

**Enfield School Readiness Council**  
**And**  
**KITE Collaborative**  
**at the**  
**Stowe Early Learning Center**  
**Wednesday, May 5, 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 16 people in attendance:

Kristin Raiche	Enfield Public Library	Joanna Fornwalt	Youth Services
Don Ellis	Enfield Fire Dept.	Carlene Elrick	Adult Ed.
Jen Moncuse	KITE	Damian Humphry	Dept. SS
Karen Edelson	ECDC	Lorena Cisneros	PEP
Malissa Griffith	KITE/Play	Amy Witbro	EPS
Patti Glaspie	Here Wee Grow	Amy Morales	FRC
LeAnn Beaulieu	KITE	Chris Gomeau	KITE
Melany Anderson	KITE	Karen Weseliza	KITE

**II. Acceptance of Minutes from the April 4, 2018 meeting**

The April and May meeting minutes will be accepted at the June 6, 2018 KITE Meeting.

**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.
- The 2019 School Readiness re-application is due on May 15<sup>th</sup>. This grant now runs on a two year cycle so no RFP to providers is needed.

**IV. KITE Updates:**

**a. Leadership Committee Updates:**

• **Meeting Updates:**

- The yearly Community Self-Assessment will be done at the June 6<sup>th</sup> KITE Meeting. Dawn Homer-Bouthiette has agreed to facilitate again this year. A quick review of last year's assessment will be done before so we can see the progress we have made since last year.
- KITE and the FRC have applied to LEGO for funding again this year. The application was due on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Award notifications will be released on June 20<sup>th</sup> and the new grant year will run July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019. They are looking to fund programs that directly utilize an inquiry based learning through play approach. The work being done in Enfield aligns with this proposal.
- KITE has received several letters of interest and resumes for the marketing and communications specialist position. Interviews will be held the week of May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- LeAnn reported that this is the end of her two year tenure as the KITE Chairperson. The KITE Bylaws state that she can serve an additional two year term which she would be happy to do. She did want to state that if someone is interested in this position please contact Chris Gomeau, KITE Coordinator, with a letter of application.

- **Budget Update:**

- Melany Anderson presented the budget report. She reported on expenses for the months of December, January, February and March.
- In December our total expenses were \$8,858.38; January, \$10,773.73; February \$8,728.32 and March \$13,182.33.
- Budget highlights were discussed. Any questions please contact Melany at manderson@enfieldschools.org.

**b. Area Focus Teams:**

- **Result #1: Enfield's children are safe, happy and healthy.**

1. **Health- BOKS-** BOKS is in its third week at each school and will go until June 7<sup>th</sup>. Most schools are fully enrolled with wait lists. Enfield Street School has 19 children on their wait list so it is quite popular there as well as Parkman School, Prudence Crandall and Henry Barnard. There are still openings at Eli Whitney for a few more children. Eli Whitney is also in need of an assistant facilitator.
2. **Mental/Behavioral Health-** KITE is partnering with Youth Services representing the early care and education sector on Trauma Informed Schools committee. This opportunity is made available through CHDI. KITE is representing the early education community and will contribute by facilitating focus groups. Youth Services put together a survey which KITE will send out to its distribution list. Lorena Cisneros offered to translate the survey to Spanish and help with distribution as well. Enfield was invited to submit an application for a team to participate in a community planning institute. This institute will assist teams in planning for comprehensive systems to support early childhood social and emotional learning. Planning teams can then bring the work back to their communities. This is similar to the way the 3 to 3 work was brought to Enfield. Applications are due May 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Developmental Screening Initiative-** The Developmental Screening Committee will be holding the ASQ Social/ Emotional screening training for various early childhood providers on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 10-2 pm. There are 28 people registered for the training that will be provided by Luz Rivera from Help Me Grow. The committee is in the process of putting together a list of mental health professionals what can be given to the trained professionals for referrals once screening is complete and if the results determines one. Two committee members have been networking with the North Central Community group to build these relationships for the referral list. Even though KITE focuses on screening for Enfield's children, the referral list will go outside the town lines to bring in more options for families.

- **Result #2: Enfield's children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**

1. **Parent Engagement-** The Fatherhood Workshop Series begins tonight and there are eight dads signed up. The FTO had a successful Magician event for the Week of the Young Child. They reached 40-50 children from all programs in the Stowe building and Head Start. There were also representatives from the town and EPS present. The FTO is currently working on Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week which is next week. Brianna has been meeting with the different cultural parent engagement coordinators to learn more about the culture, needs and issues facing families in Enfield. Plans are being made to hold a Diversity Focus Group. The goal is to talk with families from various communities in our town to see what the needs and gaps in services are. More details to follow.
2. **Department of Social Services-** The Family Resource Center is in the process of running a Raising Readers Parent Book Club. This seven week series gives parents tools to help encourage their children's literacy development. They are also holding a monthly Coffee and Conversation series where families can come together and chat with each other and a Parent Educator about any questions they have related to parenting.

