



AGENDA

Enfield School Readiness Council-KITE Collaborative

Wednesday, November 1, 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 21st century.

I. Welcome and Introductions – Carol LaLiberte, Chairperson.

There were 23 members present.

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Michelle Zaugg- KITE
Malissa Griffith- PLA	Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool
Steven Ling- Holy Trinity Church	Eileen Gardner- ECDC
Adrienne Snow- EPS	Karen Edelson- Social Services
Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library	George Hendrickson-Community Member
Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador	Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Comm. College
Amy Morales- FRC/Social Services	Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education
LeAnn Beaulieu-KITE	Altressa Cox-Blackwell – EPS
Lanie LeBrun- Enfield Food Shelf	Danielle Brown- Parent Ambassador
Karen Campbell- NCCCC	Rosalind Swift- Ujima
Melanie Dube- KITE	Chonique Hendrickson-Community Member
Danielle Girard- PFlag	

II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – Corrected September Minutes – September 6, 2023

a. The corrected September 6, 2023, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

III. School Readiness Business/Quality Enhancement Update

- a. All 28 slots are full at ECDC.
- b. The OEC approved a request from ECDC for a temporary schedule variance due to staffing shortages. They are struggling to find and retain staff despite raising rates and advertising more widely. The least impact on families was to reduce hours from 6:30 am-5:30 pm to 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. ECDC will work with families to waive fees and hold spots if they are able to find alternate care during those hours. This request was voted on and approved by the Leadership Work Group on October 17.
 - Eileen shared that ECDC reached out to families for what hours families needed, and they were able to figure out staffing to be able to provide the 6:30 am to 5:30 pm hours to those specific families starting next week.
- c. The OEC held a webinar which gave an overview of School Readiness Councils. It is available to watch, and Brianna shared the slides from it. Please let Amy know if you would like a copy of the recording.
- d. The SDE has released new guidance for schools on the new Kindergarten Entry Age- districts will need to develop policies around assessments when a parent or guardian submits a written request for their child to be enrolled.
- e. McKinney Vento Update:
 - Numbers of homeless students provided by Julie Carroll, McKinney-Vento Liaison:
 1. PK: 1, ELEM: 14, Middle School: 2, High School: 10
- f. Quality Enhancement: Melanie Smith Cervera from EastConn came for her first visit last week. She will be expanding on the work she did with the classrooms last year on Purposeful Play and Executive Function. She visited all 3 preschool classrooms for 30 minutes each and provided great feedback to all 3 preschool teachers. She also scheduled five more visits (through May). Melanie also gave Heather a lot of support in her new role as Lead Teacher of the preschool classrooms.
- g. Classroom updates: Room 7 visited Mark Twain on Monday to trick or treat. A family event was held for all of preschool (children, parents, siblings) on October 18th- Fall Fest. The Fest included 9 trunk or treat stops, pumpkin decorating station, deer corn pit, snack stop, photo opportunities, and numerous games. We had a great turnout of over 75 people.



- h. On Tuesday November 7, there will be Staff Professional Development focusing on (need to clarify topic)
- i. Monitoring: Lisa Carriere did an observation in the 3-year-old classroom and was able to observe the class exploring all the parts of a pumpkin. She will be observing the other two classrooms and reviewing staff professional development records.
- j. Eileen shared that Room 7 went to Mark Twain and went trick or treating. ECDC held a trunk or treat for the preschool rooms where they had pumpkin painting and other fall activities. The infant/toddler rooms went trick or treating last week as well.

IV. **Equity – Reverend Ling**

- a. Reverend Ling shared statistics and the impacts of children who are affected by gun violence. He also shared information about a group he is part of called Swords to Plowshares which turns firearms into gardening tools for community gardens. Next month's equity portion will be presented by Enfield Produce and Deli.

V. **KITE Updates**

- a. Presentation: Enfield Food Shelf – Lanie LeBrun
 - Lanie shared an update on the Food Shelf. The Food Shelf is working on the following:
 1. Removing the stigma associated with food assistance.
 2. Encouraging families to seek assistance.
 3. Contacting the Food Shelf with any questions.
 - Lanie shared multiple handouts during her presentation. See attached documents.
- b. **Leadership Work Group Updates**
 - KITE submitted grants for The Fund for Greater Hartford, M&T, Wellness Grant (self-care grant for staff), and Parent Trust Fund. KITE also submitted an Interim report for Sparkler.
- c. **Budget**
 - KITE expenditures for FY2023 – August Expenditures \$12,838.56. September Expenditures \$13,414.81. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.
- d. **Communications**
 - In the month of October KITE published 25 posts and gained 5 new Facebook followers.
 - 11 posts KITE specific (Your Voice, Out and About, Annual Meeting Recap), 14 partner/community shares (Trauma Resources, OEC Resources, JOLF, Meet the Candidates, Children's Book Fair, Car Seat Checks, Community Paint Day, Goodwill). 2,637 total reaches | Down 61.3% | 1,204 total engagements, down 18.3% | #1 post Children's (LIBRARY) Book Sale 1,600 reached 59 engagements. #2 post was Out and About (Scarecrow) 970 reached 169 engagements.

