

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
December 11, 2012 3:15 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on December 11, 2012 at 3:15 p.m., at Mesa Verde Elementary School, 3801 College Boulevard, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Coordinator:	Anngela Wakan
	Committee	Steve Krest June Markle Sergeant Dave Monfils Jeff Treat
	Members	Corporal Richard Gibbons Donna Granko Deanna Maurer Tammy Roberts Mesa Verde Principal, Cynthia Sosaya
Committee Absent:		Pat Cordell Joe Delmagori Duane Wakan

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Anngela Wakan and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

Mrs. Wakan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2012 meeting. Sgt. Monfils moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Krest seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

November/December SRTS Events

Mrs. Wakan said she had a SRTS booth set up during the Turkey Trot on November 17. She spoke with approximately 40 people although most of those who stopped by were from Aztec or Shiprock.

Mrs. Wakan reported on SRTS participation in the annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade held on November 29. Thanks to great participation by Mesa Verde students, parents, teachers, and families, SRTS had a great showing at the Christmas parade. There were 22 students who walked or rode their bikes in the parade. Other students handed out bike reflectors, zipper reflectors, stickers and pencils to parade viewers. Unfortunately the number of parade viewers far surpassed expectations and the SRTS participants had only enough handouts for about a quarter of the children watching the parade. Mrs. Wakan was surprised by the turnout for the parade and said that more handouts were definitely needed. Ms. Maurer commented that all the kids had a fun time and it was a great family event. Mrs. Wakan would like to make this an annual SRTS function.

Some considerations for the next parade:

- Keep group closer together;
- Don't let children get lost in crowd;
- More clearly identify the SRTS participating children – more reflective vests, t-shirts, beanies or other identifiers;
- Take pictures;
- Have many more handouts.

REPORTS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Mrs. Wakan reported on each of the SRTS schools:

Apache Elementary

Mrs. Wakan contacted their Health & Wellness Committee and plans to attend their first meeting. The goal will be to work together to accomplish the objectives of both groups.

Ladera Elementary

Mrs. Wakan is planning to attend their PTO meeting on January 15 to discuss possible SRTS activities. Any events will be determined by the level of volunteer participation.

McKinley Elementary

Mrs. Wakan thanked Mr. Krest for the painted crosswalk on Monterey and said it looked really good.

Mrs. Wakan is waiting to hear from Principal Dixel that the drop off and pick up information for students to take home to their parents has been distributed.

Sergeant Monfils said that he has not yet had an opportunity to organize the training for the student crossing guards that McKinley would like to have on Tycksen Drive. He also said that he will need to order additional stop signs. Sgt. Monfils will let Mrs. Wakan know as soon as he has the training and signs ready to go which will probably be sometime in January.

Mrs. Wakan commented that she has seen the use of orange flags and/or cones by crossing guards instead of stop signs. Mr. Krest said that stop signs are still the best option. Mrs. Wakan asked if cones could be used in the roadway before the crosswalk to slow traffic and alert drivers to children in the crosswalk on Tycksen. Mr. Krest added that areas could also be painted red to denote no parking zones to keep drivers from parking in or blocking the crosswalk. Mrs. Wakan will speak with Principal Dixel to see which the school would prefer. Mrs. Wakan will also see if McKinley wants a have student crossing guards on the corner of Tycksen and Monterey.

Future bike and pedestrian safety classes for students will depend on the level of interest from the PTO and teachers. Mrs. Wakan will attend the January PTO meeting and future events and timelines will be determined following that meeting.

Mesa Verde

Mrs. Wakan said there were some great teacher volunteers who had signed up following their recent PTO meeting.

Mr. Treat reported that he continues work on organizing a mountain bike program for 5th graders at Mesa Verde, but had no details to report as yet.

Mrs. Wakan explained that the “no phone zone” for Ladera Elementary took almost a year from the time of the grant writing to the final ribbon cutting ceremony. With much of the preliminary work already done, Mrs. Wakan and the members discussed how to proceed on implementing the “no phone zone” for Mesa Verde.

Principal Sosaya said the school enrollment was 560 students and it was recommended that each student take home a pledge. Mrs. Wakan shared a copy of the pledge written by Ladera students and the group approved of using the pledge for Mesa Verde. Along with the pledge, Mrs. Wakan recommended including a letter explaining the program and its purpose, as well as the date of the ribbon cutting ceremony which they would be invited to attend. She also asked for two teachers who would take the lead in collecting the signed pledges. Students would turn in their pledges to their own homeroom teacher and then the lead teachers would collect the pledges and hand out the corresponding number of decals to the homeroom teachers for distribution (one decal per family). Jeff Treat and Tammy Roberts volunteered to be the lead teachers for this project. There are 200 decals remaining and since decals can be reordered and printed within a week, it was decided to wait until the 200 are exhausted before ordering more decals.