3. **Partners in Education** – Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Henry Barnard School is the Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten Fair. Families can come and learn about activities and receive materials to help their children engage in playful learning over the summer. There will also be two kindergarten classrooms that families can visit.
4. **Parent Leadership Academy**- The Parent Leadership Academy is getting ready to hold its last two classes. This year's class is in the process of choosing their community project. The Parent Leadership Association is holding its annual Town Wide Tag Sale. This year will be the 8<sup>th</sup> year and will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to get on the map the deadline is May 5<sup>th</sup>. The cost to participate is \$25 and all proceeds go directly to the Enfield Food Shelf.
5. **People Empowering People**- This week is the 6<sup>th</sup> week of this year's Spanish PEP class. There are nine participants who are engaged and really enjoying the program. They are thinking of project ideas. One idea is to provide the community with Latino food at Loaves and Fishes.

• **Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

1. **Transition to Kindergarten/Quality Enhancement** Transition meetings are currently being held to talk about placements for kindergarten with teachers and counselors. Kindergarten registration was held on Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. KITE donated two books, *The Night Before Kindergarten* and *If You Send A Mouse to School*. On Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> Peg Oliveria, PHD, Founder and Executive Director, 108 Monkeys, will be offering a training on "Understanding and Addressing Challenging Behaviors, Mindfully: An evidence Based Trauma Informed Approach" Dinner will begin at 5:30 and the program will run from 6-8:30 pm at the Stowe Early Learning Center. To register or for more information or questions please contact Karen Edelson, [kedelson@enfield.org](mailto:kedelson@enfield.org) or 860-763-7043.
2. **3 to 3 Committee**- KITE partnered with Asnuntuck Community College to offer a professional development opportunity. On April 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> there was a two part program titled "Anti-Bias in Early Education Classrooms". This workshop explored ways to ensure that early ed classrooms recognize and value diversity, and ensure inclusion and equity in all early education settings. On April 25<sup>th</sup> there was a Tinkering workshop offered at the Play Lab at Stowe for early care and education providers. On May 16<sup>th</sup> KITE is partnering with the Enfield Public Library to offer a program titled "Anti-Bias in Children's Literature". In this training they will discuss the importance of using anti-biased literature in the curriculum as well as selecting quality literature. This program will take place from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Play Lab at Stowe.
3. **Primary Schools Report:** No report was given at this meeting.
4. **First Readers**- The next First Readers ceremony will be held on June 4, 2018 at 6:00 pm at Enfield High School. Many volunteers are needed. Please report to Enfield High School at 5 pm if you are able to volunteer. Any questions can be directed to Kristen Raiche at [kraiche@enfield.org](mailto:kraiche@enfield.org)
5. **Book Buddies:** The second delivery of books is almost complete.

• **Cross-Cutting Strategy: Expand playful learning opportunities for young children in preschool, at home, and in the community.**

1. **Stowe Early Learning Center**- Don Ellis from the Enfield Fire Department did a movement activity for the children in the Stowe building. There were different stations showing different forms of movement, for example, the tripod and pulley system. The children were able to see how the different pieces of equipment on the firetruck move. All of the kids loved it! Kindergarten classes have started to visit the Play Lab. There has been great feedback received on these field trips.
2. **Enfield Plays On** – There was a very successful Space Event held in January. More than 300 families attended. Right now we have 10 trained Play Ambassadors. There will be a meeting held on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> to begin planning for summer play events. There are 7 Play Pals. Three are new: Parker, Priya and Pakeezah. Parker is our toddler Play Pal and Priva and Pakeezah represent the Somalian and Indian cultures.

We are getting ready to assemble the Summer Playcation Kits once again. The United Way is helping by arranging for volunteers to come to Stowe one morning in June to assemble the kits. One of the items in this year's kit is a game called Healthy Highway. The game board features the artwork of Enfield students who won gift certificates to their school's book fair. Three hundred kits will be available and will be handed out at the Enfield Public Library's summer kickoff event on June 27th.

3. **Equity** – As a continuation of the Inspiring Equity grant from the WCGMF the KITE Parent Engagement Coordinator will be organizing a Diversity Focus Group. The purpose of this focus group is to bring together as many of the different cultural communities in our town to see what the needs are and to discuss where there are gaps. More information is to follow.

## **V. Announcements**

- The Summer Lunch Bunch Kick Off Event will be held on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-7:45 at St. Patrick's Hall, 64 Pearl Street. Join them for the Garden Bash, get a free Summer Lunch Bunch t-shirt and enjoy a free pizza dinner. There will be food demonstrations by Chef Bill Collins for parents and garden games and planting activities for kids.
- The Summer Lunch Bunch Program will run again this year from June 27<sup>th</sup> – August 17<sup>th</sup>. It will run Monday through Friday at the St. Patrick's Hall, 64 Pearl Street. Activities for kids and parents will run from 11-11:55 followed by lunch served from noon to 12:45. No registration is necessary and the program is open to all kids age 18 and under. Parents or guardians attending with their children will also receive a free lunch.
- On Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> ERfC is hosting a free Family Day Frisbee Jamboree from 10 am – 2 pm. Join them at Higgins Field for a variety of fun and games for children of all ages. For more information visit [www.erfcinc.org](http://www.erfcinc.org)
- The EPL will be hosting Bingo this Friday evening as part of Enfield Unplugged. It will begin at 6:30. Come and enjoy this free drop in program.
- The Enfield Public Library will be welcoming Anne Carmen as the new Head Children's Librarian.
- The EPL's Summer Reading program is entitled "Libraries Rock" will be kicking off June 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **VI. Next Steps**

## **VII. Adjourn**