



## Enfield School Readiness Council

### KITE Collaborative

**Wednesday, February 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.st*

### AGENDA

**I. Welcome and Introductions – Carol LaLiberte**

**There were 18 members present.**

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Michelle Zaugg- KITE
Tiffany Howard- ECDC Parent	Malissa Griffith- PLA
Sue Neville- Retired	Amy Witbro- Enfield Public Schools
Karen Edelson- Social Services	Eileen Gardner- Enfield Child Dev. Center
Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Department	Danielle Girard- PFlag Enfield
Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool	Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Comm. College
Marie Pyznar- Town Council	Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education
Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library	Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador
Jennefer Ryan- KITE	Josue Irizarry- ERfC

**II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2023**

a. The January 4, 2023, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

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

- a. The monthly report for January has been submitted and all 28 slots are still full.
- b. School Readiness liaisons held a meeting to discuss issues to bring to the legislative session and some of the issues discussed include Increasing the School Readiness Reimbursement Rate, Staff Shortage, and a change in Kindergarten Eligibility Start Date. A meeting will be taking place with Beth Bye to discuss.
- c. Parent committee-Tiffany Howard will start providing the classroom updates from the classroom her child is in. We also discussed her having input in the required parent surveys that are completed at ECDC. We discussed how perhaps Danielle Brown can serve in an advisory way for ECDC and we talked about identifying parents of older toddlers to be part of this.
- d. NAEYC- still waiting for a decision on reaccreditation.
- e. Monitoring- we seem to have clarification on the requirements for professional development for School Readiness staff, and Amy will monitor this in February.
- f. McKinney Vento Update: There are currently 32 homeless students in Enfield.
- g. Classroom Updates: Preschool Room #5 has started their exercise unit. They have transformed their dramatic play area to be an ice-skating rink. Next week they will be starting their unit on roads. We have now set up monthly visits beginning this month on Valentine's Day for our Pre-k students at ECDC to visit the Mark Twain Congregate Center to continue our intergenerational activities. The preschool classrooms had a visit from coach Melanie who did observations from East Conn. Melanie will be back later in February for in person training.

**IV. Equity**

**a. Danielle Girard, PFlag**

- o Danielle shared some books on families and how they are all different. One book was, "Momma, Mama and Me". The other was, "Families, Families, Families". She expressed wanting

to see more of these books in schools across Enfield so families can feel included and represented.

**b. Community Conversation**

- Stowe Head Start Focus Group will take place on Tuesday, February 28th.
- Facilitator/ Notetaker training will take place on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> with Randi McCray. W
- The first event is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>, and we are currently working on invitations.

**c. Heritage Fair**

- The event will be on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am- 4 pm at JFK Middle School.
- We are still in need of food. We have started to reach out to organizations, anyone interested can e-mail Amy Witbro.

**V. KITE Updates**

**a. Leadership Work Group**

• **Updates**

- KITE received the Town of Enfield Q2 check. KITE was invited to apply for the Social Services Grant FY 23-34, which is due February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- An Orientation overview was presented to highlight how KITE can recruit and retain new members. The plan is to offer this quarterly.

• **Budget**

- KITE expenditures for FY2023 – December Expenditures \$45,040.69. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.

• **Communications**

- Facebook Goals: 202% over goal with a 9.4K Reach
- Instagram Goals: 1984% over goal with 1K Reach
- In the month of January KITE published 14 posts
  - 10 posts were KITE specific (Heritage Fair, PLA), 4 partner/community content shares (BOE, ERFC, Library)
  - 9.6k total reach | Up 41.1% over December | 914 total engagements, down 0.7%
- #1 post PLA 2049 reached 172 engagements
- #2 Heritage 1882 reached 73 engagements

**VI. Area Focus Teams:**

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

• **Infant/Child Mental Health**

- The first Mental Health Subcommittee meeting is Thursday, February 9th 3-4:30pm via Zoom. Ruth is asking everyone to bring anyone they believe may be interested.

