



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 17 members present		
Hannah Song- KITE	Michala Schupp-KITE	Carol LaLiberte- CT State Community College Asnuntuck
Amy Morales- Social Services	Rev. Steven Ling- Holy Trinity Church	Eileen Gardner – Enfield Child Development Center
Adrienne Snow- Enfield Public Schools	Fran Koperniak Weiss-Kiwanis Club	Amy Witbro – KITE LWG
Karen Campbell- North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce	Kari Aurette-KITE	Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool
Daniel Corthell- Yoga in the Garden	Kaytlyn Ferrando-KITE	Samantha Loveday- KITE
LeAnn Beaulieu- KITE LWG	Linda Allegro-Town Council	

Welcome and Introductions – Carol LaLiberte

Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes- June Minutes

- The December 2025 KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

Early Start Updates:

- KITE Member Benefit sheet was handed out for review and signatures. A handout on Early Start was also discussed and distributed. The handout is attached to the email. Please feel free to reach out to Hannah or Amy with any questions.
- Jamie Dolce, the Parent Educator, begins classroom observations on 1/8/26. She will observe 8 classrooms out of 13 total. Amy Morales will be meeting with Jaclyn Valley to begin the process for Head Start as well.
- McKinney Vento Update as of 1/6/26: Numbers of homeless students provided by Julie Carroll, McKinney-Vento Liaison: 23 students experiencing homelessness across grade levels. Pk: 1; k-2: 3; 3-5: 8; 6-8: 2; High school: 9
- ECDC Classroom/Center Updates: Infants and toddlers decorated cookies with Santa, preschoolers had breakfast with Santa, and there was a gingerbread house decorating night with 76 attendees. School aged children had parties and a movie day.

Equity- Rev. Steven Ling. "Who is your neighbor?"

KITE Updates

- **Leadership Workgroup Updates**
 - Welcome new LWG member Eileen Gardner!
- **Budget**
 - **KITE expenditures for FY2026 – November: \$8,355.29**
 - Salaries: \$6,683.00; Consultants: \$715.00; Family Engagement: \$11.38; Admin Expenses: \$945.91
- **Communications**
 - KITE PUBLISHED 35 posts in December
 - 27 KITE specific (Holiday DeStress Campaign, Holiday Messaging for Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza and New Years, Parent Ambassador hire, Rapid/CT Project results, Children's Champion presentation)

- Special thank you to our DeStress partner Daniel Corthell, from Yoga in the Garden, for supplying KITE with video content for 5 posts.
- 8 partner/community content shares: (Enfield Public Library, Lunch Link, Torchlight Parade, Winter Traditions, bilingual playgroups, emergency energy assistance, Ujima, giving Tuesday)
- 9.5k reach up 296%
- 2.1K total views up 278%
- 605 total interactions up 876%
- #1 post – Dec Parent Ambassador Introduction with 2019 reach, 32 Interactions

Area Focus Teams:

- **Result #1: Enfield's Children are Safe, Happy, and Healthy**
 - **Infant/Child Mental Health**
 - Mental health committee meeting scheduled for January 26th over Zoom. Reach out to Hannah or Michala for the link if you'd like to join.
 - **Sparkler**
 - 7 new children registered/ 0 plays
 - 57% ASQ-3: Completed with "On track" in all categories
 - 5 Number of "Refers" related to gross motor

- **Result #2: Enfield's children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
 - **KITE/EPS Partnership**
 - EPS has been back to school for 3 days after a lovely long winter break. Knowing that our youngest children have been at home with their families and away from their school routine for the longest time period thus far in their school experience, Pre-K and K teachers may incorporate more Play than usual. Grades 1 & 2 embedded more movement breaks and re-regulating activities. As students transition back to their regular school day routines, these efforts should help create a bridge between home and school.
 - **Parent Leadership Academy**
 - PLA retreat is on January 31st. There is still a waitlist for participants.
 - **Parent Ambassadors**
 - Two Parent Ambassadors have been hired and are beginning work. Welcome, Kaytlyn Ferrando and Samantha Loveday.

- **Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21st century.**
 - **3 TO 3**
 - January 14 is the next meeting.
 - **First Readers**
 - Their Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser is coming up February 28th at 7pm at Mount Carmel. It is BYOB and snacks. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.
 - **Book Buddies**
 - Books have been distributed at Hazardville Memorial and Enfield Street School. Henry Barnard is next.
 - **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - Rocking Chair Readers is expanding into EPS kindergarten classrooms. The offer has been extended to private kindergartens in Enfield as well. Matching volunteers to classrooms to begin in January and we are hopeful to have volunteers begin in February.
 - **2GEN (Tabled)**
 - **Play Lab**

- On March 4th at CT State Community College Asnuntuck, Play Lab materials will be used for a professional development activity for high schoolers taking an early education class from Enfield, Suffield, and South Windsor. A possible collaboration with one of the playgroups is in the works.

Announcements:

- **Enfield Food Shelf:** Christmas distribution was successful with over 400 shoppers. Thanks to everyone who donated. Lunch link on Dec. 29th distributed 305 meals.
- **Kiwanis Club:** They are an international service organization with a focus on children. The Enfield chapter is new this year. Their goals are to look at health, safety, nutrition, literacy and service leadership programs where children learn community service and leadership skills. This year they led the Torchlight Parade by providing hot chocolate and cookies. They also provided meals for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group. Their End Hunger event is coming up in March and their Bike Rodeo is on May 16th.
- **Enfield for Education:** They collected and distributed 725 pairs of mittens and gloves for grades pre-k through high school. They were collected at Asnuntuck, local businesses, and the library.
- **Town of Enfield Social Services:** Energy Assistance Program just opened for gas, electric and fuel for families in need.
- **North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce:** They welcomed a new Board of Directors. Minuteman Press was honored as business of the year and Marie Pyznar was awarded Director of the Year. They are looking for a large enough location for their Home Show.
- **CT State Community College Asnuntuck:** They are offering sexual assault advocate training on Tuesday nights in person and Thursdays virtually starting in February for 6-7 weeks for \$85. Classes provide certification that allows you to work the volunteer hotline, meet victims in hospitals, or what is within your capacity. The group is made up of a wide range of community members.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.