



Enfield School Readiness Council
KITE Collaborative
Wednesday, November 2nd, 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 21st century.st

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions – LeAnn Beaulieu

- There were 20 members who attended.

Carlene Elrick- Rocking Chair Readers
Michelle Zaugg- KITE
Samantha Brown- KITE
Ruth Sales- CHR
Karen Campbell- NCCCC
Melissa Howe- DCF
Heather Pinto-Cohn- ECDC
Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool
Olivia Roberts- Here Wee Grow
Carol LaLiberte- Asnuntuck Community College

Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education
Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library
Rosalind Swift- Ujima African American Alliance
Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Department
Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador
Danielle Brown- Parent Ambassador
Amy Morales- FRC/Social Services
LeAnn Beaulieu- KITE
Brianna Beckstrand- KITE
Amy Witbro- Enfield Public Schools

II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – September 7th, 2022

- The September 7th KITE meeting minutes were accepted.

III. School Readiness Business/Quality Enhancement Update

- Quality Enhancement work has begun with Melanie Smith-Cervera focusing on extending and facilitating open-ended play and executive function strategies. An in-person training was held on October 5th for staff and online individual coaching sessions are being offered.
- All 28 slots are full, and we are using the new online system ECE reporter for reporting.
- ECDC is also eligible for a new emergency stabilization grant program through 2024.
- Staff at ECDC and all licensed programs in CT are eligible for the new wage supports for early childhood educators. This new OEC initiative offers one-time payments — up to \$1000 — for individual staff at all licensed childcare centers, group homes, family child care homes, and license-exempt child care programs that receive School Readiness or CDC funding.
- **Heather Pinto, ECDC Lead Teacher**
 - Heather gave a presentation on the NAYEC guidelines being used in the classrooms. She discussed how they demonstrate them through play and following along with the ELDS curriculum.
 1. She discussed five topics. They were Relationships- filling a class bucket and choosing a reward as a group when they did, Curriculum- clothing discussion: what does a mechanic have to wear/use and the rainbow dance training, Conflict Resolution- together solving real world problems: the sprinkler not working on the splash pad and what could be causing it and the ball going over the fence: how can we work together to get it back when we can't climb the

fence, Writing- what can we write on, where can we write, and that it is important to have writing options in each center available to discuss what is going on, Play Plan—first the students draw out what they think they will do, and then they record what they actually did, and Community members coming to their classroom- they have had people like the Fire Department and Librarians come to the class and talk about what they do in the community.

2. She shared that the four most important components of running a successful classroom are relationships- both the children and the staff, using the creative curriculum, family- their communication and involvement, and assessments.

IV. Equity

- **Ruth Sales, CHR**

- Ruth shared a poem about Equity and inclusion. Please see attachment for the poem.

- **Community Conversation**

- Carol LaLiberte shared that the committee has chosen to have their event in the Spring of 2023. They are developing a contract with their new facilitator, Randi McCray, to plan the community conversation. The goal is to strengthen equity/inclusion in our community and come up with an action plan. What can KITE/ each of the groups do to infuse this into their work?

- **Heritage Fair**

- Amy Witbro gave an overview of what Heritage Fair looks like and what it gives back to the community.
- There are 12 people signed up to be on the committee.
- The event is on February 25th, 2023, at JFK.

- **Winter Traditions**

- Amy Morales shared that Youth Services will be bringing back Winter Traditions to highlight the traditions that the people in our community celebrate.
- The event is planned for December 1st at Alcorn.

V. KITE Updates

- Brianna Beckstrand met with Mayor Cressotti regarding the placement of the Buddy Bench in honor of Dr. Calnen. The Buddy Bench is tentatively set to be installed at the Enfield Public Library (Middle Road).
- On November 14th the Town Council will be voting on the bench and its installation date. We hope to have a ribbon cutting ceremony!

- **Leadership Work Group**

- **Updates**

- KITE submitted the Q1 Town of Enfield Grant Report. KITE also submitted the Year 2 Final Report and Year 3 Workplan to the Fund for Greater Hartford. EPS in partnership with KITE received the full amount of the Parent Trust Fund grant which will finance Parent Leadership Academy for the 22-23 School Year. KITE submitted an Interim report for the Office of Early Childhood. Grant deliverables were shared with Collaborative members.

- **Budget**

- Brianna Beckstrand presented the expenses for October. Total expenditures were \$19,786.51. Any questions please contact Brianna at bbeckstrand@enfield.org.

- **Communications**

- The communications update was tabled.

VI. Area Focus Teams:

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

1. **Infant/Child Mental Health**

- Erin Grimes and Heather Benyak are giving the Head Start and STEAM teachers training on Circle of Security. After all the Head Teachers have

completed it, the Teacher Assistants will be going through the training as well.

