



Enfield School Readiness Council
KITE Collaborative
Wednesday, September 6, 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.

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions – Carol LaLiberte

- a. Carol started the meeting sharing about Talk Story from Hawaiian Culture, and asked the collaborative: “Why do you come to KITE Meetings?” All collaborative members shared their thoughts. Reasons included:
- “Feels like ‘home’”, assuming the best, leave egos at the door. Here for children and families. KITE fulfills us personally.”
 - “The people! They come to do the work. Its uplifting and empowering.”
 - “Embraces real work, what matters, and makes things happen.”
 - “Networking, friendships built. A non-judgmental environment. Feels comfortable.”

There were 25 members present.

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Michelle Zaugg- KITE
Chris Gomeau- KITE	Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool
Sue Neville- Community Member	Amy Witbro- EPS
Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Department	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
Jaclyn Valley- EPS/Stowe	Danielle Brown- Parent Ambassador
Karen Campbell- NCCCC	Lanie LeBrun- Enfield Food Shelf
Jennefer Ryan- KITE	Marie Pyznar- Town Council
Steve Kaselouskas – Enfield Police	Ruth Sales- CHR
Lisa McColgan- Hazardville UMC	

II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – June 7, 2023

- a. The June 7, 2023, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

III. School Readiness Business/Quality Enhancement Update

- a. All 28 slots at Enfield Child Development Center are still full at Enfield Child Development Center and the monthly report was just submitted to the Office of Early Childhood.
- b. Classroom monitoring has been conducted including a sampling of 5 child files and everything went well. Staff are in the process of updating their professional development records. All staff are in compliance with the required Health and Safety training. Lisa Carriere who is the Parent Educator at Barnard FRC and has early childhood classroom experience is going to be assisting with monitoring this year.
- c. General Policies have been updated and copies are available.
- d. Quality Enhancement: Through the School Readiness Grant, we receive \$3,881 in funds to focus on improving the quality of the program. Last year we worked with Melanie Smith-Cervera from EastConn on helping teaching staff incorporate more strategies on purposeful play and executive function. The grant allows us to work with EastConn again this year. Next week, Eileen, Heather Pinto-Cohn and Amy are meeting with Melanie to plan for the work this year which will focus on increasing Heather's abilities to assist.
- e. McKinney Vento Update: Julie Carroll reports that currently there are 25 homeless student’s total (6 are in grades PK-2).

- f. Karen Edelson shared that ECDC is hiring a toddler teacher and will be starting home visits for new families.
- g. Open house will be held on October 4th for the entire Stowe building.

IV. Equity

- a. Community Conversation- KITE is in the final stages of updating the report and will be presenting to the Board of Education and Town Council Meetings in the coming months.

V. KITE Updates

a. Leadership Work Group Updates

- 23-24 Collaborative Goals (from the Enfield Early Childhood Community Plan)
 1. 1.3 Expand Play Opportunities
 2. 2.2 Promote Family Connections
 3. 3.4 Social Media Campaigns
 4. 4.1 Technology with Translation and Interpretation
 5. 5.1 Engage and Support Schools, Center ECE's, and Home Providers
- Brianna shared that KITE is receiving the following grants in 23-24: Social Services, Sparkler, a short-term grant from the CT Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, as well as invitation to apply again with the Fund for Greater Hartford.
- KITE Giving Back
 - KITE volunteered at the Food Shelf Summer Lunch Links, and we will be looking for more opportunities throughout the coming year.

b. Budget

- KITE expenditures for FY2023 – June Expenditures \$17,490.43. July Expenditures \$6,688.89. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.

