



## Enfield School Readiness Council KITE Collaborative

Wednesday, January 4th, 2023, 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.st*

### AGENDA

#### I. Welcome and Introductions – LeAnn Beaulieu

##### • There were 21 members present.

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE

LeAnn Beaulieu-KITE

Danielle Brown- Parent Ambassador

Steven Ling- Holy Trinity Church

Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Department

Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool

Diana Olano- Diana's Daycare LLC

Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library

Jennifer Ryan- KITE

Amy Morales- FRC/Social Services

Karen Campbell- NCCCC

Michelle Zaugg- KITE

Jaclyn Valley- EPS/Stowe

Ruth Sales- CHR/ECCP

Eileen Gardner- Enfield Child Dev. Center

Danielle Girard- PFlag Enfield

Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Comm. College

Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education

Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador

Josue Irizarry- ERfC

Adrienne Snow- EPS

#### II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2022

- i. The December 7, 2022 KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

##### b. Voting on 23-25 Chairperson

- i. Carol LaLiberte was voted unanimously to become the 2023-2025 Chairperson.

#### III. School Readiness Business/Quality Enhancement Update

- a. All 28 School Readiness slots are full at Enfield Child Development Center (ECDC).
- b. The monthly report is due on Friday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, and will be shared at the February KITE meeting.
- c. The state has allocated \$30 million in funding for an emergency stabilization grant program for School Readiness and Child Day Care programs. ECDC receives both grants. Through June 2024, School Readiness programs with more than 50% of their children living at or below 300% of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive these funds. The amount of funding ECDC will receive is \$26,880. Funds may be used for any costs associated with providing childcare services. ECDC will be using the funds for staffing (\$16,500), professional development, enrichment activities, and supplies.
- d. One-on-one virtual sessions have been taking place on play based learning and Executive Function. ECDC staff are doing well with Executive Function strategies. Very reflective and good discussions on how to modify for the youngest children.
- e. January 26- Melanie will come to observe in classrooms and hopefully see play scenarios in action and be able to give feedback.

##### • Classroom Updates:

- All 3 Preschool classrooms participated in the Gingerbread Jamboree.
- Families were invited to help children create gingerbread houses.
- Room 7 - the oldest pre-k room - had a holiday concert for families the week before Christmas. They also invited families in to share holiday traditions. There was a grandparent who came and talked about Hanukkah and made dreidels with the children.

- The center participated in Pajama Day on December 9<sup>th</sup>; all proceeds went to Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC).
- McKinney Vento Update: (Everyone is encouraged to share handouts)
  - Julie Carroll is Enfield's McKinney Vento liaison.
  - Most homeless Enfield students are "doubled up".
  - Some in shelters- DV; Some in motels - sometimes subsidized, sometimes not.
  - If there are mid-year changes- the student can remain in Enfield.
  - Social Workers at schools and school secretaries are often the ones discovering when there are homeless children.
  - Referrals to medical, dental, mental health are provided by school social workers.
  - Funding to get parents to school for school functions.
  - Posting notices on homelessness in community.
  - Split transportation costs with other districts if needed.
  - Families have a right to attend school of origin or in district where they are living.
  - Professional development for staff.
  - 33 students currently homeless
    - K-2: 7
    - 3-5: 8
    - Stowe: 3
    - JFK: 4
    - EHS: 7
    - ETLA: 1
    - Eagle: 1
    - HS out of town: 1
  - Julie has a grant for students affected by homelessness- hygiene, clothing, (large need) school supplies, transportation.

#### IV. Equity

##### a. Wishes for 2023

- i. Brianna shared some wishes that Collaborative members made in 2022. Everyone wrote down their wishes for 2023. These will be shared yearly.

##### b. Community Conversation

- i. Members of planning committee are meeting tomorrow with Randi McCray at ACC. Randi will be listening to ideas and will teach us her model of how she will facilitate the first community conversation event. The plan is to identify questions that we have and any additional input. The first Community Conversation event is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>. We are still looking for facilitators and note takers, the deadline to sign up is next week. Training will be provided.

##### c. Heritage Fair

- i. There have been a couple of committee meetings. Jennefer created new flyers that we can share digitally. A few countries already signed up for displays. Food vendors are needed so if anyone has anyone that may be interested, please have them reach out to Amy Witbro.

#### V. KITE Updates

##### a. Leadership Work Group

###### ● Updates

- KITE will be submitting the Town of Enfield Q2 Report and the OEC Interim Report by January 15<sup>th</sup>. There is no additional OEC funding, but they are extending the current use of funds. KITE grant funds have been spent, but we are hopeful there will be additional funds with the continuation of the grant. This would require a new grant request. We are currently scheduling and having focus groups for Early Childhood Community Plan. Organizational surveys will be going out.

