



## Enfield School Readiness Council

### KITE Collaborative

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 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.*

### AGENDA

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

**There were 19 members present.**

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Michelle Zaugg- KITE
Melanie Dube- KITE	Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool
Jennefer Ryan- KITE	Amy Witbro- Retired/KITE
Adrienne Snow- EPS	Jaclyn Valley- EPS
Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library	George Hendrickson-Community Member
Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador	Marie Pyznar- Town Council
Amy Morales- FRC/Social Services	Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education
LeAnn Beaulieu-KITE	Altressa Cox-Blackwell – EPS
Eileen Gardner- ECDC	Danielle Girard- PFlag
Steven Ling- Holy Trinity Church	

**II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – Corrected December Minutes - December 6, 2023**

a. The corrected December 6, 2023, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

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

a. All 28 slots are full at ECDC.

b. 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

- There is a new resource for early childhood providers who have questions about families struggling with housing and homelessness. Ed Advance has a new dedicated email address where early childhood specialists who are knowledgeable about McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act can provide support and answer questions. A flyer will be emailed to the Collaborative list with more information.

c. School Readiness Budget: Budgets are on track with spending now that the fiscal year is half over.

d. Quality Enhancement: Melanie Smith Cervera from EastConn visited on December 18 and the visit was focused on helping Heather Pinto Cohn who is the new Lead Teacher, with mentoring the three preschool classrooms. They visited each classroom briefly and talked about the specific needs for each. They discussed the importance of consistency across the classrooms and how to better achieve that. They are currently working on a set of guidelines that they think will help the success of each classroom. Melanie also spent a good period helping Heather understand the Pyramid model and how that might be beneficial for ECDC to try. Their next meeting with Melanie is scheduled for February 2.

e. Classroom updates: Room 7 had their visit to the seniors at Mark Twain Congregate Living and they sang holiday songs. They also had a concert for the families on Friday December 22nd followed by a snack. Room 5 had breakfast with Santa. The turnout was huge, and they had over 30 family members attend including parents,

grandparents, and other extended family members. All three preschool classroom teachers offered conferences in December as well. Sparkler app is going well, and many preschool families are on the app and have completed the assessments. The app has been beneficial for both the teachers and parents, and the results were able to be discussed at conferences.

**IV. Equity – Melanie Dube**

- a. Melanie read the book “All My Stripes” and shared about her 9-year-old with Autism. There was a discussion on special needs in the community and how it is a topic that needs to be shared.

**V. KITE Updates**

**a. Leadership Work Group Updates**

- KITE did not receive the M&T Grant. Still waiting to hear about Parent Trust Fund for PLA.
- There was discussion about the February and March Collaborative meetings and if they should be held virtual or in person. Please let Brianna know which option you would prefer.

**b. Budget**

- KITE expenditures for FY2023 – November Expenditures \$11,269.49. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.

**c. Communications**

- In the month of December KITE published 16 posts.
- 5 posts KITE specific (Multi Holiday wishes, Chamber Annual Meeting, Holiday Break with A. Duperre), 11 partner/community shares (lunch link, holiday light contest, festival of trees, Wreaths across America, torchlight parade, holiday tips for parents). 1,700 total reaches | Down 41% | 272 total engagements, up 22% | #1 post A. Duperre (Those moments when our educators go above and beyond for their students – we see you! Wishing ALL EPS staff and students a wonderful winter break!) 604 reached 260 engagements. #2 post was Addresses of Holiday Light Competition 386 reached 33 engagements.

**VI. Area Focus Teams:**

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

- **Infant/Child Mental Health**
  - Carol and Chris are the co-chairs. Chris will be scheduling the meetings for the remainder of the year.
  - Dr. Calnen and Ms. Acree will be meeting with Brianna and Carol in the coming weeks. KITE will be sitting in on the BOE Mental Health Committee as a voice for early childhood families.
  - Enfield FRC has been chosen to be one of 3 FRCs in the state that to be a partner in the CT- Association for Infant Mental Health Integrated Care Pediatric Pilot Project. This pilot will allow for our Lead Parent Educator to be co-located in the pediatric practice of Dr. Anne Marie Villa to ensure children ages birth-five are monitored, screened, and assessed and referred for services. More information to come as the final details are being worked out.
  - They will have their next meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **Sparkler**
  - Dr. Villa’s office is fully set up on the dashboard. They are currently enrolling families in Sparkler.
  - KITE has access to all high level Enfield data through the dashboard; we will report out 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 finished the potty-training life hacks and are now receiving new life hacks for Nutrition.
- **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership-Tabled**
- **Parent Leadership Academy**
  - PLA is accepting applications for the 2024 class. The class will begin February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - 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**
  - Kristin shared that the Parent Ambassadors will be putting together a family engagement movie night with art themed activities.
    - i. They are looking into potential dates and will share more information in future meetings.

**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**

- Adrienne Snow will be the new chair of the committee.
- Looking to schedule
  - i. A meeting for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) in February at the Food Shelf. We are hoping that meeting there will introduce some ECEs to the ease of using the service.
  - ii. A meeting at Asnuntuck for ECSs in January where we can have a dinner and include reviewing available. free items, Playful Minds, and Melissa Griffith (Sparkler).
  - iii. A play-focused "make and take" for families.
- Collaboration with HMS's Kim Tait on the Playful Classrooms observations.
- The next meeting will be held on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm.
- **First Readers**
  - Kristin Raiche said meetings have changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. The next ceremony is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at JFK. If you would like to volunteer, please let Kirstin know.
  - Trivia night will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Mount Carmel. Tickets will be available for sale soon on the First Readers Facebook page and website. You can pay through Eventbrite or with Venmo.
    - i. A new option for payment at the Trivia night is Venmo for the speed rounds.
- **Book Buddies**
  - No new updates were shared.
- **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 on January 11<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.
  - LeAnn, Karen, and Brianna have met with Beth Bye and Chris DiPentima who are both a part of the Blue-Ribbon Panel, they have both said that they will support whatever format the committee moves forward with. The focus is: "How we go forward?" The goal is for Chamber, Business, and Town leaders to find solutions and work together on childcare challenges for families and employees.
  - The next meeting is on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Play Lab (Tabled)**

**VII. Adjourn**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.