

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

Zoom Meeting Notes

April 6, 2022 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

In attendance: Meagan Adams, Maureen Eaton, Sandra Godin, Mary Beth Hicking, Kate Kercheart, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Dawn Leger, Karen Lombardi, Donna Osuch, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Kara Singleton, Tanya Smith (Co-Presenter), Jenn St. John, Leo Suazo, Sue Tobin (Co-Presenter) and Jessica Zareck

Members were invited to introduce themselves.

Presentation; Panel discussion with a School Psychologist and Social Worker.

Dr. Sue Tobin and Tanya Smith (MSW) provided a great presentation: PowerPoint is attached.

QUESTION - wondering what is the data tracking (disruptive behavior, an incident, etc.)?

A call for support goes to the Student Support Team (principal, School Psychologist, social worker, etc.). Some behaviors include sadness from the loss of a grandparent, a rough morning and in tears, or for someone who become highly dysregulated, etc.

QUESTION: Is the data broken down or are we lumping all data together? What is there dysregulation and how can we bump those skills?

Most are likely classified as “having a difficult time managing their emotions” and has not been broken down further. Some noted supports are requested for troubles with social skills, triangular – helping them build their social skills and get along with peers.

Supporting Students Resilience: Bristol schools has partnered with the community to work collaboratively to support students since returning to in person learning. In the 2020-2021 school year BPS were able to support in person and virtual learners with extra counseling sessions, tutoring sessions and virtual activities like book clubs and game nights. Younger students engaged in virtual activities such as “show and tell”, “would you rather” games and “scavenger hunts”. This school year younger children received a teacher assistant in each of the Kindergarten classrooms, a push in social skills lessons, extra academic support (small group with interventionists and instructional support). Teachers also received strategies for managing emotions and modeling/reinforcing.

QUESTION: Do you know the average size of a K classroom – do they need to share assistants? Average maybe 20 – This year an assistant is in each classroom (last year they were floaters).

21st Century Program: Families really loved the Summer Boost program and they are hoping to do it again this summer. There have been early childhood programs visit – where teachers had some concerns with transitions. Those students were also invited to the Summer Boost program.

Celebrating Growth: Data from Lexia showed that rather than lowering expectations perhaps they should be increased - showing the students resiliency. It is sensed that there have been undeniable impacts, but children are resilient and can come over a lot. Resources are used to support students and this provides hope.

Technology increase (individual devices, etc.), Smart Boards in every learning space, has been fantastic for small groups, etc., Grant money for family nights with food and/or activity, games in classrooms (teach interaction skills).

QUESTION: Are the programs strictly at South Side?

A little bit of both. Districtwide there is a vision -systematically assessing where resources are needed and provided. Extra supports at Southside are due to the FRC partnership (especially family activities). Some are across the district and others are for each school.

Take an optimistic approach. It certainly has not been easy and the district is doing their best. Having relationships with families help in getting children the supports they need.

Re-invent, reimagine, re-vitalize – Nothing reported

Collaborating Grants – Nothing reported

Subcommittee Updates – meeting notes will be shared by the Committee Chair

Community Sharing – Donna invited everyone to either place upcoming events/updates in the chat or email her at dkoser@uwwestcentralct.org

NEXT MEETING – May 4, 2022, 11:00 a.m. on ZOOM