

**Bristol School Readiness Council  
Regular Meeting  
February 1, 2023**

1. The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on February 1, 2023 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Chairperson Redzic at 12:16 PM.

**Present:** Maureen Eaton, Cecilia Garay, Siri Gilmore, Sarah Guerette, Donna Koser, Amber Lipscomb, Wendy McGrath, Brenda Moore, Kristen Peck, Valerie Pelletier, Azra Redzic, Jennifer St. John, Valerie Toner, Leah Zukauskas

**Absent:** Jennifer Bilbraut, Tatiana Garcia, Erin Hamilton, Sarah Holmes, Andrew Howe, Susan Adeife Lee, Alyssa McGhee

**Also Present:** Maegan Adam, Sara Castle, Jackie Furniss, Jillian Romann, Pam Testa, Rachael Witkewicz

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

3. **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held January 4, 2023: *Motion by School Readiness Council member Brenda Moore and seconded by Kristen Peck, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held January 4, 2023.***

4. **Committee Updates**

- Program Quality – Maureen Eaton
  - Discussed staff and enrollment updates
  - Discussed BristolWorks
    - Contract in process with Tunxis Community College
    - Non-residency fees being waived still being discussed
    - Expect to start classes in March
  - Discussed Office of Early Childhood updates
    - Administrative and Enhancement Grants
    - High COVID rates
    - Infant and Toddler Grant
  - Discussed Professional Development and training for CLASS
  - Looked at draft of talking points for legislators
  - Next meeting is February 9 at 9:30 on Zoom
- Health Committee – Donna Osuch for Erin Hamilton
  - Ivy Drive School Psychologist Melissa LoSchiavo discussed behavioral health among young children in schools
    - FRC will draft a resource guide for next meeting
    - If teachers notice something different about a child, bring to Rachael’s attention
  - Wellness Wednesdays continue to offer social media posts on wellness – focused on asthma posts in January
  - Free seeds available from Ocean State Job Lot through online grant through UConn – Donna will share with anyone who is interested
  - Next meeting is February 14 at 3:00 on Zoom

- Governance – Sarah Holmes
  - No report
- Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
  - “Build Your Village” on four upcoming Sundays (February 12 & 26, and March 12 & 26) for parents, like a Parent Circle – first date will be about connecting with your child and creating a Vision Board
  - Family Fun Day is June 17, and potential vendors should receive forms next week
  - Next Outreach meeting is January 19 at 10:00 on Zoom
- Infant and Toddler – Sarah Guerette
  - Regrouping and refocusing committee
  - Reviewed activities to determine priorities and goals – sent survey to committee members to see where they want to focus
  - Next meeting is February 21 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Kristen Peck
  - Kindergarten registration starts TODAY! Please let all families you know with a student ready to enter kindergarten it’s time to start the process by downloading the registration packet off of the Board of Ed website.
  - Committee ordered 100 new lawn signs with the updated logo thanks to the BOE
  - Donna Koser reposted kindergarten readiness videos created last year – please share
  - Early notification forms were sent to community programs
  - Transition meetings for Special Education students have started
  - Voice amplifiers were redistributed to kindergarten teachers and principals who requested them
  - Next meeting we’ll discuss different activities and opportunities to expose BECC and other pre-K students to typical kindergarten environment
  - Next meeting is February 13 at 3:45 on Zoom

## 5. School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch

- Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates
  - United Way was invited to submit a proposal to CHEFA for behavioral support on our behalf
  - Contract was approved for new infant and toddler funding for Bristol Child Development Center for 14 new slots
  - Both School Readiness Administrative Funds Enhancement and Quarterly Enrollment Grants were approved by the Board of Finance January 24, 2023 and will go to the Joint Board February 14
  - The CT Early Childhood Alliance is lobbying for a large financial package, and the School Readiness Liaisons are asking for a more reasonable package that supports our state-funded programs
- Local Updates
  - Donna presented the need and proposal to redirect \$3,000 of Quality Enhancement funds from the Parent and Child Program due to capacity to run Play & Learn groups and parent classes, to the Family Resource Center. ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Donna Koser and seconded by Maureen Eaton, it was a unanimous vote to***

***approve the redirection of \$3,000 of School Readiness Quality Enhancement funding from the Parent and Child Program to the Family Resource Center for FY 2022-2023. Cecilia Garay abstained from voting.***

- Donna met with the Comptroller's Office to discuss School Readiness budget and will present briefly to the Board of Finance February 28, 2023.
- Workforce issues – BristolWorks Early Childhood Committee is making progress and should be able to start classes by March
- Sara Castle is leaving Imagine Nation to work for CREC, and Leah Zukauskas will take her place. We appreciate all that Sara has done for Bristol's children and wish her well!

**6. Quality Enhancement Report:**

- Monitoring staff and student files and completed BCDC and INMELC – all is good
- BOE is scheduled next week

**7. Monitoring Visits Report**

- In January,
  - Bristol Board of Education (BOE) had 138/149 part day/part year spaces filled.
  - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 117/124 full day/full year spaces filled.
  - Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center (INMELC) had 112/119 full day/full year spaces filled.

**8. Resignations:** none

**9. Appointments:** none

**10. Old Business:** none

**11. New Business:** none

**12. Community Sharing:**

- Donna Koser announced that BECA is holding a virtual Regional Early Childhood meeting February 23, 2023, and to watch for the invitations.
- Donna K also shared that United Way is benefitting from a Stop & Shop floral fundraiser, so buy certain bouquets from the Forestville store in February to benefit United Way.
- Wendy McGrath announced a professional development opportunity March 11, 2023 from 9:00-11:00 at CCSU, a book review of 16 new books. The first 100 registrants will receive a bag with half of the books. Registration will open soon.
- Wendy also shared in-person Pyramid model trainings February 1 and 21 from 6:30-8:00 at TCC.

**13. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:52 PM.**

**Next regular meeting date: March 1, 2023**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna Osuch  
School Readiness Liaison