- **Budget**
  - KITE expenditures for FY2023 – November: \$11,215.69. Please e-mail Brianna if there any questions.
- **Communications**
  - December Social Media Stats for January 2023 KITE Report
    - In the month of December KITE published 21 posts.
    - 14 posts were KITE specific (Heritage Fair, Meetings, Holiday Greetings, PLA).
    - 7 partner/community content shares (activities, partnership posts, wreaths across America).
    - Total Reach: 7.9K | Up 19% over November
    - 814 total engagements |Down 9.3%
    - #1 Post: Holiday Lights around Enfield 1700 reached with 270 engagements
    - #2 Post: PLA (Parent Leadership Academy) 940 reached with 61 engagements

**VI. Area Focus Teams:**

- **Result #1: Enfield’s children are safe, happy, and healthy.**
  1. **Infant/Child Mental Health**
    - a. Over the past couple of months KITE has been working to form a mental health committee. Leadership Workgroup asked Ruth Sales (CHR/ECCP) to chair the committee, and she agreed. KITE is asking for people to sign up for the committee and a sheet went around to do so. Ruth presented and shared copies of a book titled, *“Gizmo’s Pawsome: Guide to Mental Health”*.
  2. **Sparkler**
    - a. ECDC parents have downloaded the app, but many have not done the screening yet. They plan to send home printed copies to parents. Parents will receive a gift card as an incentive to complete the screening. The grant ends in February. There is a scheduled *“Dine and Discuss”* on February 9th to explain the Sparkler App. They are hoping to have someone come to present.
- **Result #2: Enfield’s children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
  1. **Family Educator Organization**
    - a. There is a Science Center night planned for Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Stowe’s Family Engagement team will be meeting next week to discuss.
  2. **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
    - a. Coaching is going on with kindergarten teachers. The Gesell Institute is compiling the data and information for the work it’s doing with KITE and EPS in Family Engagement. There is a plan to ask Peg Oliveira to present at a Board of Education meeting.
  3. **Parent Leadership Academy**
    - a. Recruiting still going on. Please reach out to anyone you think would be interested and connect them to Malissa Griffith.
  4. **People Empowering People**
    - a. They are still looking for a facilitator. There is funding to train someone that may be interested. Please connect them to Lorena Cisneros.
  5. **Other**
- **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. **3 to 3**
    - a. Working on another *“Dine and Discuss”* for providers to feature Sparkler.
    - b. Still discussing and planning the *WeSpy* initiative.

c. Next meeting is Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**2. First Readers**

a. February 25<sup>th</sup> is Trivia Night. Tickets are on sale now. The first ceremony is March 6<sup>th</sup> at JFK. The second ceremony is June 5<sup>th</sup> at EHS They are still looking for volunteers. You can contact Kristin Raiche if you are interested.

**3. Book Buddies**

a. Don Ellis shared they are working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> delivery for May or June.

**4. Rocking Chair Readers**

a. Working on scheduling volunteers over the next couple of weeks. We hope to have them in Stowe classrooms by the end of the month or early February.

• **Cross Cutting Strategies:**

**1. 2Gen**

a. Next meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. This year's focus is on affordable and accessible childcare.

**2. Play Lab (Tabled)**

**VII. Announcements**

- a. Jaclyn Valley- Stowe has had a lot of flu shots come in which is fantastic. They are just waiting on a couple more.
- b. Danielle Brown- Attended the Children's Collective and mentioned that Hartford has their own parent cabinet. Danielle took on a new position with Intercommunity. She is looking to cross over into the schools in Enfield to work with them and bring mental health awareness in, especially to the high school.
- c. Karen Campbell- The Chamber had their annual meeting and are working on new Acts of Kindness, which has 14 students.
- d. Amy Morales- Currently, Social Services is hiring for a social worker that is working with kids.
- e. Diana Olano- This was her first meeting, and she mentioned that she wished more childcare providers would attend. She is happy with the support she is getting from Social Services and with Ruth (CHR) for mental health.
- f. Kristin Raiche- Upcoming programs at the library: January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 is *Word Play with Center Dance*. Ages 3 and up. They will read a picture book, "The Mitten" and create a musical story and then act it out. January 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am to noon is Playful Engineers for children ages 5 and up. They will bring items like dominos and marbles and kids can build things to test. Both programs drop in.
- g. Kristin Herzig- Is excited for her new role with School Readiness now that Parent Ambassadors has ended. She is looking forward to working on the mental health committee. She shared that she now has her own private practice and the need for counselors is ongoing. She already has a waiting list.
- h. Josue Irizarry- ERfC is hosting a Family Game Night on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. This is free for all ages, and they are teaming with CREC who will be putting together robots. They will be having a Preschool program on Saturday's called Space Explorers from 9am -10am for children ages 3-4. The cost is \$75 for 6 weeks. They also have a school age program that still has openings for before and after school. There are still openings for any families interested in the JFK program, and it is Free.
- i. Danielle Girard- PFlag is having a meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> via Zoom at 6:30pm. The meeting is to discuss their first Pride Festival event that will be taking place on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Town Green. On January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm they will be having an event, *Coffee with PFlag* at Barnes and Noble. They are really working to put something together for kids under 13. January 21<sup>st</sup> they will be having their virtual support via Zoom from 6:30pm – 8pm. That same day they will have *Pancakes with PFlag* from 9am -11am at Enfield United Congregational Church.

**VIII. Adjourn**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:55.