VI. **Area Focus Teams:**

- a. **Result #1: Enfield's children are safe, happy, and healthy.**
 - **Infant/Child Mental Health**
 - The committee is co-chaired by Chris Gomeau and Carol LaLiberte. They met in September and shared KITE's history of work in Mental Health. This year they will be working with Sparkler, Circle of Security, and a pediatrician gathering.
 - They will have their next meeting on November 16th.
 - **Sparkler**
 - Malissa Griffith is getting Dr. Villa's office up and running with the Sparkler app. KITE also hopes to connect with a childcare center to pilot Sparkler as well. The FRC had a Sparkler family night on 11/1/23.
 - Some of the KITE staff attended the Sparkler conference at the end of October.
- b. **Result #2: Enfield's children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
 - **Family Educator Organization**
 - Michelle surveyed families last month. Families wanted to have more communications and see more connections with other families.
 - i. They have piloted a series of FEO Life Hacks.
 1. The first one will be on potty training.
 2. The goal is for families to bond over advice given on these life hacks.



- **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
 - Peg Oliviera shared the final report and shared definition of Family Engagement with the Board of Education and Superintendent's office. The presentation was well received, and the hope is for the Board of Education to align this work in their efforts for the district.
 - Michelle shared parent input for the Blue-Ribbon Panel on childcare. Michelle had a follow-up call on 10/31. Malissa attended to talk to the families who wanted to be more involved about PLA and advocacy.
- **Parent Leadership Academy**
 - PLA is accepting applications for the 2024 class. The class will begin February 3rd.
 - If you know any parents that would be interested in PLA, please encourage them to apply and reach out to Malissa with any questions.
- **Parent Ambassadors/SRC Advisory**
 - Kristin Herzig attended the quarterly meeting on October 11th. They discussed the needs of all the different towns, with topics including childcare, costs, and the change in the kindergarten age.
 - i. The Blue-Ribbon Panel draft is out, and you can go on the website and make recommendations by clicking on the link on the website.
 - ii. They are collaborating on the mission statement and the purpose for the group.
 - iii. They are looking to meet in person in December.

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**
 - The committee met in October and went over all the accomplishments that they achieved last year. They discussed what they will accomplish in the new year. Goals include creating a list serve for ECE centers and embedding more equity into Transition to Kindergarten.
- **First Readers**
 - Kristin Raiche said meetings have changed to the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The next ceremony is scheduled for November 27th at EHS. If you would like to volunteer, please let Kirstin know.
 - Trivia night will be held on February 24th at Mount Carmel, more information to come.
- **Book Buddies**
 - Don Ellis shared that they are on target for having the first delivery of books before the holiday break.
- **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - Volunteers have started in classrooms. One classroom is still in need of a volunteer for Mondays specifically, please reach out to Michelle if you are interested.
- **2Gen**
 - The group is looking to address childcare issues and the complications of finding quality and affordable childcare.
 - A survey has gone out to chamber members. A breakfast will be held on January 11, 2024, with a panel to discuss childcare issues in for employers, employees, and the business community.
 - i. Brianna, LeAnn, Jennefer, and Karen Campbell met with the CBIA to discuss the work done on Blue Ribbon Panel and on the survey results we have received so far. The CEO of the CBIA will be speaking at the breakfast, with presentation like the Blue-Ribbon Panel.
 - ii. Brianna will be attending The National Business Leaders in Action Summit in Colorado next week that focuses on connecting business to the childcare issues and is hoping to bring back great feedback and ideas.
 - The next meeting is on Wednesday November 29th.

VII. Announcements

- a. Carol LaLiberte- ACC: ACC is enrolling for winter/spring classes. There are many different classes in the catalog.
- b. Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library: The library is having the Festival of Trees; the guidelines are on the website. The trees are due by December 11th, and December 14th there will be a reception to walk through and see all the trees. Kristin also shared that you could borrow instruments, art kits, and many other items at the library if you are interested.
- c. Dr. Calnen- BOE: November 7th is Election Day, make sure to get out and vote.



- d. Malissa Griffith – PLA: at the CT Parent Leadership Summit, a PLA Alumni presented and did an amazing job. She also shared that PLA Alumni Danielle Girard received a CT Family School Partnership Award in October.
- e. Amy Morales- Social Services: Enfield Together Coalition is doing a survey about substance abuse and mental health. Please encourage everyone to fill it out.
- f. Karen Campbell- NCCC: Act of Kindness Awards will be recognizing 18 students later this month, they will also be recognizing students in January, March, and June this year as well. They are currently planning the Home Show and there annual meeting as well.
- g. Danielle Girard- PFlag: The Drag Bingo was a huge success. The funds raised are being used for the Lilly Gorrie Scholarship fund. To date they have over \$3,000 raised. PFlag is volunteering at Loaves and Fishes the first Saturday of every month. Support groups are held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm at Asnuntuck.

VIII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.