

**Enfield School Readiness Council**  
**And**  
**KITE Collaborative**  
**at the**  
**Hazardville Fire Department**  
**Wednesday, October 6, 2010 5:30p.m.**

*The mission of KITE is to ensure that all families with young children in Enfield have knowledge of and access to quality early care and educational opportunities both in and outside of the home.*

**In Attendance:** There were 21 people in attendance.

Amy Morales – Family Resource Center  
Pam Brown – Dir. Of Social Services  
Jessica Levy – CHR  
Judy Apruzzese-Desroches - BOE  
Ellen Phillips – Enfield Public Library  
John Gallacher – Superintendent EPS  
Lesa Lovelace - CHR  
Polly Parker - ACC  
Tracy Champagne  
Marianne Kinney  
Claire Hall - ERfC

Amy Witbro – Enfield Public Schools  
Don Ellis – Enfield Fire Department  
Chris Gomeau - KITE  
Karen Weseliza - KITE  
Sarah Pennington -  
Dianna Wassenhove - ECDC  
Carlene Elrick - FRC  
Phyllis Phelan – Here Wee Grow  
Kelly Alexander - Parent  
Sharon Keenan - ECDC

**I. Welcome and Introductions-Karen Weseliza**

Karen opened the meeting @ 5:35 by welcoming everyone. Introductions were made.

**II. Acceptance of Minutes from the September 1, 2010 KITE Meeting**

The minutes were accepted.

**III. School Readiness Business/Update – Dianna Wassenhove**

Dianna reported that the slots 15 slots are being filled. There will now be a penalty to towns who do not submit monthly reports. Enfield is timely. They are conducting a policy review. Enfield is compliant. The next meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. KITE Updates:**

**a. Leadership Committee Updates**

- **State Match for Memorial Fund Grant:** Chris Gomeau announced that the State Department of Education has given a \$10,000.00 match to those communities who have received grants from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund. We will be receiving a formal announcement shortly.
- **Family Day:** Chris announced that KITE made \$70.00 from the raffle on Family Day. Our booth handed out family day t-shirts to children and provided them with a butterfly craft. Thanks were given to Melissa Bednarz, Kelly Alexander, Karen Edelson and Sharon Keenan for their help.

## b. Committees and Work Groups Updates

### Committees:

- **Transition to Kindergarten/Quality Enhancement:** Had their first meeting of the new school year. They are deciding on which workshops to offer. They are also going to look at how the re-districting will affect providers. They would like to be an active part of the conversation.
- **Community Outreach:** Amy W. reported that this committee is meeting for the first time next week. She is looking for new committee members.
- **Community Planning:** Pam gave a recap of the Community Planning Kick off meeting which was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. The meeting was attended by 67 people. Forty-five people signed up to be on one of the three sub-committees which are Health, Early Care and Education and Family Engagement. Chris will be sending out the meeting notes shortly.
- **Parent Committee:** This committee report was tabled until the November meeting.

### Workgroups:

- **Book Buddies:** This committee reported that they are meeting with "Friends of the Library" this month. The first book should be ordered soon. There are some great deals with Scholastic for \$1.00 books.
- **Website:** Ellen Phillips reported the website is now in Dan's hands. All of the information has been compiled. We are looking to put the Community Planning information on the home page.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Readers Program:** Ellen reported that this committee is meeting tomorrow with school principals. This program will have the KITE name on it.
- **Community Conversation:** Amy Morales reported that next Wednesday is the Orientation Dinner which will be held at the Memorial Fund in Hamden. They are looking for new faces to attend. This is where they hand out the checks. Anyone interested in attending please contact her.

## IV. Community Partnerships and Events

- a. **Parent Leadership Association/Parent Leadership Academy:** Amy Witbro reported that our application for the Parent Leadership Academy grant money has been submitted. We should find out by October 12<sup>th</sup>. These grants are very competitive this year.
- b. **PIE:** Amy W. reported that Youth Vote will be happening again this year. There are three events coming up. They are the State Representative and Senate debates which will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup> at Fermi High School. On October 25<sup>th</sup> the U.S. District 2 Congressional Debate will be held at Enfield High School. On October 28<sup>th</sup> will be a Meet the Candidates night at the Senior Center. Also there will be a "Lively Letters Make & Take" for providers the third week of November. More information is to follow. On February 26<sup>th</sup> will be the Heritage Fair which highlights our communities diversity. Amy is looking to create a committee. Volunteers are needed.
- c. **Community Assessment:** This is complete. Copies of the Enfield Early Childhood Community Assessment were handed out to those who have not yet received one.

## V. Announcements:

- Ellen Phillips announced that the Library has received a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. With that money they received two early literacy computer stations. Both are pre-loaded with educational software including which is also available in bi-lingual. There are games

across 7 curricular areas. In addition they have subscribed to Mango, a foreign language learning data base. This can be reached through the website under the "online resources" section. This data base is for both children and adults.

- Dr. Gallacher announced that there will be HUSKY informational flyers going home to all students in efforts to reach out to those who do not have health insurance.
- Amy Morales reported that the FRC will be holding a workshop on "Guiding Young Children's Behavior" later this month.
- Polly Parker announced that the NAEYC Peer Review Team Accreditation Site visit will take place on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Karen Weseliza announced that the WCGMF Annual Stone Soup Conference will take place on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-4:00 at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. Anyone interested in attending can register on the Discovery Website.

**VI. Next Steps:**

- Follow up on the Parent Committee
- Follow up on new committee/members for the Community Conversation, Community Outreach and Heritage Fair committees.

**IX. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.**