



## Enfield School Readiness Council

### KITE Collaborative

**Wednesday, March 1, 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.st*

### AGENDA

**I. Welcome and Introductions – LeAnn Beaulieu**

**There were 24 members present.**

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Michelle Zaugg- KITE
Melanie Dube- KITE	Malissa Griffith- PLA
Sue Neville- Retired	Amy Witbro- Enfield Public Schools
Claudia Dijmarescu- Westfield Bank	Lesa Lovelace- Child First
Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library	George Hendrickson-Parent
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
Jaclyn Valley- EPS/Stowe	Danielle Brown- Parent Ambassador
Karen Campbell- NCCCC	Steven Ling- Holy Trinity Church
Jennefer Ryan- KITE	Josue Irizarry- ERfC
Steve Kaselouskas – Enfield Police	Adrienne Snow – EPS

**II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2023**

- a. The corrected February 1, 2023, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

**III. School Readiness Business/Quality Enhancement Update**

- a. All 28 slots at Enfield Child Development Center are still full.
- b. The Center received word that they received their NAEYC accreditation! Their overall score was 91.18%. In addition to the Program Portfolio there were 3 classroom portfolios, and our infant program scored a 100% on their portfolio. The Center has been accredited since 1999.
- c. The application for continued funding for School Readiness and Quality Enhancement from the Office of Early Childhood has been released and is a continuation funding application which is due on May 4th.
- d. Classroom Updates: Room 7 participated in the Governor Lamont's Snowman Contest yesterday, 2/28. The pictures were aired on WFSB. Room 4 will be planning a parent event for the bread unit; they will be making Pizza together.
- e. Parent Committee: Eileen and Tiffany Howard met to discuss the Family Survey that ECDC will be distributing to all families at the end of March. Tiffany will be the parent spearheading this effort.
- f. Quality Enhancement: Melanie from EastConn continues to work with the preschool classrooms on play-based learning and executive function skills. She will be coming out in March to observe classroom play scenarios that were worked on at the February Professional Development Day that she attended.
- g. McKinney Vento Update: Julie Carroll reports that 35 EPS students are designated as homeless. LeAnn shared an article reporting that numbers of homeless students in Connecticut are increasing by 25%.

#### IV. Equity

##### a. Adrienne Snow, EPS

- Presented the book, "You Matter" by Christian Robinson

##### b. Community Conversation

- Stowe Head Start Focus Group is postponed until Thursday, April 6th.
- Randi McCray held Facilitator/ Notetaker training sessions last month to prepare for the events.
- The first event is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>, and the second event will take place on April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The April 19<sup>th</sup> session will be a working session to look at creating action plans.

##### c. Heritage Fair

- Heritage Fair was very successful, the feedback was very positive. There is a wrap up meeting next week.

#### V. KITE Updates

##### a. Leadership Work Group

###### • Updates

- The Early Childhood Community Plan Focus Groups have all wrapped up. Dave will be coming to the LWG meeting on Tuesday to present the results.

###### • Budget

- KITE expenditures for FY2023 – January Expenditures \$15,214.10. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.

###### • Communications

- In the month of February KITE published 18 posts.
  - 7 posts were KITE specific (Heritage Fair, PLA), 11 partner/community content shares.
  - Total Reach: 11,202 people | Up 16.6% over January | 1520 total engagements, up 19%.
- #1 post: Heritage Fair Program reached 3000 with 96 engagements and 24 shares.
- #2 post: Heritage Fair Schedule reached 1.8K with 22 engagements.

#### VI. Area Focus Teams:

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

###### • Infant/Child Mental Health

- Ruth has resigned as the Mental Health Chairperson. The committee was notified, and they will continue to work on the next steps which will look at the results of the focus groups to help identify the priorities of the committee. LeAnn expressed KITE's gratitude to Ruth for helping to form the committee.
- Sparkler – The FRC and Food Shelf held a "Sparkler Party" on Saturday Feb 18<sup>th</sup> at the former Food Shelf location. Five families attended and received assistance in using Sparkler and completing ASQs on site. Families became connected with FRC through this event. Another event is planned for March 25th with music by Renee Coro.

