



Enfield School Readiness Council

KITE Collaborative

Wednesday, June 7, 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.st

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions – LeAnn Beaulieu

There were 31 members present.

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Michelle Zaugg- KITE
Altressa Cox-Blackwell – EPS	Malissa Griffith- PLA
Tiffany Howard- ECDC Parent	Mary Peniston-CT ECTC
Chris Gomeau-KITE	Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool
Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library	George Hendrickson-Community Member
Eileen Gardner- Enfield Child Dev. Center	Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Comm. College
Amy Morales- FRC/Social Services	Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Department
Danielle Girard- PFlag Enfield	Kristin Herzig-Parent Ambassador
Elsa Reyes-The Village	Steven Ling- Holy Trinity Church
Rosalind Swift-Ujima	Lanie Lebrun-Enfield Food Shelf
Steve Kaselouskas – Enfield Police	Angelica Fajardo-Social Services
Walter Kruzal Jr-KITE	Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education
Lesa Lovelace-The Village	Bob Cressotti-Mayor
LeAnn Beaulieu-KITE	Amy Witbro-EPS
Sue Neville-Retired	Melanie Dube-KITE
Jaclyn Valley-EPS	

II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2023, and May 3, 2023

a. The April 5, 2023, and May 3, 2023, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

III. School Readiness Business/Quality Enhancement Update

a. All 28 slots continue to be fully enrolled at Enfield Child Development Center.

b. School Readiness Grant Update

- o The School Readiness Grant was submitted after our last KITE meeting, and we are waiting to hear back from the Office of Early Childhood.
- o The budget is on track for spending through the rest of the fiscal year.

c. Quality Enhancement Updates

- o McKinney Vento Update: Julie Carroll reports that 37 EPS students are designated as homeless.

d. Classroom/Center Updates

- o ECDC talent show was a huge success. There were almost 700 people in attendance. They made over \$4,000 to go towards the budget.
- o The preschool rooms have been getting ready to celebrate Father's Day with their dads or special persons.
- o ECDC will be holding their 2nd annual graduation in August.
- o The main attraction at Stowe right now is that the ducks have started hatching. All the adults and children at the school are enjoying watching the ducks grow.

- Room 4 started a vegetable garden where the children are helping in watering and weeding the garden.

e. Monitoring

- The School Readiness Liaison conducted monitoring visits to two out of 3 classrooms and will be completing the third one next week. She will also be reviewing Professional Development logs.

IV. Equity

a. Community Conversation

- The Stowe Head Start Focus Group met in May and 34 people attended.
- In May, all the attendees from the focus groups and 6 groups were invited to attend a 2nd event. The first portion of the meeting was to go over the results of the focus groups. After that, the groups were invited to stay and start an action planning session. KITE was able to provide some funds to any group that applied. Two groups have submitted applications. We will be meeting again in 6 months to bring the groups back and see how they are doing and if KITE can help them in any way towards their equity work.
- Next Steps-Brianna and Randi will be meeting to finish up the reporting for the Community Conversation and KITE hopes to present the information to the Board of Education and Town Council in the Fall.

b. Sign-ups for 23-24 KITE Meetings

- LeAnn asked the Collaborative to share in any experiences they have had for KITE's equity piece of the Collaborative Meetings for 2023-2024. She passed around a sign-up sheet.

V. KITE Updates

a. Leadership Work Group

• **Updates**

- Members voted to approve the 2023 revisions to the KITE Collaborative By-Laws.
- Members voted to approve the 5 Year Goals for the Enfield Early Childhood Community Plan.
- Brianna shared that KITE was the recipient of an award of \$100.00 honoring The Fund for Greater Hartford Trustee Member, Maria Sanchez. KITE is also receiving a grant extension from the Office of Early Childhood in the amount of \$22,800.00.

• **Budget**

- Expenditures for the month of April was \$14,331.60. Expenditures for the month of May were \$23,417.32. Any questions please e-mail Brianna.

• **Communications**

- In the month of April KITE published 31 posts
 - 28 posts were KITE specific (Community Conversation, Enfield Unplugged, Out & About, Transition to Kindergarten), 3 partner/community content shares (BOE, Friends of the Library)
 - 7,317 total reaches | Up 93.8% over March | 992 total engagements.
 - 26 new Facebook Followers.
- #1 post Friends of the Library Book Sale 2,052 reached 152 engagements.
#2 Out and About Head Start Community Conversation 1,052 reached 177 engagements.
- In the month of May KITE published 22 posts
 - 20 posts were KITE specific (PLA Graduation, Enfield Unplugged, Buddy Bench Dedication), 2 partner/community content shares (PLA Alumni Tag Sale, Friends of the Library Book Sale)
 - 2,857 total reaches | Down 62% over April | 1,474 total engagements.
 - 9 new Facebook Followers.
- #1 post Renee Coro on Town Green for Enfield Unplugged Facebook Live Feed 1,011 views 411 engagements.
- #2 post PLA Graduation 901 reached 483 engagements.

