

**ENFIELD SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL  
KITE COLLABORATIVE  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 5, 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Carol LaLiberte, KITE Chairperson

There were 20 members present		
Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library	Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Comm. College
Melanie Dube- KITE	Chris Gomeau- KITE	Altressa Cox-Blackwell- EPS
Jennefer Ryan- KITE	Lauren Urena- PLA	Dave Bechtel- Cross Sector Consulting
Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Department	Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education	Alena Josephson- Child First
Katie Carlton- PLA	Michelle Zaugg- KITE	Amy Witbro- Retired/KITE
Linnea Kinney- KITE Director's family	Cat Merriam- Parks and Recreation	Stephanie Allery- Parent Ambassador
Steve Kinney- KITE director's family	Amy Morales- Social Services	

**ACCEPTANCE OF KITE MEETING MINUTES- May Minutes**

- The May 1, 2024, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

**SCHOOL READINESS BUSINESS/QUALITY ENHANCEMENT UPDATE**

- All 28 slots are full at ECDC.
  - School Readiness Grant: The School Readiness Grant for FY 2025 was submitted after our last KITE meeting and we should be receiving our award letter soon from the Office of Early Childhood, as the state budget passed. The amount of funding for slots has increased slightly. The Early Start legislation passed as well, which combines three funding streams (Child Day Care, School Readiness, and State Head Start Supplement) into a single state-funded program to be effective in FY 2026. More information will be coming.
  - The School Readiness classrooms were observed in April by Lisa Carriere. She observed center time activities in all classes as well as some outside time. Lisa reviewed her observations with the 3 classroom teachers in May. She also reviewed the staff professional development records as well as 5 children's files. Next observations will take place in August/September and will focus on circle time for each class.
  - McKinney- Vento update-No update at this time
  - Classroom updates: The Preschool Programs at ECDC enjoyed Mad Science on Tuesday 6/4. They got to experiment with creating volcanos. The summer program for preschool begins next week, the children and staff are excited to go on all the field trips they have planned. The staff in the Preschool rooms have been trained in the Home Visiting Model, ECDC will be implementing this in August. They have also been through the Circle of Security classes with the staff from FRC.

**EQUITY- Amy Morales**

- Amy shared with the collaborative about pride month and ways of how to talk about pride month with young children. She spoke about early education is the perfect time to talk to children, they are accepting of each other's differences.
  - She also shared an article that had sample questions and answers about pride month that you can use while speaking to younger children.
  - The two articles that were shared during the meeting were:
    - <https://blog.kaplanco.com/ii/ginger-welch-pride-month>
    - <https://welcomingschools.org/resources/yes-they-are-a-family>

**KITE UPDATES**

- **Leadership Workgroup Updates**
  - Finished the first cycle of RAPID Surveys. KITE Leadership will have their retreat Monday, June 10th to go over feedback from the Community Assessment and prepare goals for the FY 24-25 year. These will be shared and voted on at the September meeting.
- **Budget**
  - March Expenses were updated and shared due to an excel formula error. The correct amount was \$15,204.98 (not \$13,488.98).
  - KITE expenditures for FY2024 – April Expenditures \$16,770.93. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.

- **Communications**
  - In the month of May KITE published 36 posts.
  - 26 posts KITE specific (Enfield Unplugged Events & Screentime Data, Provider Appreciation Day, Kindergarten Camp, Mother's Day, Cinco De Mayo, Teacher Appreciation, Parent Ambassador Self Care workshop). 10 Partner/Community Content Shares (BOE Meeting, 2Gen Parent Academy, Juneteenth, Free Childcare course at STCC, Food Shelf Letter Carrier Day, Food Shelf CNN piece) 5,500 total reaches | Up 51.7% | 471 total engagements, up 43.2% | #1 post Kindergarten Camp 1,700 reached 19 engagements. #2 post Unplugged Event- Renee Coro 1,200 reached 33 engagements.
- **Community Assessment 2024- Dave Bechtel, Cross Sector Consulting**
  - Dave went over the results of the Community Assessment. Some of the feedback included:
    - KITE is doing a great job. We should keep thinking of new ideas as we improve the plan.
    - Continue to engage more families/engaging different groups.
    - Clarification of roles and responsibilities of members.
    - Navigating and building relationships with new Town/School leaders.
    - KITE has effective social media, informative and easy to use website.
  - Collaborative discussed the following questions: What opportunities exist to address challenges next year? What future challenges do we need to consider and address? What should be top priorities? Some ideas included:
    - More health care representatives added as collaborative members.
    - Build on more relationships. New leadership in town and schools, KITE will need to build new relationships with them.
    - Concerns on new kindergarten age will be a huge need.
    - Connect with providers and parents in new and creative ways.
    - Creative ways to bring play back.

#### AREA FOCUS TEAMS: TABLED

- **Result #1: Enfield's Children are Safe, Happy, and Healthy**
  - **Infant/Child Mental Health**
  - **Sparkler**
- **Result #2: Enfield's children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
  - **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
  - **Parent Leadership Academy**
  - **Parent Ambassadors**
- **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**
  - **First Readers**
  - **Book Buddies**
  - **Rocking Chair Readers**
  - **2GEN**
  - **Play Lab (Tabled)**

#### ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.