



October 2, 2019

11:00-12:00

Bristol Board of Education Room – Room #36

Members Present: Jess Caetano, Maureen Eaton, Cecilia Garay, Kate Kerchaert, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Karen Lombardi, Donna Osuch, Mary-Alice Petricelli-Timek, Catherine Plourde, Rebeca Rossi, Amanda Sawyer, Alexandra Strahowski and Melissa Volpe

Start Ups/Welcome: Lauren & Maureen welcomed everyone to the meeting. All present were asked to introduce themselves along with what organization they represented.

Community Outreach: All present were reminded that the United Way Resource Guide is a living document and always changing. Agencies who share the guide should print from www.makingbristolbetter.com for the most recent copy. United Way of West Central Connecticut has submitted a grant for the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) and the Children's Leadership Training Institute (ages 4 and older). For more information on this training, please visit: <https://ctcwcs.com/parent-leadership-training-institute/>

Caplan Grant: A meeting will be set for next week. Those who are interested are encouraged to reach out to Mary-Alice with their preference for October 9th or 11th.

Sparkler Grant: United Way of West Central Connecticut has received a new grant from the Office of Early Childhood for a mobile "Sparkler" app to help promote children's healthy child development. Both the Family Resource Center and Parent & Child Center staff received an orientation and are beginning the initiative in their respective programs. Community assistance is needed to promote this service. Parents will receive useful tips through their mobile devices and the opportunity to meet with program staff.

Subcommittees:

Infant & Toddler – Colleen Brunetti, a children's book author of "Aiden the Wonder Kid" was a guest speaker at the last meeting. Amanda handed out cards for teacher discounts to all who were present. A video of Colleen reading her book has been uploaded to Making Bristol Better's Facebook page. The committee has plans to make "Breastfeeding in the Park" an annual event and are looking into ways of improvement. The Parent & Child Center meeting location has been temporarily moved to 222 North Main Street, Bristol, CT. The new location is directly across the street from the old building.

Health – Orange Nose Day (Orange you glad you're healthy?) to promote healthy habits is underway in Bristol Schools with a few modifications to the school lunch program (i.e., orange vegetables, etc.). The committee will be participating in the Bristol Park and Recreation "Spooktacular" event being held on October 26th. A short survey will be given to parents in attendance. BBHD sanitarians will start "handwashing" in preschools.



Transition to Kindergarten (T/K) – Approximately 100 "new students" entered Kindergarten this year who were not pre-registered. Most of the children transferred from other communities/states/countries. The committee developed a survey to improve "One Night, One Purpose" and will be sent out as soon as it has been approved. 291 Kindergarten surveys were completed. The downward trend of parents who read to their children daily continues. Preliminary results are 44% of parents read to their children in 2019 (In 2017 57% of parents read daily and in 2018 47%). Additionally, there continues to be a rise in the amount of time children are spending on electronic devices.

Prenatal to Birth Work: Phase II "Bristol Babies Bridge to Literacy" focuses on birth to age 2. The committee held its first event – Tad Talks "How Screen Time Effects Children's Vision presentation by Dr. Tad Bartles.

The presentation had great information for parents/grandparents. Dr. Bartles Tips for keeping children's eyes safe can be found on www.makingbristolbetter.com. The committee is moving forward with the city letter to parents who give birth in Bristol. A donation request to the Friends of the Bristol Public Library is still waiting approval. If approved, parents will receive a card to be turned into the library staff to receive a copy of "I Love You Like Sunshine" book. The next event will be a Literacy Night with a theme of the "Polar Express".

Community Sharing/Upcoming Events/Meetings:

Imagine Nation: On 10/26, Imagination will be having a "Fall Festival" with lots of fun activities for families. Imagination recently added events/programs to its "Birthday Party" packaging.

Bristol Park & Recreation: Welcome back Jess! Fall programs have begun. October 26th is the "Spooktacular" event with over 2,000 people anticipated to be in attendance. Family fun will include scavenger hunt, foodtrucks, vendors and more. A Broadview grant has been awarded and on October 19th, a Cocktails at 8 event will be held to support the work of "Pop Up Parks".

Adult Ed: A manufacturing program is available for those who are interested in a new career. The program also assists program participants in seeking employment.

Child First: Child First is eager to receive referrals to Bristol families.

WIC: Offices are temporarily moved to 222 Main Street. Office is up and running and seeing clients.

Bristol Burlington Health District: EEE Guidelines and recommendations are available on the CT Dept of Health Website. If you need to be outside between Dusk & Dawn, it is recommended that you wear appropriate clothing and use bug spray. If possible, avoid fresh water and outside camping. Risk remains until there is a **DEEP** frost.

Main Street Community Foundation: An event will be held on Monday, October 7th at the Bristol Public Library with a presentation "Women in Work"; trailblazers in unique careers. The event is free and CPTV will be on side for discussion after the short presentation.

United Way: Wine Tasting event is Nov. 1, tickets will be available on 10/3/19. Ticket price is \$50.00 before 10/16 and \$65.00 afterwards. It was decided at the recent "Bristol Cares" meeting that the "Stock our Shelter" event will continue this election. United Way will continue to be the collection site for canned goods and monies.

Parent & Child Center: Office has moved to 222 Main Street and programs are continuing through the transition. Parent Survival Support Group is up and running, as well as Dads group every other week. The next Dads Group will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2019 from 6:00-8:00. A MOE's fundraising event is planned for Tuesday, October 8, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please make sure you have a copy of the flyer either on your phone in your hand for the sale to count towards the Parent & Child Center.

Next meeting November 6, 2019 - 11:00 Rm 36 @ BOE 129 Church Street