



Enfield School Readiness Council

KITE Collaborative

Wednesday, December 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, Chairperson.

There were 24 members present.

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Michelle Zaugg- KITE
Monica Ogums- DEI Committee	Peter Osowiecki- Community Member
John Malinoski- DEI Committee	Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Department
Adrienne Snow- EPS	Jaclyn Valley- EPS
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
Lanie LeBrun- Enfield Food Shelf	Danielle Brown- Parent Ambassador
Ron Urena- Enfield Produce and Deli	Rosalind Swift- Ujima
Melanie Dube- KITE	Brandon Jewell- DEI Committee
Lauren Urena- Enfield Produce and Deli	Marie Pyznar- Town Council

II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2023

- a. The November 1, 2023, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved as is with the following correction: On Tuesday, November 7 there will be Staff Professional Development focusing on *Working with Children with Autism and Trauma Informed Practices*.

III. School Readiness Business/Quality Enhancement Update

- a. All 28 slots are full at ECDC.
- b. ECDC was able to return to regular operating hours on November 27.
- c. Monitoring: Lisa Carriere has completed monitoring visits which included classroom observations, a random check of 5 child files, and staff professional development logs.
- d. McKinney Vento Update:
 - Numbers of homeless students provided by Julie Carroll, McKinney-Vento Liaison:
 1. PK: 1
 2. K-2: 9
 3. 3-5: 9
 4. Middle School: 3
 5. High School: 10
- e. Quality Enhancement: Melanie Smith Cervera from EASTCONN will be returning on December 18 to work with staff on the Purposeful Play strategies.
- f. Classroom updates: The staff and classrooms are busy getting ready for the holidays with a concert that will be held for families as well as a gingerbread jamboree where the families from the Preschool classrooms will all get together and decorate gingerbread houses.

IV. Equity – Ron and Lauren Urena-Enfield Produce and Deli

- a. Ron and Lauren Urena spoke about the community mural that was done at Enfield Produce and Deli. They spoke to their experience through KITE's Community Conversations, and how they wanted to have diversity represented

through the community with this mural. They focus and why comes back to children. We encourage all members to go see the almost completed mural at Enfield Produce and Deli!

V. KITE Updates

a. Leadership Work Group Updates

- KITE received the Fund for Greater Hartford grant for \$50,000 and is a multi-year partner. KITE also received the Fund for Greater Hartford Wellness grant for staff for \$3,000. KITE submitted our final report for the 2020-2023 OEC grant.
- Melanie shared the KITE Staff have created a tree for Enfield Library's Festival of Trees. Collaborative members were asked to sign the doily (tree skirt) so that they would be a part of the KITE tree. Check it out at Enfield Public Library

b. Budget

- KITE expenditures for FY2023 – October Expenditures \$14,708.39. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.

c. Communications

- In the month of November, KITE published 10 posts and gained 1 new Facebook follower.
- 5 posts KITE specific (PLA, Childcare Survey, Your Voice, Thanksgiving holiday wishes), 5 partner/community shares (Torchtlight and Veteran parades, instrument lending library, Food Shelf Giving Tuesday promotion). 2,900 total reaches | Up 8.9% | 212 total engagements, down 52.6% | #1 post Torchtlight Parade 1,400 reached 78 engagements. #2 post was Lending Library 756 reached 43 engagements.

VI. Area Focus Teams:

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

• Infant/Child Mental Health

- Dr. Calnen shared information regarding a Mental Health Committee for the Board of Education. With KITE having a mental health committee, it was suggested that each committee share a representative to each other to align efforts. A KITE representative on the BOE Mental Health Committee would be assigned as a non-voting member. They will have their next meeting on January 18th.
- Enfield Social Services has been working with consultants called Initium since August on the Discovery phase of developing the Enfield Mental Health and Wellness Coalition. We have run multiple focus groups across sectors, (including many in attendance at tonight's KITE meeting), reviewed data and research, and are preparing to form the Coalition, with a kick-off meeting late January. This Coalition will focus on mental health and wellness across the lifespan and KITE will be invited to participate. Along a parallel track we and Enfield Together Coalition have been conducting adult and community surveys and will be looking for a report on the results in late January as well.

• Sparkler

- Dr. Villa's office is fully set up with the Sparkler Dashboard.
- KITE has access to all high-level Enfield data dashboards (no personal information); we will report out broad community findings in future meetings.

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

• Family Educator Organization

- *FEO Life Hacks* have been started with the first topic being potty training. It's been received very well through feedback. Starting in the new year we will be doing a new life hack topic on nutrition.

• KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership-Tabled

• Parent Leadership Academy

- PLA is accepting applications for the 2024 class. The class will begin February 3rd.
- If you know any parents that would be interested in PLA, please encourage them to apply and reach out to Malissa with any questions.

• Parent Ambassadors/SRC Advisory

- Tiffany and Kristin met with Brianna and Michelle to discuss ideas for remaining funds left.
 - i. They are looking at what the needs are.
 - ii. They are hoping to do more family engagement work and try to include the entire family.
- They also met with the Hartford Early Childhood Council about the *Time for You* series.
- The quarterly meeting was postponed until January.

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 next meeting will be held on December 14th at 12:00 pm.
- **First Readers**
 - The first ceremony of the year was held on November 27th and was a great success.
 - Kristin Raiche said meetings have changed to the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The next ceremony is scheduled for March 19th at JFK. If you would like to volunteer, please let Kirstin know.
 - Trivia night will be held on February 24th at Mount Carmel, more information to come.
- **Book Buddies**
 - Don Ellis shared that the first group of books came in. He shared some of the books with the Collaborative.
- **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - Volunteers have started in all classrooms. They are always looking for more volunteers please reach out to Michelle if you know anyone interested and she can get them set up in a classroom.
- **2Gen**
 - Chamber Breakfast with the CBIA is January 11th. Registration will begin shortly for Chamber members. The CEO of the CBIA will be speaking as well as Commissioner Beth Bye.
 - The next meeting is on Wednesday February 14th.
- **Play Lab (Tabled)**

VII. Announcements

- a. Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library: The library is having the Festival of Trees; the guidelines are on the website. The trees are due by December 11th, and December 14th there will be a reception to walk through and see all the trees. Kristin also shared that on December 30th at 11:00 am they are running their **Noon Years** program. There will be a countdown to Noon, a DJ, and lots of crafts and activities for the kids. The tickets for this program will be available starting on December 18th.
- b. Brianna Beckstrand-KITE: Amy Witbro will be retiring on December 31st. She will remain a part of the KITE Leadership Workgroup and on the Collaborative. KITE will have a cake reception after the January meeting. She also shared that Marie Pyznar, Doug Finger, and Bob Cressotti will be the Town Council liaisons and Dr. Calnen will be the BOE liaison to KITE.
- c. Dr. Calnen- BOE: BOE approved the Head Start application at the last BOE meeting.
- d. Marie Pyznar – Town Council: The Torchlight Parade will be held on December 16th.
- e. Rosalind Swift-Ujima: Ujima will be holding a Black History event in February. There will be a soft launch to an addition to the museum at the Enfield Public Library. They will also be holding a mental health symposium in March. Safe Harbor is also looking for an assistant treasurer. If you know anyone that may be interested, please let Rosalind know.
- f. Lauren Urena- Enfield Produce and Deli: Lauren shared that Enfield Produce and Deli will be tripling the size of their play area.

VIII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.