



April 3, 2019

11:00-12:00

Bristol Board of Education Room – Room #36

Members Present: Jess Ceatano, Kim Carmelich, Nydia Dominguez, Maureen Eaton, Cecelia Garay, Karen Lombardi, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Karen Lombardi, Tracy Krasinski, Donna Osuch, Catherine Plourde, Coral Richardson, Tina Rodriguez, Valerie Toner & Mindy Wallen

Start Ups/Welcome: All present introduced themselves and Maureen & Lauren welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Community Outreach: At the last meeting, the Resource Guide was discussed. This useful tool has been updated and will be used for one on one meetings with residents. Imagine Nation is holding an event its Storybook Ball on May 18th and BECA members will be present to hand out Appetite for Reading books. BECA's outreach coordinator is available for one on one meetings to learn more about BECA's partners and the community. This month, the Infant & Toddler committee will be providing the Friday Fact's for the Making Bristol Better Facebook page.

Subcommittees:

Infant & Toddler – At the last meeting, the committee had a lengthy discussion around the 'Breastfeeding in the Park' event. The committee wanted to check in with BECA members to ensure that there was no known conflict in holding the event on August 3 with a rain date of August 4. The committee is looking in Rockwell park where vendors, breastfeeding and pregnant moms could gather in the area where seating is available. Vendors will be asked to set up tables to provide free information to families

Health – The committee was present at the Imagine Nation Teddy Bear Clinic and presented the interactive "Rethink your Drink" display. Families were engaged and left with a better understanding of how much sugar they were giving their children. Parents also learned about reading labels and how to look for sugar alternative chemicals that were used in beverages. The committee has plans for two programs in April being held at the Bristol Public Library: "Good Healthy Eating for You and Your Baby" and "Positive Parenting Skills Promotes Positive Behaviors". The "Little Read" is being held April 8th through the 12th. The book is currently being promoted on Facebook with Chief Gould reading the book to children at Bristol Preschool.

Transition to Kindergarten (T/K) – The committee last met on March 11th to talk about what is in place and what is needed. As of today (4/3), 409 students are anticipated to register for Kindergarten this year. So far, 315 incoming Kindergarten students have been registered. The "Dine & Discuss" event is being held on April 4 at the Burlington Ave. Bristol Preschool where there will be a small panel and several conversations around Kindergarten expectations, assessments and how to use them. The committee anticipates this will be a learning experience for all. "One Night, One Purpose" is on track for May 29th. A committee is currently working on the slide show that will be used at all of Bristol schools. Members who wish to volunteer can still sign up by contacting Mary-Alice, Donna O. or Donna K.

Prenatal to Birth Work:

Phase I: Bristol Babies Born Reading event will take place April 9th, 10th and 11th at the library. The baby showers will be held on April 11th at 10 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. New moms will receive a gift bag and a belly book. There will also be several prizes awarded to those in attendance. To date, 8 mothers are signed up to read 50 books to the bump. Each time they read 50 they mark off eggs on a little farm page and get a small prize.

Phase II: Birth to age 3 committee will be formed.

Community Sharing/Upcoming Events/Meetings:

Parent & Child Center: Circle of Security kicked off on March 27th and is running for 7 more weeks. Co-parenting is still an available resource, as well as, playgroups and groups tailored to mom, dad and grandparents.

Imagine Nation: The museum is celebrating 15 years and holding a “from the vine” event on May 3rd from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Tickets are available at imagination.org/winetasting. On May 18th the museum is holding the “Storybook Ball” from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

United Way: The Community Builders Reception will be held on April 11th and all members are welcome to attend. Day of Caring will be held on May 17th. Nonprofit organizations are asked to send their projects in ASAP to ensure that volunteers can be selected. All members are welcome to volunteer this day by letting Donna K. or Donna O. know.

Main Street Community Foundation: The General Grant Cycle is closed and applicants should be hearing if they have been selected for a site visit in May. Grant award letters will be sent in June. Letter of Intent for Broadview funding are now being accepted.

Hartford Healthcare: Two free skin screenings will be held: May 16th at 183 North Mountain Road, New Britain and May 24th at 435 Lewis Avenue, Meriden. All are welcome to get a free 5-minute spot check.

Bristol Preschool: Beth Bye, OEC Commissioner, is scheduled for a site visit. Currently, there are full time employment opportunities.

Park & Rec: Registration for camps opened up on Monday and is half way full. There is still a few openings and campers can be registered through their school and Youth Services. The camp design is a little different this year with ages being broken up with 6 to 8 years of age and 9 to 12 years of age. This year Public Works will be building “All Heart Nests” with campers and providing a recycling program. Themes have been designed around a book this year. There are meal options available. Park & Recs has plans to partner with the Library for this year’s Spring Gala. A fishing derby has been scheduled for ages two to 13. Fish and Game experts will be available to help the children when needed. There are a lot of activities also planned for preschoolers. All activities can be found on the Bristol Park and Rec Website Preschool section.

Child First: Currently seeking someone to fill the position. It is anticipated that this priority role will be filled quickly. The New Britain team is covering when needed.

Bristol Burlington Health Department: May 1st is the Senior Olympic walk with preschoolers.

WIC: Confirmed that the app mentioned in the last meeting is available for everyone to use and will email the link to Donna K. to share with all.

Members present were asked to complete an anonymous PLUS (something that is going well in BECA meetings) and a DELTA (where things can go better).

Next meeting May 1, 2019 - 11:00 Rm 36 @ BOE 129 Church Street