



**Enfield School Readiness Council
KITE Collaborative
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 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 21st century.

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions – Carol LaLiberte, Chairperson.

There were 20 members present.

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Michelle Zaugg- KITE
Melanie Dube- KITE	Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool
Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Comm. College	Steve Kaselouskas – Enfield Police
Adrienne Snow- EPS	Malissa Griffith- PLA
Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library	George Hendrickson-Ujima
Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador	Marie Pyznar- Town Council
Amy Morales- FRC/Social Services	Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education
LeAnn Beaulieu-KITE	Altressa Cox-Blackwell – EPS
Eileen Gardner- ECDC	Lanie LeBrun- Enfield Food Shelf
Karen Edelson- Social Services	Caterina Merriam- Enfield Parks and Recreation

II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – January Minutes - January 3, 2024

- a. The January 3, 2024, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

III. School Readiness Business/Quality Enhancement Update

- a. All 28 slots are full at ECDC.
- b. McKinney Vento Update:
 - Numbers of homeless students provided by Julie Carroll, McKinney-Vento Liaison:
 1. PK: 1
 2. K-2: 10
 3. 3-5: 8
 4. Middle School: 2
 5. High School: 11
- c. School Readiness Budget: Budgets are on track with spending now that the fiscal year is half over. The grant for FT 25 appears to be a continuation grant and more information will be coming.
- d. Quality Enhancement: Work with Melanie Smith Cervera from EastConn is continuing and she is returning on March 11. We will be meeting to discuss plans for the new grant year.
- e. Classroom updates: Room 7 Students will be taking a field trip to Mark Twain on Valentine’s Day and will be doing arts and crafts and singing songs. Room 5 has a student from ACC that just started and is doing a wonderful job. Room 4 just had a fashion show complete with a red carpet, which wrapped up their clothing unit.

IV. Equity – Adrienne Snow

- Adrienne shared the book, "Our Favorite Day of the Year" which discussed a classroom full of children with different traditions that they celebrate throughout the year and how the teacher created a calendar for the class so they would always remember each tradition even if they weren't in the same class together next year.
- She also shared this [bitmoji page](#) that the Library Assistants can use when they share it with classrooms.

V. KITE Updates

a. Leadership Work Group Updates

- KITE received the first half of their Town of Enfield grant. Brianna shared Enfield Public Schools Press Release on the Kindergarten Age Change. If a family wishes to apply for a waiver for their child to enter prior to being 5, Enfield Public Schools has a waiver form online. Assessments will take place March 4th through May 31st at the child's home school. Currently 28 families have applied for the waiver.

b. Budget

- KITE expenditures for FY2023 – December Expenditures \$17,424.22. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.

c. Communications

- In the month of January KITE published 13 posts.
- 4 posts KITE specific (Communications Day, Staff birthday, PLA, MLK Day), 9 partner/community shares (EP&D Play Area, indoor ideas for PLAY, Hartford's Sparkler Glow Event, West Hartford Special Needs Meeting, Ujima Celebration, Free Tax Advice). 1,422 total reaches | Down 17% | 187 total engagements, up 31% | #1 post PLA New Year, New You Recruitment 616 reached 61 engagements. #2 post was Communications Day – Director shout out to KITE's MarCom Coordinator 439 reached 94 engagements.

VI. Area Focus Teams:

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

- **Infant/Child Mental Health**
 - Dr. Calnen and Jean Acree met with Brianna and Carol, and they brainstormed how the two committees could work together. It was a very rich conversation, and they came up with many ideas.
 - ECDC Administrative Staff will be going through the Circle of Security Classroom approach with Erin Grimes and Angelica Fajardo facilitating, just as Stowe EPS staff have gone through.
- **Sparkler**
 - To date, 524 children in Enfield are enrolled in Sparkler. In the past 30 days, 60 ASQs (Ages and Stages Questionnaire) were completed. Categories are Communication, Fine Motor, Gross Motor, Problem Solving, and Personal-Social. 63% On Track, 15% Monitor, 22% Refer. The most referrals were in communication. 26 ASQ-SEs were completed. This is the social emotional portion of the ASQ. 70% On Track, 19% Monitor, 11% Refer. Dr. Villa's office has doubled the number of patients enrolled in the last month, from 22 to 48 children.

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

- **Family Educator Organization**
 - FEO Life Hacks are continuing to receive life hacks for Nutrition.
 - Michelle shared that FEO has started taking pictures of the artwork in the hallways and classrooms to post on the Facebook page. She has gotten a lot of great feedback from families who are loving seeing their kid's artwork.
- **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
 - Brianna met with Chairwoman Riley to discuss KITE's 3 Year Partnership with the Gesell Child Institute at Yale University and the presentation/report given to the former Board of Education.

- HMS is hosting an Instructional Play Workshop for district K and 1st grade educators on February 12th. They were chosen to be a part of a play pilot program with EastConn, and KITE is partnered in this work. Brianna and Jennefer will be attending.
 - **Parent Leadership Academy**
 - The new PLA class began on February 3rd. It is the 17th class, and they are in their 19th year.
 - Malissa shared that everyone is looking forward to the first class this week.
 - **Parent Ambassadors/SRC Advisory**
 - Kristin shared that the OEC Quarterly Parent Cabinet meeting will be held virtually on February 8, 2024.
 - i. One of the discussions for the meeting is the change in kindergarten age.
 - ii. She received her Parent Ambassador handbook and shared the vision/mission statement with the collaborative.
 - Kristin also shared that the Parent Ambassadors are hoping to help for Week of the Young Child events.
- c. Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21st century.**
- **3 to 3**
 - KITE's 3-to-3 Committee welcomed kindergarten and early childhood educators to CT State-Asnuntuck in the evening on Thursday, February 1. A wide variety of items from Asnuntuck's former Reading Room program including furniture, imaginative play materials, and books were available to educators for free. FRC donated child-sized hats, mittens, and scarfs to the centers of Early childhood educators. Survey results of providers informed the committee that they would love to be more connected to EPS and Kindergarten teachers, as well as having more ideas or access to sensory, art, and science activities.
 - We will be meeting on 2/15 to plan our next "Dine and Discuss" event for early childhood educators. Lanie Lebrun from the Food Shelf will be our guest to discuss the possibility of having it there as we think some of the early childhood educators will qualify to use the Food Shelf. We also think that knowing about and seeing how great the Food Shelf is will benefit children and families.
 - **First Readers**
 - Trivia night will be held on February 24th at Mount Carmel. It is Disney themed trivia this year. Tickets are available for sale on the First Readers Facebook page and website. You can pay through Eventbrite or with Venmo.
 - i. A new option for payment at the Trivia night is Venmo for the speed rounds.
 - ii. First Readers are partnering with Enfield Produce and Deli on Trivia Night. If you order from Enfield Produce and Deli, then a portion of the sales will go to First Readers, and they will deliver any food ordered right to the event.
 - **Book Buddies**
 - No new updates were shared.
 - **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - We are always looking for more volunteers. Please reach out to Michelle if you know anyone interested, and she can get them set up in a classroom.
 - **2Gen**
 - No new updates.
 - The meeting that was scheduled for February 14th will be rescheduled to a later date.
 - **Play Lab (Tabled)**
- VII. Adjourn**
- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.