

Local Governance Partner
KITE Community Table Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 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.*

There were 18 members present		
Carol LaLiberte- CT State Community College Asnuntuck	Linda Allegro-BOE	Amy Morales- Social Services
Kelly Sorrow- OEC Parent Cabinet	Penny D'Aleo-Kiwanis	Fran Weiss -Kiwanis
Lanie Lebrun-Enfield Food Shelf	Adrienne Snow-Enfield Street School	Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library
LeAnn Beaulieu- KITE	Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Dept.	Fiorella Coisffman- PLA Alumni
Jaclyn Valley- Stowe	Chris Gomeau- KITE	Karen Campbell- NCCCC
Allison Cusano- SHINE	Hannah Song- KITE	Michala Schupp- KITE

Welcome and Introductions-Carol LaLiberte, KITE Chairperson

Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes

Early Start Updates-Hannah, Amy, Jaclyn, Eileen

Please fill out a **KITE** Community Table Membership form. This document explains our shared responsibilities within our partnership. The Local Needs Assessment will come out tomorrow and through the month of March. Our new name going forward will be Enfield **KITE**(Key Initiatives to Early Education): Local Governance Partner. Quarter 2 programmatic and fiscal reporting was sent at the end of January.

Guests from the Office of Early Childhood and Shine attended our meeting and gave brief introductions about their roles: Kelly Sorrow is a Parent Cabinet representative that serves the Vernon and Enfield areas in supporting the work of Parent Ambassadors. Allison Cusano is the Shine LGP Project Director that leads and oversees the work of Local Governance Partners. She comes from a strong background in teaching, policy and legislation. She is excited to be doing the work in her home state of Connecticut.

Head Start & ECDC Updates: Parent Educator, Jamie Dolce, has just completed visits/desk audits at ECDC and Head Start. Next visit is scheduled for spring.

Head Start's community needs assessment is focused on unhoused families. Head Start housing fund is being reinstated. March 2nd was Read Across America Day with special guest readers from social services, town council, library, fire dept, state reps, and the police dept.

Equity- Linda Allegro

- "Wherever you are, my love will find you" and the benefits of children's books.

KITE Updates

- **Leadership Workgroup Updates-Hannah**
 - A new RAPID survey for families with young children has come out that focuses on community engagement, how well supported families with young children feel in their communities, and sources of financial stress. If you are a parent of a child 6 or younger, please take this survey: <https://tinyurl.com/rapid-enfieldkite1> You will receive a \$10 gift card after you take the survey.
 - KITE is supporting the many events happening within the 3: 3 Committee.
- **Budget-Kari**
 - **KITE** expenditures for FY2026 – January: \$10,140.55
 - Salaries: \$7,572.50
 - KITE staff
 - Consultants: \$1,348.75
 - Parent Ambassadors, PLA Coordinator
 - Family Engagement: \$65.30
 - PLA supplies
 - Early Care & Education: \$0
 - Admin Expenses: \$1,154.00
 - Collaborative Expense, Childcare, Networking, Staff Wellness
- **Communications-Hannah**
 - KITE PUBLISHED 16 posts
 - 11 **KITE** specific (PLAY & Science Night, various holiday wishes with ideas to help kids understand different traditions, JA Maritime Pop-Up Play Lab, EPS Kindy Reg Date, 100 Days, PLA Class Kick Off)
 - 5 partner/community content shares (Ujima Black History Events, Enfield Connects Puzzle night, Enfield Greater Together Community Fund Volunteer Opportunity, Kidtivity Free Weekend Activity Guide, EPS PK-5 Community Convo)
 - 6.2k views up 9.3%
 - 1.4k viewers down 13.2%
 - 95 total interactions down 34%
 - #1 post – PLA Class Launch 1024 reach, 19 Interactions
 - *Stats are slightly better this month because there was more content to push out. Our engagements are very low, so please LIKE, SHARE, give us a thumbs up. The more we engage, the bigger our reach. Thank you.

Area Focus Teams:

- **Result #1: Enfield's Children are Safe, Happy, and Healthy**
 - **Infant/Child Mental Health- Chris**
 - Puzzle Connections event Saturday, March 28 from 1-4pm at the Alcorn School Gym. This free event is for ages 13 and up. Come alone to meet people or bring a friend. Registration is required (see attached flyer).
 - **Sparkler-Hannah**
 - 31 new children
 - 7 plays in period
 - 68/61% of ASQ-3 were on track

