



Enfield School Readiness Council

KITE Collaborative

Wednesday, April 5, 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 – Carol LaLiberte

There were 18 members present.

Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	Michelle Zaugg- KITE
Melanie Dube- KITE	Malissa Griffith- PLA
Tiffany Howard- ECDC Parent	Jennefer Ryan- KITE
Marie Pyznar- Town Council	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	Karen Edelson-Social Services
Elsa Reyes-The Village/Child First	Danielle Brown-Parent Ambassador

II. Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2023

- a. The corrected March 1, 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 application for continued funding for next fiscal year has been released and you all as the School Readiness Council will vote on this at the May meeting. A summary of the grant will be shared with you the week before via email so you will be prepared to vote at the meeting. This is a continuation grant and there is no new funding for additional slots so the 28 slots at the Enfield Child Development Center will continue to be funded with this grant.
- c. **Quality Enhancement Updates**
 - o ECDC had their final coaching session with Melanie Smith Cervera from EastConn earlier in the month. She observed all 3 School Readiness preschool classrooms and gave feedback that was reported to be very helpful. Each class got a chance to meet with her individually about their play scenario themes and these included an auto shop, a bakery, and a construction zone. The staff would like to continue working with her to expand on this work in the next school year and we are able to do that within the grant guidelines. The work would focus on how to connect these play-based scenarios with higher order thinking and rigor, and to provide more information on how to share the importance of this type of learning with families.
- d. **Classroom/Center Updates**
 - o ECDC offered a breakfast for parents to complete their yearly parent survey at drop-off and 45 parents completed it. Eileen will be summarizing the results and creating goals for the Center based on parent feedback.
 - o ECDC has been celebrating the Week of the Young Child and each classroom has been participating in different themes throughout the week. Room 4 had a bake sale for the end of their unit.

e. Monitoring

- Amy will be scheduling classroom observation visits in the next month.

IV. Equity

a. Community Conversation

- A few members of the collaborative shared experiences from the Community Conversation held on March 29th. Members shared that it was amazing to see so many different people from various walks of life. EHS students provided a lot of great insight. There were a lot of new connections made.
- Stowe Head Start Focus Group is on Thursday, April 6th at Enfield High School.
- April 19th is the 2nd event. It will be planning session where organizations or groups of people (i.e., students, educators, etc.) can come together and create action plans to benefit Enfield families.
- KITE will share all feedback and data with participants and stakeholders.

V. KITE Updates

a. Leadership Work Group

• **Updates**

- LWG continues to meet with Dave Bechtel to work on the Community Plan. He will be facilitating a special Collaborative Meeting on May 3rd.
- Two grants were completed this week.
 - Q3 Town of Enfield Social Services Report.
 - Office of Early Childhood Extension Grant. KITE will know of approval status in May or June.

• **Budget**

- KITE expenditures for FY2023 – February Expenditures were \$15,170.68. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.

• **Communications**

- In the month of March KITE published 14 posts
 - 9 posts were KITE specific (Heritage Fair photos, Chamber Breakfast, Week of The Young Child (WOTYC), Community Conversation), 5 partner/community content shares (BOE, First Readers, Community Resource Guide).
 - 3,789 total reaches | Down 67% over February | 1,288 total engagements.
- #1 post WOTYC Calendar 1,800 reached 224 engagements.
#2 Heritage Photo Recap 903 reached 261 engagements.

VI. Area Focus Teams:

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

• **Infant/Child Mental Health**

- Carol will be chairing the Mental Health Sub-Committee. The next meeting is May 10th. The group will look at their charge and set goals.
- Sparkler– The FRC wrapped up our Sparkler grant with a final meeting with the other communities in March. Enfield had the highest number of ASWs completed of all 9 communities that received the grant. Our successes included successfully supporting Enfield Child Development Center in the transition from paper ASQs to use of mobile screenings using Sparkler, with 75 new families with young children registering. We also promoted the use of Sparkler through community partners specifically the Food Shelf, where we provided outreach at food distribution days and held a "Sparkler Party" for food shelf participants, which allowed us to connect to new families. In addition, we increased awareness of Sparkler across the community by sharing information with KITE and coordinating a Dine and Discuss on this topic. Sparkler will continue to be part of ECDC's program with it being part of the intake process for new families and we will continue to promote the FRC Sparkler code with community partners. We will also continue to have Sparkler as a standing agenda item at KITE meetings and will explore creating a Sparkler Work Group if there is interest.