2. Sparkler

- The FRC received a \$13,000 grant to use in the community.
- ECDC is transitioning to using the Sparkler App instead of the paper ASQ's. They will have the teachers and parents using it.
- The FRC is working to promote Sparkler in the community. Erin Grimes will be spending time at the Enfield Food Shelf to share information with the families on shopping days.
- A goal is to have pediatricians collaborating and able to discuss results with parents at their children's well visits. This would be a huge connection to have schools, parents, and pediatricians all able to communicate together about a child's developmental needs.

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

1. Family Educator Organization

- The first parent meeting, "Coffee and Conversation", is happening this Friday morning at 8:30am. It is to have parents discuss things they are hoping for this year. We also are going to guide the discussion and let them know about some in-person events we will be holding. Last year we had these events as part of the FEO meetings, but this year they will be in person events for families to sign up for.

2. EPS/KITE Partnership

- Amy Witbro shared that EPS is in Year 3 of their contract with the Gesell Institute working with Peg Oliveira.
- Amy shared that the Kindergarten Teacher Coaching has piloted at Hazardville Memorial. The teachers are looking at bringing one hour of play into their schedules. They are documenting their findings and hope to implement this into all the schools in Enfield. There has been a combination of classroom visits and videos made. The teachers make videos and then send them in for one-on-one coaching and feedback.

3. Parent Leadership Academy

- Brianna shared on behalf of Malissa Griffith that PLA is in their enrollment period. To apply, fill out the form and send it back to Malissa. You can e-mail her at mgriffith@enfield.org.
- EPS in partnership with KITE was awarded The Parent Trust Fund Grant to provide PLA in the 22-23 School Year.

4. People Empowering People

- Lorena Cisernos is seeking to find a facilitator for Spanish PEP. If interested, please reach out to her at lcisneros@enfieldschools.org.

5. OEC Parent Ambassadors

- Kristin Herzig shared that the "Time For You" series they created, as an outlet for parents, has one more class.
- Danielle Brown shared that they have their quarterly meeting coming up in December.

• Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21st century.

1. 3 to 3

- The committee is holding a Dine and Discuss dinner for early education providers. This dinner is to let them come to an open formatted meeting to hear what they need, what their struggles are, and how KITE can support them.

- The WeSpy campaign is still going on, but Amy has asked if anyone know any businesses who may be interested in having a poster, to contact her and she will connect with them.
- The committee has been discussing holding dinners for the preschool and kindergarten and the first and second grade teachers to discuss antibiotics in the classrooms. They might bring materials they use in their classroom.
- The 3 to 3 committee would like to set up a team to come up with a shared definition of what Kindergarten Readiness is. The hope is to then share this with all the kindergarten teachers, so everyone is on the same page.

2. First Readers

- Kristin Raiche shared that First Readers is holding a Trivia Night. This is their only fundraising event of the year. It is February 25th, 2023.
- The next meeting is November 15th at 5pm at the Enfield Public Library.

3. Book Buddies

- Don Ellis shared the first round of books are scheduled to be sent home before Winter Break. The Fire Department is hoping to be back to their normal routine of donating twice a year.

4. Rocking Chair Readers

- Carlene Elrick has started reading in a Head Start classroom.
- There are 9 classrooms that are interested in having readers.
- Michelle Zaugg is contacting the other volunteers next week to see who else is still interested.

- **Cross Cutting Strategies:**

1. 2Gen

- Karen Campbell shared that the 2Gen Committee is meeting quarterly. This committee meets and is trying to find ways to help solve issues in our community. They have decided they would like to focus on the issues surrounding affordable childcare.
- The next meeting is December 8th.

2. Play Lab (Tabled)

VII. Announcements

- Danielle Brown (Parent Ambassador) - She is the ESS PTO Chair and parents are really looking for ways to make more connections.
- Rosalind Swift (Ujima African American Alliance) – There is going to be a Black History event at the Library on February 11th.
- Amy Morales (FRC/Social Services) – Enfield Together Coalition is revamping the drug misuse prevention program for parents. It will be December 6th.
- Kristin Raiche (Enfield Public Library) – The Library will be having its Festival of Trees event in December. There is a reception that is cosponsored by the Enfield Culture and Arts Commission.
- Karen Campbell (NCCCC) – The Acts of Kindness awards have started. For the month of November there are 14 awards to be given out. The Chamber is also having a networking luncheon at the Enfield Loaves and Fishes. There are over 40 people signed up. Each lunch box is \$15 and \$5 of that will go back to the Loaves and Fishes program.

VIII. Adjourn – 7:19pm.