VI. Area Focus Teams:

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

- **Infant/Child Mental Health**

- Carol will be the interim chair of the Mental Health Sub-Committee. If anyone is interested in chairing this committee, please let Carol know.
 - This is a sub-committee focusing on infant/child mental health. In the first couple meetings they started conversations on the initiatives that are currently going on. They also looked at what services are available and what gaps there currently are.
 - This committee had input into the community plan and developing an action plan.
 - Anyone that is interested in joining the committee please contact Carol.
 - Sparkler– A new grant is available; the grant application is due in 2 weeks.
- b. Result #2: Enfield’s children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
- **Family Educator Organization**
 - FEO is reorganizing for next year. Michelle will be attending incoming student gatherings at Stowe over the summer to introduce parents to the FEO.
 - **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
 - EPS is partnering with Gesell Institute on how to infuse play into the curriculum. Friday June 9th is the last coaching day with kindergarten. Over the summer, the Gesell Institute will be creating an extensive report, showing the strengths and weaknesses of the program. The data from this report will help show what needs to be worked on in the coming year.
 - The EPS family engagement work with Gesell is ongoing. They are collating all the focus groups notes. KITE has been working with Board of Education Chairwoman LeBlanc to discuss the results and possibly presenting to the Board of Education. We are still looking at dates to bring Peg in to meet with these groups.
 - Family Day is going to be held on Sunday September 17th. More information will be coming out soon.
 - Kindergarten Camp will be July 31st through August 11th at Stowe. It will be done through a partnership with EPS/FRC/KITE. Erin and Lisa will be helping the teacher. There are 20 kids that can attend and the criterion for attending is children who have had no preschool experience. Sign-ups have started so if you know any parents who might be interested, please let us know.
 - **Parent Leadership Academy**
 - PLA Class 16 graduated. They completed their project on June 5th. Their project is called **The Enfield Hub**, an information booklet that details out all the events and programs available for the town. It is available at various locations across Enfield. The class will be back in fall to share the project in more detail.
 - The next PLA class starts on February 3, 2024, if you know anyone interested in joining, please encourage them to sign up.
 - **Enfield Unplugged**
 - Michelle presented the data from Enfield Unplugged. 90 kids sent back Enfield Unplugged forms. The most forms submitted were from Stowe, closely followed by Enfield Street School.
 - i. The data showed that most kids spend their time on tablets and television.
 - ii. The data also showed that they chose to spend more time outside and do arts and crafts during Enfield Unplugged week.
 - The goal of using the data from Enfield Unplugged is to change the forms for next year to make them easier to understand for the kids/families filling out them.
 - **Blue Ribbon Panel-Parent Convening**
 - KITE hosted the Parent Convening on May 31st at Asnuntuck Community College. Joyce Bosco and Barbara Vita facilitated the training.
 - In attendance were the Parent Ambassadors and Parent Cabinet members from our region.
 - The training was for Parent Cafes. The goals were to look at how we can reach everyone and get new voices at the table to be heard and elevated.

- 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 committee met last week.
 - It was discussed meeting two times a year for Dine and Discuss in Fall and Spring. They also discussed offering a professional development opportunity once in the year too.
 - They are working on how they can connect and reach more centers.
 - **First Readers**
 - The final ceremony of the year was held on Monday June 5th at Enfield High School. It was very well attended with 160 children present.
 - The committee met Tuesday June 6th and discussed things that went well and some things that will be changed for next year's ceremonies.
 - **Book Buddies**
 - The Enfield Fire Department will do a 2nd delivery to Enfield Street School tomorrow to finish out the year.
 - **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - The volunteers will be paused over the summer since most of the classes are not in session. They will resume in the fall.
 - Looking to expand the program to the K-2 schools next year.
 - Over the summer KITE is looking to do a presentation about the program at the senior center.
 - **Other**
- d. **Cross Cutting Strategies**
 - **2Gen**
 - The final meeting of the year was last week at the Chamber.
 - This year's focus is on affordable childcare. We are looking to engage businesses in this conversation. A Chamber Breakfast is being planned for the fall.
 - i. We will be presenting information on childcare issues.
 - ii. Getting feedback on what businesses are seeing.

VII. Announcements

- a. Amy Morales- Social Services: The grandparents raising grandchildren group will be holding a family art night on 6/14/23 at Stowe. Enfield Together Coalition will be holding a Virtual Social Media Safety Workshop for parents/guardians on 6/27/23 with daytime and evening sessions available.
- b. Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library: 6/28/23 is the Summer Reading Kickoff. There is a Traveling Lantern Theater performance at the Enfield Library at 10:00 am. There are a lot of great summer reading prizes for the kids.
- c. Danielle Girard- PFlag: The Pride Festival had a great turnout, next year's will be held on 6/8/24. On 6/23/23 there will be a Drag Queen Bingo at Enfield Elks (doors open at 6 pm and bingo starts at 7 pm-Adults Only). This fundraiser will support scholarships for LGBTQAI+ Youth.
- d. Elsa Reyes-The Village/Child First: There are immediate openings, please contact her if you know anyone interested.
- e. Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Community College: Asnuntuck is enrolling for the fall, there are a lot of great financial support available. Asnuntuck will be switching titles to CT State in July as the Asnuntuck Campus.
- f. Steve Kaselouskas-Enfield Police: If department can help with anything let them know. The 2nd National Night Out will be held on August 1st at the Enfield Town Green.
- g. Rosalind Swift-Ujima: The Juneteenth Festival will be held on 6/17/23 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- h. Lanie Lebrun-Enfield Food Shelf: In collaboration with Enfield Loaves and Fishes they will be providing summer lunch from June 19th through August 11th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Old Enfield Food Shelf location at 96 Alden Ave.

VIII. Changing of the KITE Chair

IX. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.