

**Enfield School Readiness Council**  
**And**  
**KITE Collaborative**  
**at the**  
**Hazardville Fire Department**  
**Wednesday, September 1, 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 22 people in attendance.

Amy Morales – Family Resource Center	Amy Witbro – Enfield Public Schools
Pam Brown – Dir. Of Social Services	Don Ellis – Enfield Fire Department
Shannon Grant - EFEE	Chris Gomeau - KITE
Christie Michaud – Moms Club	Betsy Bergman – MOMS Club
Ellen Phillips – Enfield Public Library	Sue Neville – Retired EPS
Ashley Buck – EPS – Alcorn K	Melissa Bednarz – Happy Time Preschool
Kate Faherty – FRC	Karen Edelson - ECDC
Trish Torruella - WCGMF	John Gallacher – Superintendent EPS
Julie Carroll - EPS	Beth Mangan - ERfC
Patti Glaspie – Here Wee Grow	Debbie Clement – Head Start
Carlene Elrick – FRC	Kelly Alexander - Parent

**I. Welcome and Introductions-Amy Witbro**

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

**II. Acceptance of Minutes from the June 2, 2010 KITE Meeting**

The minutes were accepted.

**III. School Readiness Business/Update – Karen Edelson**

Karen reported that the slots 15 slots are currently full. The program has expanded. They took away 16 infant/toddler and added 20 preschool slots. They still have a couple of openings.

**IV. KITE Updates:**

**a. Leadership Committee Updates**

- **Fiduciary Change:** Chris Gomeau announced a fiduciary change for KITE. Tom Arnone with Kids First will now be the fiscal agent for the KITE program money. Many thanks were given to Brian McCartney of LVA for their years of service. The United Way of North Central Connecticut is our Collaborative Sponsor for our Community Planning Grant and they just gave KITE a \$5,500.00 award for programming.
- **STR Donation:** Amy Witbro reported that she has received a donation from STR that included children's toys, puzzles, furniture. These were items that had been tested for lead, were clean and can be used by KITE.
- **Family Day:** Chris announced that she is looking for volunteers to work the KITE booth on Family Day. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

## b. Committees and Work Groups Updates

### Committees:

- **Transition to Kindergarten/Quality Enhancement:** Will be meeting this month. They are looking forward to accomplishing their new goals for the 2010/2011 school year.
- **Community Outreach:** Amy reported that 60% of the families that registered their children for kindergarten filled out the kindergarten survey. The Community Resource Directory is finished and ready for printing. September 24<sup>th</sup> is the Faith Conference.
- **Community Planning:** Pam reported that the kickoff Community Planning meeting will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Village Center of Thompsonville. It will begin with dinner at 5:00 and the meeting will run from 5:30-7:30. Child care will be provided. That night people will have the opportunity to sign up for one of three committees. They are Health, Early Care & Education and Family Involvement. Our Committee chairs are Amy Witbro, Melissa Levasseur, Amy Morales, Maureen Brennan, Deb Bennet and Yvette Highsmith-Francis. Scott Kaupin will co-chair the Community Planning Process and we are looking for a business leader to be the other co-chair. Invitation to the meeting will be e-mailed out to all members of KITE as well as many others from the community.
- **Parent Committee:** This committee will be looking at a list of licensed pre-school/child care centers to see if they would be interested in forming a parent group. It is their hope that each center can have a parent representative for KITE. They are also looking to provide parents with information and training on different topics. This will serve as a pre-cursor to the elementary level PTO. They will be presenting at a coffee hour at Happy Time in October.

### Workgroups:

- **Book Buddies:** This committee reported that they are working with "Friends of the Library" as to participate financially with the Book Buddies Program.
- **Website:** Ellen Phillips reported that they met over the summer and she is in the process of sending Dan Desroches some content for the site. They made several changes and it should be up and all set by late fall.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Readers Program:** Ellen reported that they did not meet over the summer. They are still in the idea phase including t-shirts, lawn signs, business discounts, ceremonies etc. They have a business sponsorship letter ready to go and they do have a jingle and a logo. Their next meeting will be September 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm where they will focus on "who is a 1<sup>st</sup> reader and how is it determined".

## IV. Community Partnerships and Events

- a. **Parent Leadership Association/Parent Leadership Academy:** State grants are again being offered. They are taking requests for up to 80% of your operating budget. There is also money for the Association.
- b. **PIE:** Amy W. reported that Family Day will be held on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-4:00. LEGO is sponsoring the event this year. In November there will be a Back to School/Homework Night which will highlight the 2 websites: elementary language arts and elementary math. The Enfield Gets Ready for 1st Grade DVD is available to anyone who would like to view it. You can check it out at the EPL.
- c. **Community Assessment:** This committee reported that the publication is done. It should be available soon.

## V. Announcements:

- Ellen Phillips announced that the Library Summer Reading Program had 1,052 children participate through grade 6. Also the EPL received the EFEE grant award in the spring which will go to the purchase of backpack kits.
- Pam Brown announced that the Summer Food Program which was held at St. Pats this summer had 115 children participate. Thirty to fifty children per day. The program will run again next summer. The EPL donated 115 backpacks and books. Neighborhood Services provided 100 children with backpacks and back to school supplies.
- Christie Michaud announced that the ChildtoChild Ministry book program has given away 800 books.
- Karen Edelson announced that the ECDC tag sale will take place on September 11. Also the Skatercade is open in the South Road Plaza. The landlord is looking to become involved in the community.
- Alison Keller announced that the United Way of North Central Connecticut is always looking for programs to sponsor.
- KITE has been invited to join the CT Early Childhood Alliance. The fee for organizations is \$100.
- Sue Neville shared some data from the Ann E. Casey Foundation for 2010 which shows where all states rank for education. She will send the link to Chris and she will send it out to KITE

**VI. Next Steps:**

- The Community Planning kick off meeting will happen September 29<sup>th</sup>

**IX. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.**