

**Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
November 2, 2022**

1. The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on November 2, 2022 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Chairperson Redzic at 12:19 PM.

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

Absent: Susan Adeife Lee

Also Present: Maegan Adams, Jennifer Bilbraut, Sara Castle, Renee Dailey, Jillian Romann, Pam Testa, Rachael Witkewicz

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

3. **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held October 5, 2022: *Motion by School Readiness Council member Andrew Howe and seconded by Jennifer St. John, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held October 5, 2022.***

4. **Committee Updates**

- Program Quality – Maureen Eaton
 - Discussion about staff and enrollment updates
 - Planned meeting with high school guidance and job placement staff at Imagine Nation Museum on October 26, 2022
 - Discussed Office of Early Childhood updates
 - Professional development for community programs afternoon of October 7
 - BCDC hosted Elsa Jones who did the first part of a diversity and equity training; second part will be held in February
 - Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center (INMELC) staff heard from Sara about engagement, inclusion and transitions
 - Next meeting is November 10 at 9:30 on Zoom
- Health Committee – Erin Hamilton
 - Discussed activities committee supported in past (Tasty Tuesdays, Wellness Wednesdays, Community Baby Shower for 40 families with 12 vendors, Seed Project, Senior Knitters, Eye Health)
 - Brainstormed additional concerns (Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, Asthma Rates, Behavioral Health – 23 overdoses in September with nine fatalities)
 - Potential idea to hold Teddy Bear Clinic at Family Fun Day to address multiple concerns
 - According to Sarah H, Pet Smart in Plainville will donate stuffed animals
 - Next meeting will prioritize goals, but potentially shifting focus due to growing concerns regarding mental health
 - Next meeting is November 8 at 3:00 on Zoom

- Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report

- Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
 - Always looking for content for MakingBristolBetter Facebook page – send to Donna K
 - Polar Express will be back in person at the Bristol Public Library on December 8 at 6:00
 - Donna K, Donna O and Jennifer reached out to PTAs/PTOs, and first presentation will be at Greene-Hills School next week
 - 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 have a table and do an activity.
 - Next planning meeting is November 7 at 11:30 on Zoom

- Infant and Toddler – Lauren Kittle and Sarah Guerette
 - Lots of discussion about neonatal abstinence syndrome – committee members will bring research, data and information to next meeting
 - Next meeting is November 15 at 1:30 on Zoom

- Transition to Kindergarten – Rachael Witkewicz
 - Discussed timeline for 2022-2023 school year and recognize that changes need to be made for students with special needs:
 - Move transition meetings earlier in the year
 - Connect Wheeler and Social Workers earlier
 - Invite staff to visit students in their pre-K classrooms in March to see what works
 - Struggling students might need to be front-loaded with help/services at the beginning of Kindergarten
 - Create Transition Checklist
 - Case Consultation Committee – figuring out best time to meet on the third Tuesday of the month
 - Next meeting is November 21 at 3:45 on Zoom

5. School Readiness Liaison Report

- Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Updates
 - City Council approved our request to apply for new infant and toddler funding when it becomes available. Imagine Nation Museum Early Learning Center would like 16 slots, and Board of Education might want slots.
 - Enrollment Grants will be provided quarterly to all School Readiness and Child Day Care funded programs for each month they can attest to enrolling a minimum of 50% of families at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. The first quarterly grant has been extended to November 2, 2022, and will provide \$80/child/month for full-day slots and \$40/child/month for part-day slots.
 - OEC released applications to all School Readiness sites for Wage Enhancement grants. Full time staff will receive \$1,000 bonuses, and part-time staff will receive \$400 bonuses in the first phase. The second phase will roll out in early 2023.
 - Elevate was just released, which is a new system to support program quality at all levels.
 - SR Administrative Funds Enhancement Grant was just awarded to Bristol (\$42,585.48 for FY2023 and FY 2024). Liaison offered suggestions for new funds. Send ideas (admin, evaluation and parent support), and Council will approve at December meeting.

- Local Updates
 - Annually, programs determine the Cost of Care using a template from the Office of Early Childhood. In Bristol, the Cost of Care is:
 - South Side School is \$3,559/year.
 - Mountain View School is \$4,338.50/year.
 - Ivy Drive School is \$4,555.28/year.
 - Bristol Child Development Center is between \$16,500-\$17,000/year.
 - Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center is \$13,468/year.
 - Providers held meeting with Bristol high school counselors and career coach October 26th at 2:00 at Imagine Nation Museum Early Learning Center.
 - Workforce issues – BristolWorks hired its Executive Director.
 - Encourage everyone to ask candidates about their views on early childhood and share with them the importance of the field in children’s preparedness for learning and workforce development.

6. Quality Enhancement Report:

- No report

7. Monitoring Visits Report

- In October,
 - Bristol Board of Education (BOE) had 136/149 part day/part year spaces filled.
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 116/124 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) had 116/119 full day/full year spaces.

8. Resignations: none

9. Appointments: Jennifer Bilbraut, Cookie Dough Cookies

10. Old Business: none

11. New Business: none

12. Community Sharing

13. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison

Next regular meeting date: December 7, 2022