

**Enfield School Readiness Council**  
**And**  
**KITE Collaborative**  
**at the**  
**Stowe Early Learning Center**  
**Wednesday, April 4, 2018 5:30p.m.**

*The mission of KITE is to ensure that Enfield's children are healthy, safe and happy; live in thriving families; and are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed in school and flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

**Minutes**

**I. Welcome and Introductions- LeAnn Beaulieu**

There were 41 people in attendance:

Sue Neville	KITE	Damian Humphry	DSS
Kristin Raiche	Enfield Public Library	Ryan Obedzinski	ERfC
Don Ellis	Enfield Fire Dept.	Carlene Elrick	Adult Ed.
Lisa Rogers	PLA	Brianna Beckstrand	KITE
Karen Edelson	ECDC	Jaclyn Valley	STEAM PreK
Malissa Griffith	KITE/Play	Amy Witbro	EPS
Patti Glaspie	Here Wee Grow	Keith Vujs	KITE/BOKs
LeAnn Beaulieu	KITE	Donna Szewczak	Enfield TC
Melany Anderson	KITE	Joe Muller	Enfield CT
Tim Neville	Enfield BOE	Ed Deni	Enfield TC
Karen Weseliza	KITE	Carol LaLiberte	ACC
Deb Clement	Head Start	Jean Haughey	Youth Services
Charlotte Riley	Enfield BOE	Katelyn Dunn	PLA/Parent
Andrew Longey	EPS	Chris Drezek	EPS
Melissa Bednarz	Happy Time Preschool	Mike Lucwick	Enfield TC
Scott Ryder	Enfield BOE	Katy Lee	KITE
Jen Moncuse	KITE	Amy Morales	FRC
Bob Cressotti	Enfield TC	Tom Arnone	Enfield TC
Scott Kaupin	Former Mayor	Walter Kruzel	Enfield BOE
Amy Peltier	United Way	Lucy Cordero	
Jaylen Alcmee	Student Mayor TOE		

**II. Acceptance of Minutes from the January 3, 2018 meeting**

- Corrections to the January 3rd meeting minutes were noted. These minutes were accepted with two corrections. The Play Workshop series for parents was held on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. The EE/PP Breakfast scheduled for January 11, 2018 was postponed. A new date has not been set.

**III. School Readiness Business/Update**

- The 28 school readiness slots are filled and they are fully enrolled. The ECDC staff is current with the CT-Charts-A-Course registry.

**IV. VOTE: KITE Equity Belief Statement**

- The KITE Equity Belief Statement was voted on and passed with zero opposed and zero abstentions.

**V. Special Guests:**

- Superintendent of Schools, Chris Drezek, presented KITE with an Enfield Public Schools Award of Partnership. He spoke to the meaningful collaborations between KITE and the EPS and what has been accomplished because of this.
- Former Mayor Scott Kaupin spoke to his work with KITE during his tenure as the Mayor of Enfield. He noted that through KITE the Town of Enfield was able to move to full day kindergarten in a bi-

partisan effort. With the support of LEGO the town was also able to open an additional Family Resource Center.

## **VI. Area Focus Teams**

- **Result #1: Enfield's children are safe, happy and healthy.**
  - KITE has committees currently working on health initiatives such as Developmental Screening and Mental Behavioral Health. They work with community providers, pediatricians and other community partners on health issues that families with young children are facing.
  
- **Result #2: Enfield's children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
  - The Parent Leadership Academy is currently running its 13<sup>th</sup> class. This had been a strong program for parents in Enfield, many going on to leadership roles in such things as town/school government, school PTO's etc. Spanish PEP (People Empowering People) is running its 5<sup>th</sup> class. The Family Resource Center offers many programs for children and families and works to connect them with programs and resources. KITE has hired a new Parent Engagement Coordinator who works with families not just in the Stowe Early Learning Center but in the community as well. There is a newly formed FTO (Family Teacher Organization) in the Stowe building where families and staff from both the town and school programs can work together.
  
- **Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**
  - KITE has been able to positively impact the early childhood community and their families. Through KITE and the School Readiness funding many free, quality professional development opportunities have been offered for local providers. For example a training to providers was offered on the ELDS (Early Learning and Development Standards). Head Start also provided a training on trauma affected children and families, developmentally appropriate practice and more. KITE has partnered with Asnuntuck Community College to provide professional development opportunities to early educators. Every year KITE provides to parents a program called "Preparing for the Kindergarten Transition". At this event the primary school principals, the superintendent, the nursing supervisor and kindergarten teachers provide information to families on expectations for children entering kindergarten. The Play Lab, located in the Stowe Early Learning Center, is a place for all children both in the building and in the community to come together and learn through play.
  
- **Cross-Cutting Strategy: Expand playful learning opportunities for young children in preschool, at home, and in the community.**
  - After full day kindergarten began there was an expressed need from teachers to incorporate executive function strategies into their classrooms. This work with executive function and purposeful play expanded into the pre-k community with the Train the Trainer Program. In 2015 we began a community wide play campaign on play and formed the group Enfield Plays On! To further the work with play, KITE applied and received funding from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to create a play campaign with Manchester Youth Services. KITE has been recognized for the work that's being done in Enfield and for its partnership with other communities on a regional as well as state level.

## **VII. Conversation with Community Leaders and Collaborative Partners Discussion Highlights:**

- Enfield has a student mayor, Jaylen, who was welcomed to the meeting by Mayor Ludwick. The Mayor highlighted several topics including collaboration within the town, the budget and the Mayor's Advisory Council.

- Communication to the community about programs and resources that are available to families was discussed. A community calendar was mentioned by many as being a useful tool for our community. How and where it is accessed is also discussed. KITE does have a calendar of events on its website. KITE also has a grant to hire a marketing and communication person who will work to enhance communication.
- There is a need for behavioral health services in Enfield. Dr. Calnen discussed the work that the health committee has been doing with Child First to open an office here in Enfield. Mental health management support for the primary caregiver of children can be supported through the Circle of Security program which is evidence based and effective.
- There is an upcoming training opportunity for providers to be trained in the ASQSE. This is a follow up to the ASQ training held for providers last year.
- There is a need for support and resources for children who have adverse childhood experiences. Suicide prevention and the connection to treatment and management options also needs to be a focus.
- Hard to reach families are typically those who need support and services. The suggestion of reaching out to places where these families can be found such as areas shelters was made. Also inviting these organizations to have a seat at the KITE table would help to reach more families.

### **VIII. Announcements:**

- There is an upcoming Fatherhood Workshop series facilitated by Doug Edwards, Director of Real Dads Forever. The eight week workshop will begin on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 pm. This series will have a multicultural focus and will look at fatherhood from different cultural perspectives. All workshops will include dinner and child care and will take place at the Stowe Early Learning Center. To register or for additional information please contact Brianna Beckstrand, KITE Parent Engagement Coordinator, at (860) 253-6502 or email her at [bbeckstrand@enfield.org](mailto:bbeckstrand@enfield.org).
- The Week of the Young Child is April 16<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. Please check the KITE website and Facebook page for the daily events.
- Tonight in Thompsonville will be held on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The flyer for the event can be found on the KITE website under events.
- ERfC's Toast of the Town fundraiser will be held on Friday, April 20, 2018 at the Old Country Banquets & Deli, 4 Alden Ave, Enfield. It will begin at 6:00 pm.
- The Enfield Public Library will be hosting several events during the spring vacation week. For more information please visit the Enfield Public website [www.enfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://www.enfieldpubliclibrary.org)
- The Head Start program is still accepting applications.
- Enfield Unplugged week is scheduled for the last week in April.

### **IX. Adjourn**