c. Communications

- In the month of June KITE published 18 posts and gained 6 new Facebook followers.
- 11 posts KITE specific (PLA, LeAnn's Retirement, Last Day of School, Rescheduled Renee Event, Book Buddies), 7 partner/community shares (Lunch Link, Rec Summer Program, child homelessness flyer). 7,676 total reaches | Up 168.5% over May | 699 total engagements | #1 post Lunch Link 4,500 reached 105 engagements. #2 post was Book Buddies 2,400 reached 167 engagements.
- In the month of July KITE published 10 posts and gained 9 new Facebook followers.
- 9 posts KITE specific (Kindergarten Camp, Play Lab Big Blue Blocks, Family Day save the date), 1 partner/community share (DEI Committee). 2,811 total reaches | Down 68% over June | 139 total engagements #1 post Kindergarten Camp 2,100 reached 54 engagements. #2 post Play Lab Big Blue Blocks 1,200 reached 29 engagements.
- In the month of August KITE published 30 posts and lost 7 Facebook followers.
- 23 posts were KITE specific (KITE Out & About, PLA Alum Spotlight, Family Day), 7 partner/community content shares (Lunch Link, Allied Fall Festival, EPD Night Out, Parent Leadership Summit, ERFC Backpack, Allied \$1 Sale)
- 3,518 total reaches | Up 23.5% over July | 139 total engagements. #1 post Family Day Flyer 1,100 reached 30 engagements. #2 post Countdown to August 29th 885 reached 21 engagements.

VI. Area Focus Teams:

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

• Infant/Child Mental Health

- The Mental Health Committee met in June to discuss the schedule for the coming year. They will have their next meeting on September 21st.

• Sparkler

- Brianna shared that KITE was awarded a grant over the summer.
- We are looking to pilot the Sparkler app with a pediatrician's office and hosting a pediatrician dinner to discuss Sparkler.

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

• Family Educator Organization

- Michelle attended the Stowe orientations. Once Family Day has happened, she will be scheduling a meeting and inviting interested parents.

• KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership

- Amy Witbro shared that Family Day will take place on September 17th on the Town Green 11:30-3:00pm.

- Working with Peg Olivera to speak with the Board of Education and planning a PD with the teachers in February 2024.
 - **Parent Leadership Academy**
 - PLA is accepting applications for the 2024 class. The class will begin February 3rd.
 - **Parent Ambassadors/SRC Advisory**
 - Kristin Herzig sat in on parent interviews for the Blue-Ribbon Panel on childcare. This feedback is being shared with both the Blue-Ribbon Panel and the Office of Early Childhood.
- 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 first “Dine and Discuss” will be on Thursday, October 19th. The first 3 to 3 meeting of the year will also take place in October.
 - **First Readers**
 - Kristin Raiche said the first meeting of the year will be held soon. More information to come.
 - **Book Buddies**
 - Don Ellis shared that they will be running the program very similar to last year.
 - **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - Volunteers will be contacted later in September and the program will begin in October.
 - **Circle of Security**
 - Jaclyn Valley, Erin Grimes, and Angelica Fajardo have trained all Head Start and STEAM staff and will begin training Integrated staff on September 22nd.
 - **2Gen**
 - The group is looking to address childcare issues and the complications of finding quality childcare.
 - A survey will be going out to chamber members. A breakfast will be held in January 2024 with a panel to discuss childcare issues in for employers, employees, and the business community.
 - The next meeting on Wednesday September 27th.
 - **Play Lab (Tabled)**

VII. Announcements

- a. Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library: The library has a 10 Red Apples Interactive Display with a QR Code for families to use.
- b. Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador: Parent Cabinet meeting will be held soon.
- c. Steve Kaselouskas – Enfield Police: A Drug Take Back Event will be held on October 28th at the Town Hall.
- d. Amy Morales- Social Services: On September 27th the Enfield Coalition will be hosting a Learning through Play event.
- e. Karen Edelson- Social Services: The Youth Center will be holding a 5th grade dance on October 20th.
- f. Lisa McColgan- Hazardville UMC: On Wednesday September 13th Hazardville UMC will be having a Blessing of the Pets and a used clothing sale.
- g. Lanie LeBrun- Food Shelf: Thank you to all who volunteered their time during the Summer Lunch Link. 80-90 families were helped during Lunch Links and EFS serves around 350 families during distribution. The grand opening tour of Food Shelf is September 20th.
- h. Brianna Beckstrand- KITE: Annual Meeting will be taking place on October 4th at JFK. Family Day will be held on September 17th at the Town Green, please let Brianna know if you are available to volunteer to help with the “Play Lab Big Blue Blocks”.

VIII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.