

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
December 7, 2011 - 3:00 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on December 7, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., in the Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington St., Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Champion:	Debra Mayeux
	Members:	Joe Delmagori Pat Cordell Steve Krest June Markle Vicki Whitaker
Absent:	Members:	Shawn Lyle Jeff Treat Candace Young William Young

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Debra Mayeux and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Mayeux opened the meeting and introduced the Committee's new member, Vicki Whitaker. Vicki recently retired from her teaching position with the Farmington school district.

Mrs. Mayeux asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2011 meeting. Mr. Krest moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Cordell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Apache Elementary – Mrs. Debbie Braff: Mrs. Mayeux has been unable to visit Mrs. Braff and Apache Elementary.

McKinley Elementary- Mrs. Marilee Dixel: Mrs. Mayeux said again that McKinley Elementary currently has no active volunteers. She remains hopeful that Amanda DeWees will take on that challenge and also be able to participate on the SRTS Committee Meetings once a more convenient day and time can be determined.

Mesa Verde Elementary - Mrs. Cynthia Sosaya: Mrs. Mayeux stated that Jeff Treat continues to do an amazing job with SRTS at Mesa Verde. She delivered the water bottles to him that the MPO still had available, but needs to get some chains and charms ordered.

Ms. Whitaker said that Jesse Harrison is also very interested in SRTS at Mesa Verde. Mrs. Mayeux reported that Mr. Treat and Mr. Harrison will be working together to write a bicycle curriculum grant proposal to present to Conoco Phillips next year.

Ladera Del Norte Elementary- Mr. Gary Jackson: Mrs. Mayeux brought the entries for the “no cell phone zone” logo for the Committee members to judge. There were several very good entries and the Committee decided to combine together the top two entries to make the final “no cell phone” logo.

The Committee decided to reward all the children who entered the art contest. The top two entries would each receive a \$25 gift certificate.

Mrs. Mayeux will check with two local print shops to get estimates for printing the logo.

Report of Champion Efforts: Mrs. Mayeux stated she was disappointed in the response to the art contest for the “no cell phone zone” project. She added, however, that this lack of interest and participation is a challenge nationwide for SRTS. Ms. Whitaker added that, coming from the school system, she knows how stretched and overloaded most teachers are.

For the benefit of Ms. Whitaker, the Committee discussed the great information and resources available on the national SRTS website and explained the five “E’s” of the program.

Education: Mrs. Mayeux and children from the gifted class at Ladera did an excellent job in making their presentation on the “no cell phone” pledge to Farmington City Council in November. They will be presenting the pledge to the Farmington School Board on December 8.

Encouragement: In an effort to encourage attendance at SRTS meetings, Mrs. Mayeux worked diligently in November to contact all active and inactive Committee members to determine what days and times worked best for them to attend meetings. The consensus was that beginning in January, the SRTS Committee will meet on the 3rd Monday of each month at 12:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Mrs. Mayeux will e-mail a schedule of the meeting dates for next year.

Mrs. Mayeux said that also in January she would like to remove the names of those members who have not attended meetings. The Committee agreed with this.

Ms. Whitaker offered to speak with the School Board members she knows to see if she can generate interest among that group to participate on the SRTS Committee.

Mrs. Mayeux and Mr. Krest will be working with Tracy Lawing at her school in Shiprock on December 9th as a way to possibly begin a SRTS program there. Mrs. Mayeux has information on how best to begin the process with the Navajo Nation and Navajo DOT has expressed an interest in the implementation of SRTS for Shiprock. Mr. Krest will be reviewing drop off and parking issues at the school.

Enforcement: No report.

Engineering: Mr. Krest reported that review of the walking map has not yet begun.

Mr. Delmagori mentioned that the school zone speed sign on Dustin for McKinley School is not working. Mr. Krest replied that he is aware of the problems with these signs. Most are 10 years old and have reached the end of their life. He plans to send four more boards back to the manufacturer for repair, but the manufacturer has told him that most are too old to be effectively repaired.

Evaluation:

Mr. Delmagori provided a copy of a school travel document prepared by the National Center for Safe Routes to School. The data provides school travel patterns from 1969 to 2009. He discussed some of the main points of the report.

Mr. Cordell said it might be appropriate to re-survey parents to determine how children are getting to/from school and determine those reasons for not walking or biking. Mrs. Mayeux commented that nationally, safety or crime concerns are fourth or fifth on the list of why children do not walk or bike to school. At the top of the list are distance, weather, and the convenience of driving.

The next SRTS meeting will be Monday, January 16, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Mrs. Mayeux adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.