



**Enfield School Readiness Council**  
**KITE Collaborative**  
**Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 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 22 people at the meeting.**

Samantha Brown- KITE

Karen Campbell- NCCCC

Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Community College

Amy Morales- FRC/ School Readiness

Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Department

Lisa Rogers- Enfield Food Shelf

Michelle Zaugg- KITE

Melina LaBoy- CHR/ECCP

Jennifer Hayford- Asst. Principal- Henry Barnard

Karen Edelson- Social Services

Eileen Gardner- ECDC

Sue Neville- Retired EPS Educator

Carlene Elrick- Retired Early Childhood

Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education

Jennefer Ryan- KITE

LeAnn Beaulieu- KITE

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE

Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library

Ruth Sales- ECCP/CHR

Lesa Lovelace- The Village/Child First

Danielle Brown- Parent Ambassador

Olivia Roberts- Here Wee Grow

**II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

- The June 1<sup>st</sup> KITE Zoom minutes were accepted.

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

- The School Readiness Grant was awarded and the 28 slots at the Enfield Child Development Center; are all full. The classrooms reported that all the new children have settled into their new rooms (some have moved on to kindergarten and some have moved up from the 3-year-old classroom) and are getting to know the children and teachers. They will be taking a field trip to Bushy Hill Farm where they will be apple picking.
- Amy Morales completed classroom observations over the summer and had the chance to meet with some of the teachers in the classrooms to review which was helpful.
- The Quality Enhancement funding was also awarded, and Amy will be working with Melanie Smith-Cervera from EastConn. She will be working with the School Readiness Classroom staff on ways to facilitate and extend open-ended play in the classrooms and Play Lab when available. This will kick off with a training on October 5 and then some additional coaching sessions will be provided.
- As a refresher or for new members to KITE, Amy put together an overview of the main components of the grant. Throughout the course of the year at the KITE meetings, she plans to share more details about the School Readiness grant., KITE serves as Enfield's School Readiness Council, and the Council is written into legislation. (handout)

- The School Readiness grant provides high quality affordable early childhood for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds with at least 60% being at or below 75% of the state median income.
- Enfield is a considered a competitive district.
- The role of the Council is to determine how the funds are allocated. KITE issues a request for proposal and then puts together a review committee to score any applications and make recommendations for funding.
- Funding requires a program to be accredited or become accredited within 3 years or receive Federal Head Start funding. There are also requirements for staff credentials.
- A new requirement for the School Readiness Council is the formation of parent sub-committee to the council. Caregivers must have children that were, are, or will be eligible to attend ECDC (where the slots are held). KITE has been working on that and had a small committee of parents that started meeting at the end of the last school year.
- There are 12 quality components which we will review more in depth this year.
- As the liaison, Amy is responsible to oversee administration of the grant and that includes the grant application process, monitoring of compliance with the requirements, and working with the providers to serve as a resource. The entirety of the roles of the liaison are in General Policy c01 if anyone would like a copy.
- Sparkler: The FRC has received a grant from Sparkler which is an app where parents can complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaires and receive play activities and parenting tips on development. We are using the grant to aid ECDC, who currently uses the paper versions of Ages and Stages. We will also work with the Food Shelf to spread the word on Sparkler which is available to any parent of young children, as well as looking to send this information to pediatricians. We will be meeting with other communities who received this grant starting next Monday- more to come!
- COS: Thanks to assistance from Dr. Calnen, we will be partnering with EPS to provide the Circle of Security Parenting series to the Head Start and STEAM teachers. Erin Grimes, our Lead Parent Educator, and Heather Benyak, our Social Worker, will be providing this overview during teacher professional learning sessions as a way to continue to increase the reach of COS. COS has developed a classroom approach so there are videos and handouts geared towards using it in the classroom.
- Kindergarten Camp- KITE and EPS partnered to provide this again. The camp ran for two weeks in August. There were 38 children that attended with at least half having no preschool experience.
- 21 parents completed a feedback survey and all 21 said that the camp was a positive experience and provided their children with skills that will help as they transition to kindergarten. We plan to touch base with the teacher and the parents to see how things are going in a couple of months.

