

**ENFIELD SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL
KITE COLLABORATIVE
WEDNESDAY MARCH 6, 2024, 5:30 P.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.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – CAROL LALIBERTE, KITE CHAIRPERSON

There were 23 members present virtually		
Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Amy Morales- FRC/Social Services	Jaclyn Valley- EPS
Melanie Dube- KITE	LeAnn Beaulieu- KITE	George Hendrickson- Ujima
Jennefer Ryan- KITE	Eileen Gardner- ECDC	Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education
Adrienne Snow- EPS	Steven Ling- Holy Trinity Church	Alena Josephson- Child First
Karen Campbell- NCCCC	Michelle Zaugg- KITE	Amy Witbro- Retired/KITE
Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Department	Cat Merriam- Parks and Recreation	Rosalind Swift- Ujima
Altressa Cox-Blackwell- EPS	Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Comm. College	Chris Gomeau- KITE
Malissa Griffith- PLA	Lanie LeBrun- Enfield Food Shelf	

ACCEPTANCE OF KITE MEETING MINUTES- FEBRUARY MINUTES

- The February 7, 2024, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

SCHOOL READINESS BUSINESS/QUALITY ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

- All 28 slots are full at ECDC.
- McKinney Vento Update:
 - Numbers of homeless students provided by Julie Carroll, McKinney-Vento Liaison:
 - PK: 1
 - K-2: 10
 - 3-5: 8
 - Middle School: 2
 - High School: 11
 - School Readiness Budget: The RFP for FY 25 should be coming out next week. You may have heard there are proposed changes to the early childhood system. There are still more questions than answers at this point and how this would affect the different early childhood programs - we will keep you informed as we learn more. Early Start CT is Connecticut's new state-funded early care and education program, combining three funding streams (Child Day Care, School Readiness, and State Head Start Supplement) into a single state-funded program.
 - Quality Enhancement: We have a meeting on Monday March 11 with Melanie Smith Cervera from EastConn to discuss plans for the new grant year.
 - Classroom updates: On Friday March 1st, we celebrated Read Across America Day. We had guest readers for all the classrooms which included the mayor, Chief of Police, and the assistant Town Manager who were all assigned to the preschool classrooms. Room 5 ended their pet unit by making their own stuffed animals that they were able to take home and keep. Room 4 is collaborating with Erin Grimes, the FRC parent educator, with weekly visits to the FRC room where they participate in activities that are planned for them.

EQUITY- ALTRESSA COX-BLACKWELL

- Altressa shared a PowerPoint lesson she created for teachers during Black History Month. They were called WOW Wednesdays, and the teachers could share facts about extraordinary Black American History Makers. At last month's collaborative meeting, Altressa asked the question, "Who is Frederick McKinley Jones?" Frederick was the inventor of mobile refrigeration systems. See video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9yXYopwIC0>

KITE UPDATES

- LEADERSHIP WORK GROUP UPDATES**
 - KITE will be submitting their final report for Sparkler on March 15th.
- BUDGET**
 - KITE expenditures for FY2023 – January Expenditures \$13,336.39. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.
- COMMUNICATIONS**
 - In the month of February KITE published 26 posts.
 - 12 posts KITE specific (Rocking Chair Readers, Amy's Retirement, Out & About Cains & Stowe Apple Event, Book Buddies, K Age Change, 100th day of school). 14 Partner/Community Content Shares (Black History, OEC Parent Workshop, Social Services Screenagers, Drezek resignation, Feb– winter activities, Feb Lunch Link, ERFC Winter Night) 6,005 total reaches | Up 352.9% | 651 total engagements, up 290% | #1 post K Age Change 4,391 reached 84 engagements (20 shares). #2 post was KITE Out & About – Stowe Apple Distinguished Schools Celebration 1,200 reached 86 engagements.

AREA FOCUS TEAMS:

- **RESULT #1: ENFIELD'S CHILDREN ARE SAFE, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY.**
 - **INFANT/CHILD MENTAL HEALTH**
 - Chris Gomeau shared that the committee met on February 26th via Zoom. Dr. Calnen shared the BOE Mental Health initiative survey results from the 7 principals. They also received an update from Joanna Fornwalt, Social Services on the Mental Health Coalition through the Town of Enfield. She explained the formation of the group and how it will be set up. Sparkler data was reported as well as sharing the hope for a fall pediatric convening on Sparkler.
 - KITE's committee purpose is convening, connecting, and info-sharing. They reviewed a graphic Carol LaLiberte created, lovingly named "The Big Blue Blob". Committee will meet bi-monthly. The next meeting will be Monday April 29, 2024, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.
 - Building on the work started by KITE's Sparkler grant, FRC will begin participating in the Integrated Pediatric Pilot through the CT Association for Infant Mental Health at the end of the month with our Lead Parent Educator Erin Grimes spending time each week in Dr. Villa's office assisting families with ASQs on the Sparkler app, especially the ASQ Social Emotional, and providing connections to resources as needed.
 - FRC just completed an evening in-person COS group with 9 parents and a morning in-person group with 10 parents. Below is a powerful quote from one of the parent surveys showing the impact it has made.
 - *"This was an amazing experience! I wish it was many, many more weeks of class. I felt completely comfortable expressing my emotions in front of 8 other grown adult parents. If every parent could attend this, we could raise the most self-aware generation."*
 - **SPARKLER**
 - In the last 30 days, 33 new children have joined the app. Dr. Villa's office has 80 patients registered. For the ASQ, there were 2 monitors for fine motor, 2 for personal-social, and 1 monitor for problem solving. There was 1 referral for fine motor and 1 monitor for the ASQ-SE.
- **RESULT #2: ENFIELD'S CHILDREN LIVE IN THRIVING FAMILIES WITH STRONG TIES TO NEIGHBORS AND THE COMMUNITY.**
 - **FAMILY EDUCATOR ORGANIZATION**
 - FEO is looking for new ideas for the next theme in the life hack series.
 - FEO is continuing to share artwork from the hallways on its Facebook page.
 - **KITE/EPS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP**
 - KITE is supporting Enfield Public Schools with Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten. It will be held at JFK on April 16th.
 - **PARENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**
 - The class is a great group, they are already on their 5th class tomorrow night.
 - Malissa shared the class will begin working on public speaking.
 - **PARENT AMBASSADORS/SRC ADVISORY (TABLED)**
- **RESULT #3: ENFIELD'S CHILDREN ARE READY TO LEARN THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED AND FLOURISH IN THE 21ST CENTURY.**
 - **3 TO 3**
 - A Dine and Discuss event which will be held on 3/14 at the Enfield Food Shelf. ECEs will get a tour and learn about all the awesome work that they do there (see attached handout).
 - A Play event for families will be held on 3/27 from 5:30-7pm at the EHS cafeteria. It is a collaborative effort with Stowe for pk-1 families. The CT Science center will engage attendees with playful fun that is science focused. Registration and details are forthcoming.
 - **FIRST READERS**
 - First Readers had a successful trivia night. The next ceremony is March 19th at 6:00pm at JFK.
 - **BOOK BUDDIES**
 - Books were delivered to 82 kindergarteners at Enfield Street School. The firefighters took turns reading to the classrooms, all the children loved it.
 - **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**
 - Brianna, Karen, and LeAnn met about the issues related to early childhood care in town and the effect it has on businesses.
 - The committee is looking at new ways to engage the business community. LeAnn mentioned that she has reached out to the Rotary. KITE will meet with President Julie Cotnoir at the end of March.
 - Next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2024.
 - **PLAY LAB (TABLED)**

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.