

Enfield School Readiness Council
And
KITE Collaborative
at the
Hazardville Fire Department
Wednesday, September 2, 2009 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 30 people in attendance.

Amy Morales – Family Resource Center	Jennifer Rancourt - Parent
Amy Witbro – Enfield Public Schools	Patti Glaspie – Here Wee Grow
Judy Apruzzese-Desroches - BOE	Pam Brown – Dir. Of Social Services
Gerald Calnen – Pro Health Physicians	Clemence Dumont – Town Council
Karen Edelson – ECDC	Sue Neville – Early Childhood
Dianna Wassenhove – ECDC	Carlene Elrick – F.R.C
Jack Flanagan – Hazardville Fire Dept.	Debbie Clement – Head Start
Don Ellis – Enfield Fire Dept.	Chris Gomeau – KITE
Kate Faherty - FRC	Karen Weseliza - KITE
Robin Rose - MassMutual	Melissa Levasseur – Head Start
Claire Hall – ErfC	Renee Schools - Parent
Julie Carroll – E.P.S.	Kathleen Schermerhorn – Alcorn School
Midge Pych – East Windsor FRC	Ashley Buck – Alcorn School
Melissa Bednarz – Happy Time Preschool	Kathy Tallarita – State Representative
Donna Hamre – Country Day School	Sharon Keenan – ECDC

I. Welcome and Introductions-Karen Weseliza

Karen opened the meeting @ 5:50 by welcoming everyone. Karen stated KITE's mission statement. Introductions were made.

II. Acceptance of Minutes from the June 3, 2009 KITE Meeting

Minutes were accepted.

III. School Readiness Business/Update – Karen Edelson

Karen E. reported the funding is in tact. They have 15 slots.

IV. KITE Updates:

a. Leadership Committee Updates

- **ARRA \$10,000.00 Planning Grant:** Amy Witbro reported that we received a \$10,000.00 planning grant to use in order to prepare to apply for the competitive grants which will be funded by the ARRA stimulus monies. There is a conference call coming up that will hopefully supply us with some additional information on the guidelines for using the money.
- **Discovery Grant 2010-2014:** Grant money from the Memorial Fund for the period of 2010-2014 will be awarded a little differently. We will be applying for Partnership Option II which will award communities up to \$25,000.00 for Year 1 and \$25,000.00 for Year 2. The purpose of this grant is for the communities to develop a comprehensive community plan. If they do not award us the

Partnership Option II funding we will automatically be eligible to apply for the Partnership Option III funding which gives awards up to \$7,500.00

- **KITE Meeting Calendar:** Chris passed out the schedule of KITE meetings for the 2009-2010 school year. October will be our annual meeting. Trish, our WCGMF liaison, will be facilitating an introduction to RBA exercise at our November meeting.

b. Committees and Work Groups Updates

Committees: *New Committee Descriptions were distributed along with sign-up sheets*

- **Transition to Kindergarten/Quality Enhancement:** Karen E. explained the new structuring of this committee and its purpose. She went over the list of events and tasks that went along with this committee.
- **Community Outreach:** Amy W. explained that this is a new committee created due to the need to focus on this aspect of our organization. It stemmed from the "Community Campaign Committee". The problem is that once the campaign ended we lost focus in this area.
- **Parent Advocacy:** This was tabled.
- **Community Planning:** Pam Brown began by giving history as to the development of the Community Planning Committee. The goal of this committee is to develop a plan or a "call to action". This will define the issues within our town and how we plan to respond to them. The Head Start Data Collection is an ongoing project which will help us in this mission. We will use that data, and other to engage community members such as the Town Council and The Board of Education.

Workgroups:

- **Community Conversation:** Amy M. reported that we just received grant money for our next Community Conversation. She also reported that the Early Education Fair will take place in March 2010.
- **Book Buddies:** Don reported that the books are all set. The first books to be delivered to the kindergarten students are from the Clifford series. The group shared the story "Enfield Firefighters Come to the Rescue" which was posted on the Discovery Digest. Chris will check about re-printing the article in the Reminder.

V. Community Partnerships and Events

- Parent Leadership Association:** Shannon was not at the meeting. The annual picnic will be in two weeks. They will be choosing a new board. They will have a table at Family Day. Amy W. shared that the Parent Trust Fund money has been cut for the Parent Leadership Academy. It is not clear to what extent yet.
- PIE:** Family Day is Sunday, September 20th. We will be sending letters out to preschools and early care and day care centers. This year there will be no rain date if the event gets cancelled. Hero Art is coming on Wednesday, October 28th. This is a program on character development. It will be free of charge and held at Enfield High School. The program will begin at 7:00. The canvas paintings can be bought once the program is done. We could collect donations to purchase one from our program. For more information go to www.heroart.com. Chris will send out the information.

- c. **Community Assessment:** Head start has to complete a community assessment. To get an even broader look at our community they have partnered with KITE so we can share resources. We need to highlight what we have and see what we need. Wednesday, October 21st is the next meeting. It begins at 1pm and will be held at Head Start. Anyone looking to help can contact Debbie Clement at Head Start.

VI. Announcements:

- The Stone Soup Conference will be held on October 20th. Chris will check on registration information and e-mail it out.
- Amy W raised the question as to how we can engage more kindergarten and first grade teachers. Discussion centered around hosting a meeting for k and grade 1 teachers after school. Sue Neville was mentioned as someone who may be able to help facilitate this.
- There was discussion of forming a town wide group to promote early childhood reading. Some ideas included recruiting seniors to read at the library, day care centers etc. There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting for this workgroup. One suggested name for this initiative was "Reading is Grand".
- Jen Rancourt expressed concerns about the communication to parents regarding parent expectations. Especially with the Benchmarks always changing. The question was raised as to whether or not the kindergarten curriculum could be published on the website

VII. Next Steps:

- Follow up with the Parent Advocacy Committee
- Name the new early childhood reading initiative and present a sign up sheet.

VIII. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Please visit us on the web at: www.enfieldkite.org