#### **IV. Collaborative Goals SY 22-23**

- **The Collaborative voted to accept the Collaborative Goals for SY 22-23. They are as follows.**

##### **Broad and Inclusive Collaborative**

- Finalize orientation to onboard and retain new membership.

- Find at least 2 new partnerships to have a few key documents translated.

### **Strategic Use of Data**

- Report 2x a year on data surrounding our grant deliverables.
- Create a system for data follow up, with a focus on impact over time. Collaborative will start small with some key programming: Parent Leadership Academy, Kindergarten Camp, and Professional Development.

### **Long Term Goal:**

- Look for and secure funding to hire a position for KITE to “warehouse” the data shared by our collaborative to show collective efforts.

### **Collaborative Goal: Governance Structure**

- Will establish a short-term sub-committee to help Leadership Workgroup revise the KITE by-laws, to be completed by April 2023.
- Create an Infant/Child Mental Health Sub-Committee to report at Monthly Collaborative Meetings.
- Add a Mental Health Representative to KITE Leadership Workgroup
- Create language for developing long-term KITE leadership, including the role of Chairperson.

## **V. Equity**

### **a. Community Conversation**

- The next meeting is September 28<sup>th</sup>
- There was a facilitator hired. Her name is Randi McCray and her bio was shared. She will be working with the Planning Committee for the Community Conversation in the Spring.
  - This past June, KITE participated in the Juneteenth event in town. KITE and the FRC had a multicultural activity and handed out books for young children.

## **VI. KITE Updates**

### **a. Leadership Work Group**

#### **• Updates**

- The Quarter 4 Town of Enfield grant report was submitted.
- KITE applied to the Parent Trust Fund Grant for PLA funding.
- A Program Coordinator, Michelle Zaugg, was hired.

#### **• Budget**

- Brianna Beckstrand presented the expenses for July and August. Total expenditures were \$27,357.79. Any questions please contact Brianna at bbeckstrand@enfield.org.

#### **• Communications**

- In the month of August KITE published 38 posts. 23 posts were KITE specific (Countdown to Aug 30 – Kindergarten Tip series, Family Day on the Green, Dive into Diversity, and Back to School tips).
- 15 posts were partner/community content shares (OEC Parent Survey, ERfC Backpack & Lunch Bunch, and School Bus Routes)
- There were 3,927 views which means posts in their feed. This was up 40.9% over July. 589 total engagements (interacting with our posts) was down 39%.

- The number 1 post for the month was the Family Day Save the Date. There were 5,700 people reached, 332 engagements, and 491 clicks.
- The number 2 post for the month was the distribution of EPS Bus Routes. There were 1,646 people reached and 125 engagements.

**VII. Area Focus Teams:**

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

**1. Infant/Child Mental Health**

- Dr. Calnen shared that the Department of Social Services received a grant of \$2500. The first goal is to hire a leader for a mental health coalition that they hope to be putting together.
- Brianna shared that the Early Education Funders Collaborative asked KITE to join a working committee on Infant/Child Health in Early Childhood. KITE was one of two collaboratives in the state that was asked.

**2. Other**

**a. Sparkler**

- Amy Morals shared that grant money was received for implementing Sparkler into ECDC. The money from this grant will go towards training the staff.
- The Enfield Food Shelf will be passing the Sparkler information out to their families.

**b. Circle of Security**

- The FRC is partnering with Enfield Public Schools to train Head Start and STEAM teachers.

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

**1. Family Educator Organization**

- The first meeting is October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**2. EPS/KITE Partnership**

- Jennifer Hayford updated that the Kindergartners at Henry Barnard have transitioned wonderfully. This year there has been a big difference in the readiness of the students. They are easily following schedules and directions.
- Amy Morales shared that the K Camp happened over two weeks this summer. There were 38 children who attended. Half who did not have any previous Preschool experience. In preparation surveys were sent out to the kindergarten teachers, which were then given to the staff planning the K Camp.
- Family Day is Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 4. It is free to the Enfield Community and free for vendors to be there.
- The Jack-O-Lantern festival is back this year!

