



Enfield School Readiness Council

KITE Collaborative

Wednesday February 5th, 2025, 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.

Welcome and Introductions – Carol LaLiberte, KITE Chairperson

There were 22 members present		
Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	George Hendrickson- Ujima	Rosalind Swift- Ujima
Carol LaLiberte- CT State-Asnuntuck	LeAnn Beaulieu- KITE	Alena Josephson- Child First
Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool	Karen Edelson- Social Services	Katie Carlton- PLA Alumni
Kari Aretta- KITE	Jaclyn Valley- Enfield Public Schools	Amy Morales- Social Services
Stephanie Allery- Parent Ambassador	Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador	Melanie Dube- KITE
Chris Gomeau- KITE	Leslie Lawlor- PLA	Cat Merriam- Parks and Recreation
Adrienne Snow- Enfield Public Schools	Steven Kaselouskas- Enfield Police	Karen Campbell- NCCCC
Jennefer Ryan- KITE		

Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes- January Minutes

- The January 8, 2025, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

School Readiness Business/Quality Enhancement Update

- All 28 slots are full at ECDC.
- McKinney Vento Update: Will be given at March Meeting.
- ECDC received notification that their first application for Early Start for continued funding of the School Readiness slots for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Child Day Care slots which are for infants, toddlers and school age children at ECDC was approved by OEC and they are awaiting the funding award. The second round of funding for Fiscal Year 2026 with the plan to transition from School Readiness Councils to Local Governance Partners has not been released yet. Brianna and Carol and Amy have been attending meetings and will keep everyone informed as new details emerge.
- Governor's Budget Update- -Universal Preschool was among one of the early childhood initiatives proposed in his budget address. There is a meeting tomorrow at 10:00 am with the Early Childhood Alliance and Beth Bye that provide more information related to this and other early childhood bills.
- ECDC Classroom/Center Updates:
 - Room 7 the oldest Preschool children went Mark Twain on Tuesday 2/4 to celebrate Valentines Day with the residents. The children sang songs and did a craft during their visit. Room 5 just wrapped up their pet until. They sent home the class pet every night with a different child. That child would write about what they did with the pet when they had it at their house. Room 4 the youngest preschool children have been focusing on the social emotional curriculum.
 - Quality Enhancement: The whole program has begun to implement Pyramid Model strategies into the classroom, helping with social emotional issues that may be happening.
 - The oldest toddler classroom is still working with Angelica learning about the Circle of Security classroom edition. The MChat training through CCMC will be taking place the beginning of March with the Toddler staff. Home visits still on hold until summer enrollments. ECDC also just had their annual licensing inspection from the CT Office of Early Childhood, the visit went very well.

Equity- Katie Carlton – PLA Alumni

- Katie read excerpts from MLK Speeches and spoke about Rosa Parks. She spoke about never going backwards and that one person can be the change.

Child First Presentation- Alena Josephson

- Alena presented on Child First's mission, services, and resources they provide.

KITE Updates

- **Leadership Workgroup Updates**
 - KITE submitted the interim grant report for the Town of Enfield Dept. of Social Services and the final grant report for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. KITE is being awarded a \$500 mini-grant from the Enfield Culture and Arts Association to support Heritage Fair. The fourth survey of RAPID is out for families and is open until February 14th.

- **Budget**
 - KITE expenditures for FY2025 –December Expenditures \$18,513.14. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.
- **Communications**
 - In the month of January KITE published 10 posts.
 - All posts KITE specific (Holiday De-stress, Heritage Fair, Rocking Chair Readers, Communication Appreciation Day, Melanie Birthday, PLA, G5 presentation). 0 partner/community content shares 1,500 total reaches | Down 28% | 7,800 total views | Down 33% | 175 total interactions (Down 56%) | #1 post-G5 Presentation 1,100 reached 48 interactions. #2 post Communication Appreciation Day 800 reached 41 interactions.

Area Focus Teams:

- **Result #1: Enfield's Children are Safe, Happy, and Healthy**
 - **Infant/Child Mental Health**
 - The KITE MH Sub-Committee met January 27th via Zoom. The subcommittee focuses on young children's mental health and the committee meets bi-monthly to share information and resources and to connect our work. Sub-committee members discussed what they are doing in their work to stay connected to families and individuals and what need to be done to sustain participation and connection. The next meeting will take place on March 24th from 4-5 on Zoom.
 - Chris Gomeau and Deputy Chief K are part of the Leadership Work Group for the ETC MH & Wellness Coalition. Their current focus is to create a marketing campaign on combatting loneliness called "Know Your Neighbor". Brianna Beckstrand and Jennefer Ryan attended this meeting for KITE. A work group is being formed. The next meeting date is February 28th.
 - Chris and Deputy Chief K also attended the Enfield Crisis Response Team Postvention Training. This training took place on January 13th, provided by Amplify. The purpose of the training was to assist communities in planning a response to deaths by suicide. These principles are also applicable to our work responding to other traumatic deaths.
 - **Sparkler**
 - There are 962 children registered in Sparkler. In the last month, a total of 479 Plays have been logged. 55% of completed ASQs were on track, and 73% for the ASQ-SE. There was a total of 11 recommendations for referrals, the highest area of needs being in gross motor and personal social.
- **Result #2: Enfield's children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
 - **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
 - Quarterly meetings with EPS Administration are being scheduled after a great meeting with Superintendent Moccio. Kindergarten Registration is earlier this year and will open February 19th. KITE and EPS are hosting Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten Night on Thursday, April 3rd.
 - **Parent Leadership Academy**
 - Leslie shared that the final count for this year's PLA Class is 14 participants. They had their retreat this past Saturday and their first class begins Thursday.
 - **Parent Ambassadors**
 - Stephanie attended the CT Children's Collection quarterly Parent Ambassadors/Cabinet meeting this past month. She was also asked to speak on a parent panel, more details to come.
 - **Heritage Fair**
 - The committee has made great headway with planning. We have been reaching out to vendors to verify interest in participating. So far, we have 18 tables and 4 performers. Our next meeting is 5:30 pm, Tuesday, February 11th at JFK. Anyone interested in participating can email Hannah at hsong@enfield.org.
- **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 committee will be sharing an invite later this month with all of Enfield's PK-Grade 1 families for a "Play & Science Night" at EHS on 3/26 from 5:30-6:30. RSVPs will be required, and all are welcome to join in the fun!
 - They are also working on an event connecting Centers, Stowe, and our primary schools. More information will be shared next meeting.
 - **First Readers**
 - Trivia night will be on February 22, 2025. Doors open at 6:30 pm, Trivia starts at 7:00 pm at Mt. Carmel Society-93 Park Ave. Tickets are on sale, visit the website www.firstreaders.org or check the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FirstReadersofEnfield> for details.
 - Next meeting will be held February 12th at Enfield Public Library.
 - **Book Buddies**
 - No new updates.
 - **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - Readers and teachers have been contacted about interest for this school year. We had some new readers that have started in the classrooms, and we are still waiting on a couple of responses. If you know anyone that is interested, please reach out to Melanie at mmdube@enfield.org.
 - **2GEN (Tabled)**
 - **Play Lab (Tabled)**

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.