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

- **Family Educator Organization**
 - FEO is planning Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week for the 2nd week of May. They are still looking for families to help. On May 16th the FEO will be hosting another CT Science Center night at Stowe.
 - **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
 - EPS is partnering with Gesell Institute on how to infuse play into the curriculum. As of right now, all kindergarten classrooms at Hazardville Memorial and 2 classrooms each at Barnard and Enfield Street School are going through kindergarten coaching. There has been a lot of progress seen among the classrooms. They are also submitting videos and have had classroom visits for coaching.
 - 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.
 - The Week of the Young Child is going on this week, and Enfield Unplugged will be happening May 1st through May 5th.
 - **Parent Leadership Academy**
 - PLA is going great. Class members will start talking about advocacy at the next meeting. After spring break, they will be discussing their community project.
 - **People Empowering People (Tabled)**
 - **Other**
- 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 last “**Dine and Discuss**” will be May 11th at Asnuntuck. The group will be planning for next year, discussing how the list-serv platform can be better utilized, and celebrating successes of this year school.
 - Transition to Kindergarten will be kicking off the 2nd week of May. There will be a **Transition to Kindergarten** night held at JFK Middle School on Thursday April 20th for all students entering Kindergarten in the fall. Some materials will be translated into Spanish and Arabic.
 - **First Readers**
 - The next meeting will be on April 18th.
 - **Book Buddies**
 - Don shared the new books that they received.
 - The Enfield Fire Department will visit the STEAM Academy and Integrated PK to conduct experiments with the students.
 - **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - Looking to expand the program to the K-2 schools.
 - Councilor Pyznar shared there will be a new Tax Credit for seniors 62 and older. Seniors who volunteer for at least 50 hours of community service can receive a percentage off their property taxes. Marie mentioned there is a presentation being done on May 13th at the Senior Center.
 - **2Gen**
 - The committee met in March to discuss engaging the business community in the conversation surrounding childcare issues and needs in Enfield.
 - The committee is looking to host a breakfast with the business community in the fall.
 - Westfield Bank is partnering with KITE to create a survey for businesses to better understand how many families work and live in Enfield.
 - The next meeting is June 8th.
 - **Play Lab (Tabled)**

VII. **Announcements**

- a. Amy Morales- Social Services: Angelica Fajardo, our new Early Childhood Social Worker, started at the beginning of March and is housed in the Stowe FRC. She is accepting referrals for families

with young children across town who need additional support and she will also be providing support to the staff at ECDC. She hopes to attend the May KITE meeting to meet everyone. Drug Take Back Day will take place on April 22nd at Enfield Express from 10 am-2 pm, coinciding with many activities taking place at Town Hall for Earth Day. There will be a virtual workshop for parents on April 27th at 6:30 on the topic of Vaping- it will cover the latest trends in vaping and e-cigarettes, including how Big Tobacco is directly marketing to youth. This is a follow up to an assembly that was held this past week at Crandall School for 5th graders and will hopefully be taking place at the other 5th grade schools as well.

- b. Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library: A lot of great programs are being held at the Library during School Vacation week. There are still tickets available for the Owl Program and the Theater Performance.
- c. Malissa Griffith- PLA: April 22nd there will be a Bottle/Can Drive for EHS Safe Grad at JFK.
- d. Danielle Girard- Pflag: There is a Pflag Pride event on June 3rd, they are still looking for volunteers. Any community groups that would like to set up a booth please let Danielle know. There are support meetings held at Asnuntuck the first Monday of every month.
- e. George Hendrickson- Community Member: Working on a 5K in August to help raise money to connect with and support veterans. He will bring more information once it is available.
- f. Elsa Reyes-The Village/Child First: There are immediate openings for children who need services between 8:00am-4:00pm, make sure to keep sending referrals in.
- g. Marie Pyznar- Town Council: Clean Sweep will be held on April 22nd. They will be meeting at Brainerd Park at 1:00 pm. The Veteran Council please asks that if you have any ripped flags to drop them off at the VFW on Enfield St. and they will dispose of them properly.
- h. Karen Edelson-Social Services: The ECDC talent show is on May 4th. The Magic Carpet Bus is no longer free as of April 1st. They are putting together bus passes for people in need, please reach out to Karen if you know someone in need, and she can get them to you. You can purchase tokens at the Senior Center, or you can pay cash on the bus.
- i. Brianna Beckstrand-KITE: May's collaborative meeting will be a special meeting on the Community Plan. Dave Bechtel will be facilitating to discuss the Community Plan and allow for members to provide feedback before the plan is finalized.

VIII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.