

## WPI FBC Minutes – Meeting #6 of AY 22-23

11/28/23

In Attendance: Mike Radzicki, Rob Dempksi, Courtney Kurlanska, Jessica Sabourin, Laura Roberts, Dirk Albrecht, Nicole Caligiuri, Liz Chirico, Shams Bhada

Guests: Mia Dubosarsky, STEM education center  
Joellen Andrews, Director of Benefits & Wellness

Absent: Karen Coghlan, Diane Dubois

Mia introduced herself and talked about her work in the STEM Education Center. She started a project with Head Start in Worcester, which supports children's growth from birth to age 5 through services that support early learning and development, health, and family well-being. Mia received a grant in 2015 from US Dept of Education to develop a STEM curriculum for Head Start. Her team won a WIN grant to do a feasibility study about WPI supported childcare. They surveyed the WPI community, hosted listening sessions, and connected with WPI Facilities & Center for Well Being. They interviewed First Friends, Goddard School as well as childcare directors at Purdue and BC. They conducted an analysis of childcare at comparable universities.

### Takeaways from the surveys

- Important Factors
  - Safety is the most important factor
  - Proximity to home is more important than proximity to work
- Preferred Childcare
  - Vouchers the most popular option
  - WPI led after school care – least popular

The group's presentation gives the overview of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Goddard School, First Friends, and On-campus Childcare. Mia spoke about BC bringing childcare to their campus in the 80's by their Human Resources department. BC also offers vouchers as well.

Eric Beattie, VP of Facilities, gave a few space options for on campus childcare: Salisbury Estates or South Village

Mia also mentioned the lack of nursing rooms on campus. Boynton has a space and Goddard has a nursing pod.

Shams asked Mia if they had data regarding Ad Hoc childcare. Mia explained that this type of childcare was brought up after the surveys were done so they had no data.

Mike expressed the importance of detail in the FBC's recommendations back to FAP. He stated there was a broad area of options to look at. Joellen asked Mia if she felt the childcare need is more about accessibility or financial support and Mia stated that both should be a priority. The reality of long wait lists or the inability of finding nannies.

Rob Dempski noted that Mia had WIN funds left over and would it be beneficial for the FBC to follow up with her. Mia stated that her group has either graduated or left WPI. The funds have been extended until the end of this fiscal year. Mia asked if there was some research that we would like to see, and Courtney explained that the FBC is looking for more information on Ad Hoc or backup childcare. Laura Roberts explained the benefit that Microsoft offers through Bright Horizons. Care given on an emergency basis for both children and the elderly subsidized about 100 hours per child per year. Laura mentioned that the FBC was also looking to do a survey and maybe we could partner with Mia's group about a survey regarding emergency child/elder care.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:52am