**3. Parent Leadership Academy**

- The most recent class had their graduation in June.
- Karen Campbell shared her experience and the impact it left with her. Her classmates are looking to make more placemats from their group project. They had children create their own colorings and those were turned into placemats that were given to home-bound senior residents.

**4. People Empowering People**

- The most recent class graduated in June. Their civic project was working with the Town of Enfield on planting trees that were donated along the new playground at Higgins Field.

#### 5. OEC Parent Ambassadors

- Danielle Brown shared that they are working on creating a parent self-care series. This series is called "Time for You". It is to give parents time to do things for themselves and de-stress. There is childcare and food provided. The first class is 9/22 and is Art Therapy.
- The Virtual Parent Summit is 9/17 from 9-2.

#### 6. Other

- **Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

##### 1. 3 to 3

- The committee is working on scheduling their first meeting.

##### 2. First Readers

- Kristin Raiche shared that they are discussing things on how to move forward this year. For example, will it be in person, a drive through event, or something different? They are also discussing fundraising ideas/options.

##### 3. Book Buddies

- Don Ellis shared that this year the Book Buddies program will be back to the normal way of running. They will deliver books to Kindergarteners twice a year that are from the lists given by the Enfield Teachers.

##### 4. Rocking Chair Readers

- Carlene Elrick shared that she is recruiting retired seniors to read at elementary schools. The volunteers work out their own schedules with the teachers whose classrooms they will be reading to.
- Stowe and ECDC will have a meeting to bring this into their programs.

- **Cross Cutting Strategies:**

##### 1. 2Gen

- The committee is working with the North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce to partner with the business community to help support families.
- There are specific topics to focus on each meeting. These will be quarterly meetings with the next one in December.

### VIII. Announcements

- Lisa Rogers-
  1. The hunger action team at the Enfield Loaves and Fishes is working again and providing meals from 4-5pm during the week. They are looking for 6 volunteers during the following times: Saturdays from 11-2pm, weekdays 3-5:30pm.
  2. The Enfield Food Shelf is open again for in-person shopping. UCONN has a team there who help make recipes based off ingredients you have. They are there on Wednesdays from 9-12pm and Thursdays 11-5pm.

The Mobile Food Share is back every other Friday. Husky and Blue Cross Blue Shield both have information available as well.

3. ERfC provided their lunch program over the summer.

- Ruth Sales- Middletown is looking for a new director and new consultants across CT.
- Melina- She works with Ruth and is a bilingual/Spanish consultant and is taking referrals for her parent support group.
- Eileen Gardner- The children have all settled into their new classes. ECDC is working on getting their accreditation.
- Karen Edelson- The Magic Carpet bus is still free. The Youth Center is taking new enrollments. They are also working on creating a pickup from JFK.
- Dr. Calnen- September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Board of Education meeting they will be having a guest panel of professionals talk about mental health in schools.
- Karen Campbell- The Chamber is continuing with the North Central Act of Kindness Awards this year. These are awarded to the middle and high schoolers who are recognized by their teachers for Acts of Kindness. The recipients choose a charity, and the Chamber donates on their behalf. Last year ECDC had an employee who was a recipient, and they are now implementing this into their program.
- Kristin Raiche- the Enfield Public Library has a new librarian working on outreach to daycares in town. The Reading Room is open, and they are doing their Reading Walk once a month for families. On September 17<sup>th</sup> the Library is holding Dot Day. On September 27<sup>th</sup> there will be Car Seat Safety checks from 3-7pm. October 8<sup>th</sup> is Fire Truck Day. Kids can take a ladder ride with a donation to the Food Shelf. The Scarecrow Contest will be back the second week of October.
- Assistant Principal Jennifer Hayford- Barnard's Open House is 9/14 from 6-7pm. They will be having their school picnic with a magic show. Their mentoring program with the high school will be back this year. The high school students come and read and do activities with the Barnard students.

**IX. Adjourn-7:20pm**