- ECDC: A total of 67 out of 95 children have signed up for the Sparkler App and their families also completed the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE. A total of 7 children scored in the "Refer" status. All of these families were given the information for additional services. Three of these children now receive Birth to Three services. A total of 11 children scored in the "Concern" status. These families were all given play-based activities to do with their children to work on those areas. There will be a table at the Parent Survey Day to provide information about Sparkler to families who may need assistance with the app or the screening process.

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

###### • Family Educator Organization

- FEO is hosting an Apps and Chats Night on March 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:30- 5:30pm. Parents can come and chat about what activities they would like to see for the rest of the school year. Childcare and light appetizers will be provided.

- **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
    - EPS is partnering with the Gesell Institute to define and implement meaningful family engagement. They are working on how schools communicate best with families. The next step is to set up a meeting sometime in April with Peg Oliveira and school administration and hope to meet with the Board of Education as well.
  - **Parent Leadership Academy**
    - PLA started February 4<sup>th</sup>, so far it is going very well. The class has already introduced conflict resolution, working on personalities, and will introduce public speaking in the coming weeks.
  - **People Empowering People (Tabled)**
- c. **Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**
- **3 to 3**
    - The second "Dine and Discuss" was on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. There were 11 people who attended. There was a Sparkler presentation for providers on how to sign up. KITE's website will house a message board for providers to connect with one another, this will be rolled out very soon. The last "Dine and Discuss" will be sometime in May.
    - Transition to Kindergarten will be kicking off the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May. There will be a Transition to Kindergarten night held at JFK Middle School on Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup> for all students entering Kindergarten in the fall.
  - **First Readers**
    - Trivia Night was very successful. It sold out and everyone had a lot of fun.
    - The first ceremony will be on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in the JFK auditorium. They are still looking for volunteers.
    - The next meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm at the Enfield Library if you would like to come and learn more about First Readers.
  - **Book Buddies**
    - Nothing new to report.
  - **Rocking Chair Readers**
    - Volunteers started coming into the classrooms in February. We have 9 volunteers in 9 different classrooms that come in either once or twice a month. Two more classrooms have signed up as well.
  - **2Gen**
    - The group is looking to address childcare issues and the complications of finding quality childcare. The committee is looking at connecting employers into these conversations.
    - We have our next meeting on Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - **Play Lab (Tabled)**

## VII. Announcements

- a. Josue Irizarry ERfC: Preschool program- Summer camp registration opened up last week. The summer program runs from June 26<sup>th</sup> to August 11<sup>th</sup>. There is a counselor in training program for high school students that are age 14 and older. They will also have a program for April vacation at Enfield Street School from April 10<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- b. Karen Campbell NCCCC: There is an Economic Development Breakfast at ACC on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Acts of Kindness student recognition will be done at end of March. The Home Show will be at the Enfield Square Mall on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- c. Claudia Dijmarescu Westfield Bank- shared details about Financial Literacy Workshops. She has done them at ERfC and is offering to run them at other programs if anyone is interested.
- d. Amy Morales Social Services: Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> there will a 5<sup>th</sup> grade dance at Social Services. On March 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm to 7:30pm there will be an Enfield Together Coalition Membership Meeting. One of our discussion items will be National Prevention Week which will take place May 7-13.
- e. Kristin Raiche Enfield Public Library: On March 3<sup>rd</sup> the library will be showing "Puss in Boots" at 6:00pm.

- f. Adrienne Snow EPS: June 5<sup>th</sup> is the First Reader's ceremony. Let Adrienne know if you can volunteer.
- g. Altressa Cox-Blackwell: EPS has partnered with CREC to hold focus groups with families at each school, students grade 6-12, and EPS staff to look at their views on equity within the schools and district. They are looking to conclude these groups by April to analyze the data and look for areas to improve on and build a strategic equity plan for the district.
- h. Jaclyn Valley EPS- Stowe's CREC parent focus groups are happening both in the morning and evening in March. Please wear blue on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> to support a Stowe family who is going through a difficult time.
- i. Lesa Lovelace Child First: Child First is looking to connect with EPS schools to better serve their children and families.
- j. Reverend Ling: In March, there will be a Zoom meeting with 3 congregations to do a Book Study on gun violence. The book is titled "Beating Guns". This will provide help and assistance in finding ways of working with all types of families.

**VIII. Adjourn**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.