



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes

April 8, 2026, 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Central Missouri Community Action (807 N. Providence, Columbia, MO) via Zoom

Meeting Objective: Finalize Raising Readers Launch

Attendees: Kristine Smith (Columbia Public Schools), Cindy Reese (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition), Aaron Fox (Aaron Fox Writes), Onni Flint (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Catherine Millier (BCECC), Sarah Howard (Daniel Boone Regional Library (DBRL)), Joanne Nelson (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD), Enola-Riann White (BCCSD)

1. Welcome
 - a. Partner Updates – no updates
 - b. Tony Temple – Temple Made Fitness
 - i. Enola opened the meeting sharing an update on Temple Made Fitness, a wellness group based in Kansas City with a literacy component. Tony Temple reached out to discuss his plans to bring “Welcome to the Zoo” to Columbia in partnership with Mizzou Athletics. Tony is seeking local partners and may reach out.
2. Follow up from last meeting
3. Launch finalization
 - i. The workgroup finalized how Raising Readers will onboard and engage participants. At events attendees scan a QR code to join the email list, receive an automated follow-up email with initial survey, and then self-select a participation tier that will have tailored follow-up/access.
 - ii. Campaign materials will be bundled in small packets initially available for pick up at the Community Services Department, with expansion to additional sites later.
 - iii. Discussion on social media included scheduling, strategy, group rules for the private Facebook group, and staff screening posts for relevance.
- b. Jim Gill Concert
 - i. Sarah Howard provided details on the Jim Gill concert, including preliminary reservations numbers, volunteers to staff tables and distribute materials, stroller parking, and snacks for children. Sarah also mentioned DBRL will have a Raising Readers Banner for the table at the concert.
4. Next Steps
 - a. BCCSD staff will reach out to Parks and Recreation regarding Family Fun Fest participation
 - b. Develop participation tier handout, sign up and social media QR codes for use at events.
 - c. Finalize the initial survey questions and workflow.
5. Closing
 - a. The meeting concluded with a reminder of the April NET meeting Spotlight

Next Workgroup Meeting: May 13, 2026, via Zoom or in person at Central Missouri Community Action (807 N. Providence Rd, Columbia, MO)

**Upward Mobility is an initiative of the Boone County Community Services Department
and is funded in part by the Boone County Children’s Services Fund.**