out and will go into effect October 1 after trainings. BCDC discussing plan to increase rates slightly and will re-determine families in October.
 - New COVID guidelines for early childhood programs and schools
- Local Updates
 - Received grant from Main Street Community Foundation for mini-amplifiers, which were distributed last week
 - Plan to hold September, October, May and June meetings in person
 - Workforce issues – programs struggling to hire and retain staff. Meeting with Mayor, Dawn Nielsen, Justin Malley, Cindy Bombard, Donna K, Manny Martinez and Maegan Adams to discuss options to promote profession.
 - Council needs to approve Alternate Care Policy for full-day/full-year programs for families to be able to access care should their program close. ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Andrew Howe and seconded by Amber Lipscomb, it was a unanimous vote to: Approve the Alternate Care Policy as presented.***

7. Quality Enhancement Report

- Funds are available.

8. Monitoring Visits Report

- In August,
 - Bristol Board of Education (BOE) did not serve children over the summer.
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) was full (124).
 - Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center (INMELC) was full (119).
 - All programs have openings for preschool right now, including BOE. BCDC and INMELC have wait lists for infant and toddler programs.

9. Resignations: none

10. Appointments: none

11. Old Business: none

12. New Business: none

13. Community Sharing

14. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison

Next regular meeting date: October 5, 2022