- 59/ 82% ASQ-SE: Completed with “On Schedule” result
- 11 Number of “Refers” related to communication
- **Result #2:** Enfield’s children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.
 - **KITE/EPs Partnership**-Adrienne
 - LEAP- Learner Engagement and Attendance Program. Teachers, behavior techs, paraprofessionals trained to do home visits to help parents become more engaged for children with chronic absences (12 or more). It is a positive, non-threatening voice about the benefits of attending school regularly. The program started last year and has been successful in middle and high schools. This year focuses on primary and intermediate schools.
 - **Parent Leadership Academy**-Karen
 - We have finished our first month of classes. Class 5 is coming up this Thursday, and they will be hearing from members of BOE and Town Council, so we are almost to the halfway point. We are excited for all of the local organizations who will be attending our Community Resource Fair on March 12th.
 - 9 Students in this class.
 - Graduation has been set for Thursday, May 14th in the Conference Room at Asnuntuck.
 - **Parent Ambassadors**-Hannah
 1. School & Classroom Collaboration
 - Partnering with Jaclyn Valley to coordinate classroom time with Stowe.
 - Working to create opportunities for stronger school-family connections.
 2. Family & Community Engagement
 - Attending local events this month to engage directly with families in the community. Library story times, playgroup, homeschool hangouts
 - Sharing information about available school and town resources.
 3. Playgroups & Early Connection
 - Participating in local playgroups to connect with families of younger children.
 - Creating welcoming spaces for caregivers to ask questions and build support networks.
 4. Community Partnerships & Resource Development
 - Connecting with Social Services to expand awareness of local programs and supports.
 - Identifying additional town resources, events, and services where we can be a helpful bridge for families.
 5. Ongoing Goals
 - Strengthen relationships between families, schools, and community partners.
 - Increase access to resources for families.
 - Ensure families feel informed, supported, and empowered.
- **Result #3:** Enfield’s children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21st century.
 - **3 to 3-** Adrienne

- Early Spring Refresh: A Wellness Event for Early Childhood Professionals: Is an event for early childhood professionals on March 16th. Dinner is provided along with self-care activities from Renee Coro.
- Play and Science Night: This event will have activities for pre-k to grade 1 and the CT science Center comes to Enfield High School on March 25 from 5:30-6:30. This year we're partnering with Junior Achievement Maritime. Free books will be given to families. The theme is how anyone can be a scientist. Registration is open at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/bsk2nku>
- Transition to Kindergarten Night: April 7th at the John F. Kennedy Middle School auditorium from 6-7pm. Information for parents about what to expect when starting Kindergarten. If families cannot make it, there will be a video recording on KITE's Youtube channel and Facebook. Folders will be delivered to early care centers that couldn't attend that will include a QR code to the video.
- Next committee meeting March 18 on Zoom from 5:15-6.
- **First Readers**-Kristin
 - We had a successful and fun Trivia Night fundraiser on Saturday, February 28. This month on the 17th is our first ceremony; it will be held at Enfield High School. The next meeting is on the 18th at the library at 5pm. All are welcome to join. We received a matching grant from 100 Women Who Care. Homeschoolers can join First Readers and get tested at the library to see if they qualify.
- **Book Buddies**
 - Funded by the Enfield Fire Chief's Association. Books are purchased through teacher's scholastic book accounts, and titles are chosen by them. Twice a year firefighters bring books to Kindergarteners that are delivered in a firetruck and read to the children.
- **Rocking Chair Readers**-Michala
 - Our volunteers are active in their matched classrooms. An email has gone out to teachers to gather mid-year feedback with very positive responses so far. We expanded into a handful of kindergarten classrooms at ESS. Looking to continue expanding into other K classrooms as we have a long waitlist of volunteers ready to start.
- **Play Lab**-Hannah
 - We had our first Pop Up Play Lab event today! The original purpose of the event was to provide 63 high schoolers from Enfield, Suffield and South Windsor that are taking an early education course, the opportunity to observe play based learning in real time with playgroups from the FRC and to encourage them their passion for early education. Because of the delay, the high schoolers were not able to attend, but we still had the playgroups come and enjoy a curated list of play stations from materials from the Play Lab. This was a joint effort in making this day happen. The FRC, Asnuntuck and **KITE** worked to plan this event. Please watch the video for a look at the event: <https://youtu.be/Kbxj2MC30A4>

Announcements

- **Social Services:** FRC Spring Playgroups start next week. Circle of Security classes start soon. There are registration and openings for both programs.

- **NCCCC:** Suffield High is hosting the Home Show April 18th and 19th from 8-3 pm. There will be pet adoptions and a Kid Zone. Businesses can register with NCCCC.
- **Kiwanis Club:** is hosting a trivial night April 17th at 7 pm(Please see attached flyer). Ticket information to come. End Hunger event hosted this Saturday where they will be packing food and donating it to the Food Pantry. Their Bike Rode is on May 16.
- **Food Shelf:** See their Year in Review attached. There will be an anonymous survey(please see attached) coming out to better meet the needs of ALICE families. Please share with the families you serve. Food shelf will share the information from the survey with any relevant organizations. Income guidelines have changed. Even more people will be able to qualify for Food Shelf support. Enfield Food Shelf has a public access TV show and they are always looking for guests to appear. Reach out to Lanie Lebrun for more information.
- **Enfield Public Schools:** Spring Conferences begin next Wednesday (3/11) in the afternoon and evening.
- **Enfield Public Library:** Movie night this past Friday 3/6 at 6pm. They showed the Spongebob Movie. Families can sign up for a free tree for their children to plant for Earth Day. Email kraiche@enfield.org for a tree.
- **Headstart:** Policy Meeting 3/12 at 10:30 am.
- **CT State Community College Asnuntuck:** Summer and Fall registration is opening soon. You don't need to be in a degree program to take classes. Course offerings include music lessons, literary journal, and more.

Adjournment at 7:00