Mrs. Wakan also suggested having an assembly to motivate and excite the students about the program as well as to explain the dangers of distracted drivers. Ms. Roberts suggested having the older students put together and perform a skit at the assembly. She also recommended touching on skateboard and scooter safety and wearing helmets. Mr. Krest stated it is the law that all children on wheeled vehicles must wear a helmet.

The group discussed the timeframe from getting the pledges home to families to the final ribbon cutting. Mrs. Wakan will contact the Farmington Chamber of Commerce to see when the Redcoats would be available for the ribbon cutting and then the group will work backwards from that date to get the other tasks accomplished. It was thought the process would take about two weeks.

Principal Sosaya suggested an e-mail to the school board offices to detail Mesa Verde’s plans to go forward with their own “no phone zone”. Mrs. Wakan commented that they, Farmington City officials, and others were contacted when Ladera proposed their program and all entities had been in favor of the “no phone zone”. Mrs. Wakan plans to attend a city council and school board meeting in January or early February to invite city and school officials to attend the ribbon cutting. She asked if there was a Mesa Verde student who would be willing to attend and extend the invitation as well. Cpl. Gibbons said his son, Liam, would be willing to speak and invite these officials. Mr. Krest added that having the road signs available would also be part of the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Principal Sosaya asked if Heights Junior High should be invited to participate. She offered to contact their principal to see if there was any interest on their behalf.

Mrs. Wakan spoke about teaching bike and pedestrian safety to Mesa Verde students. It was decided to hold off on this training until mid-March right before spring break.

ENGINEERING

Mr. Krest reported on the planned installation next fall of a HAWK signal (High-intensity Activated crossWalk) on College Boulevard for Mesa Verde Elementary. This signal would be activated by the crossing guard during school hours and by pedestrians wanting to cross College Boulevard at other times of the day.

Mr. Krest also reported on an additional \$250,000 in infrastructure money that was recently approved by the State and which will be used to construct two missing sidewalk segments on Hutton Avenue for Animas Elementary and a missing sidewalk section for McCormick Elementary.

ENFORCEMENT

Sgt. Monfils is planning a project that will begin next year to have officers stationed at a different school each week, both in the mornings and in the afternoons, to monitor student drop offs and pick-ups. They will educate, and enforce if necessary, where drivers are allowed to correctly and safely stop and/or park their vehicles when dropping off and picking up their children. Sgt. Monfils also said he hopes to have a story run in the Daily Times to inform the public and educate parents that there will be zero tolerance on parking and crosswalk violations at the schools.

EVALUATION

Mrs. Wakan said the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is working to produce maps that will zoom in to a one mile radius of each SRTS school to give a more accurate picture of elementary school age children in that area.

EDUCATION

Mr. Cordell was not in attendance at the meeting so no information on bike rodeo plans was available. Mrs. Wakan said she hoped to have a bike rodeo scheduled for some time in May.

Mrs. Wakan gave a follow-up on PTO meetings:

- Country Club – Mr. Cordell was to attend
- Animas – Marilee Dexel to attend

Volunteers are still needed for the following:

- Esperanza
- Bluffview
- McCormick

Although not currently eligible for any SRTS funding or organizational support, Mrs. Wakan would like to provide them with information on SRTS. She has a document that provides an introduction to SRTS, speaks to its goals, and explains the five E's of the program that she will e-mail out to all the schools. It was suggested that this information could be published in each schools' newspaper. Principal Sosaya said she could add Mrs. Wakan to the agenda for the next elementary school principals' meeting to speak on SRTS. Mrs. Wakan said that would a great opportunity.

Mrs. Wakan asked if there were any upcoming events that SRTS should consider being involved in. The 5K Reindeer Romp scheduled for December 15 was mentioned and Mrs. Wakan said she would see if a SRTS booth could still be set up.

GOALS

Mrs. Wakan's restated the SRTS goals for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year:

- Revisit Action Plans for each school and conduct a survey this year. This will be addressed at the January 2013 meeting.
- Walking School Bus – one for each school; grass roots effort. Who might we contact that would be interested.
- Contact other school's PTOs to share SRTS and encourage parental participation.
- Get two bike rodeos scheduled (Pat Cordell to coordinate):
 - One community-wide even in the spring of 2013 prior to National Walk/Bike to school day; consider holding at the college.
 - One at a SRTS school in the fall of 2013
- "Walk Across America" challenge in 2013 at participating SRTS schools.

The next SRTS Committee meeting will be on January 8, 2013 at 3:15 p.m. in the Apache Elementary conference room.

The February 12, 2013 meeting will be held at 3:15 p.m. at Ladera Elementary.

Mrs. Wakan adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.