• **Sparkler**

- The communities that are participating in the Sparkler grant had a listening session with Beth Bye where we shared what our communities are doing to increase use of Sparkler. The grant will end at the end of February, but the work will continue.
- For our grant, the FRC and Food Shelf are partnering to hold a "Sparkler Party" on Sat Feb 18 at the former Food Shelf location. Pizza will be provided as well as giveaways, and families will be able to get assistance in using Sparkler and completing ASQs on site. FRC is also holding a similar event for FRC families who still need to complete their ASQs via Sparkler.

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

• **Family Educator Organization**

- FEO hosted a CT Science Center Night at Stowe on January 31<sup>st</sup>. There were over 200 people in attendance. The next event will be an Apps and Chats Night on March 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:30- 5:30pm. Parents can come and chat about what activities they would like to see for the rest of the school year.

• **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**

- EPS is partnering with Gesell to define and implement meaningful family engagement. They are working on how schools communicate best with families. The next step is to set up a meeting with Peg Oliveira.

- **Parent Leadership Academy**
    - PLA's Orientation is Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 9am -3:30pm. The first class is February 9<sup>th</sup>. There are still a few slots left!
  - **People Empowering People**
    - They are still in search of a bi-lingual person to be trained. They would be paid through UCONN to attend the one-day training.
- c. **Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**
- **3 to 3**
    - The second "Dine and Discuss" will be Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Sparkler presentation for providers. KITE's website will house a platform for providers to connect with one another.
    - Kindergarten coaching from Gesell has started. The pilot is at Hazardville with 7 teachers using playful learning in all areas of the day. A schedule was created for the rest of the year.
  - **First Readers**
    - Their next meeting is Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm. Trivia night is Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> (the theme is 80s and 90s). Tickets are on sale at [www.firstreaders.org](http://www.firstreaders.org). The first ceremony will be on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in the JFK auditorium. They are still looking for volunteers.
  - **Book Buddies**
    - Nothing new to report. They are still looking for funding support.
  - **Rocking Chair Readers**
    - Welcome letters were mailed out to volunteers. Some have already been sent back. Some volunteers will be starting in the classrooms next week with a couple others starting the end of the month.
  - **2Gen**
    - We had our rescheduled meeting on Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup>. The group is looking to address childcare issues. KITE is looking to have the Chamber host a breakfast to start creating connections with the business community and early childhood.
  - **Play Lab (Tabled)**

## VII. Announcements

- a. KITE is starting to wrap up focus groups for the community plan.
- b. Josue Irizarry ERFC: Preschool program- Space Explorers starting this Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. School age basketball starting in two weeks. Pottery Arts and Crafts has 18 kids signed up so far. Summer Camp registration is starting in 4 weeks and is for grades K-8. They still have openings in teen program (which is FREE) and their before and after school programs.
- c. ECDC: The Talent Show coming back! It will take place on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Enfield High School.
- d. Dr. Calnen BOE- shared details about EPS' FY 23-24 budget.
- e. Kristin Raiche Library: Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> is Family Bingo at 6:30pm with prizes and books. Anyone is welcome.
- f. Danielle Girard PFlag: The next support meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup> in Room 209 at ACC. PFlag Pride Festival committee is meeting via Zoom on February 21<sup>st</sup> for anyone interested in joining. June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the festival date from 10am to 5pm on the Enfield Town Green. They are still looking for community groups to join. Volunteers needed!
- g. Marie Pyznar Town Council: Shared information regarding the Public Hearing on the Plan of Conservation. She encourages everyone to read the document on the town website. The Public Hearing is Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at JFK Middle School. It will be for discussion only, no voting.
- h. Malissa Griffith PLA: Still has a few spots left. Sparkler sign up! Public Policy Committee looking for any stories to be able to share with legislators. LENA was started in Hartford, and they are looking to bring to Enfield families to promote early literacy. It is a 10-week session for 45 minutes each. Please reach out to her with any questions.

**VIII. Adjourn**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm