

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
February 16, 2010 - 4:00 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on February 16, 2010 at 4:00 P.M., in the Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington St, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present: Champion: Theresa Lawing
Members: Steve Krest
Joe Delmagori
Martin Lucero
Diana Lang
SRO Officer Ron Pacquin
Marilee Herman

Absent: Members: Amanda DeWees
Katherine Lucero
Lieutenant Hardy
Sergeant Taft Tracy

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Theresa Lawing and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION

Steve Krest began the meeting with introductions of the members and welcomed Theresa Lawing as the new SRTS Champion.

Because Marilee Herman could not stay, there was discussion about organizing a pool party in May for Apache School as a reward for their participation in the Walk Across America program. Marilee mentioned that Apache had reached the end of the walking route; however, students are still turning in their walking logs and she would provide the January walking totals to the MPO. The school is also participating in the Walk and Roll to School Day on April 20. Mr. Lucero reminded her about the student arrival count for Apache on May 11-13. Steve asked if Marilee knew the number of students using the arroyo walking path. Marilee stated she was unaware and would find out.

Martin then informed the Committee that the principal at McKinley Elementary has organized a team to review the school site. The principal wants to hold a parent meeting with the SRTS Committee to address the safety concerns that parents have. Based on a draft agenda, some members of the SRTS Committee have been assigned areas of interest: Theresa Lawing will provide an overview of the program, Kathée Lucero will discuss SRTS activities at McKinley, Joe Delmagori will highlight the significant findings in the parent surveys, Steve Krest will speak about engineering improvements near and at the school, and Sergeant Tracy will address safety and enforcement. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 1 at 6pm at McKinley.

Martin explained incidents involving the halfway house, which is a couple of blocks from the school. Intoxicated individuals have either been arrested or are walking near the

students. Officer Pacquin mentioned the School Resource Officer would address any of the concerns regarding the halfway house.

Theresa had a few questions about the program. She asked if students arriving by bus were counted. Joe replied that with each student arrival count taken, students are tracked by car drop-off, by bus, or by walking/biking. Theresa inquired about how students know what a safe route is. Steve explained that each year a map showing the school and the neighborhood is issued to parents that highlights nearby sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic signals. Mr. Lucero added that at McKinley Elementary the parents were given a copy of the map and the safe routes school representative explained how to use the information. Parents are encouraged to talk with their child about a safe walking route from their home to the school. Theresa stated she believes the PE teachers can help reinforce the safe walking routes.

Theresa questioned if the SRO could watch the halfway house during McKinley dismissal times. Diana suggested that the director of the halfway house be contacted and that he be made aware of the situation with inebriates causing concerns with students walking to and from school.

Diana mentioned the two new bike racks for McKinley have arrived. Theresa explained that she would like to set up individual meetings with the principals as an opportunity to introduce herself and to hear their thoughts on the safe routes program. Joe said there was nothing new to report regarding Evaluation since no recent student counts have been taken.

A discussion formed around the progress made within the program and at each individual school. The members agreed there needs to be follow-up with Mesa Verde Elementary on the status of their program. Theresa asked how a school gets started with SRTS. Steve said one of the first steps is to get a parent to work under Theresa who can help organize SRTS activities at the school.

Theresa then questioned about local sponsors for the SRTS program. Diana explained that a local dentist, Cottonwood Cycles, Brown Shoes, and Smoothie King have all contributed in the past. She also mentioned that bikes were to be donated as part of last year's bike rodeo but learned that they had been donated to Childhaven. Upon learning that one student at McKinley walks one and a half miles each day to and from school, Diana thought it would be a great idea to get an article in the paper and interview this child as a way to highlight the success of the program.

Theresa then asked about the members to ensure she had contact information for all of them. Steve mentioned that Shawn Lyle from the Farmington Parks Department should be contacted as well as someone from the Farmington Municipal Schools with an invitation to join the Committee.

Steve concluded the meeting with an update on the Phase 2 application. The recently submitted application was not approved but he intends to gather additional information and resubmit the application at a later date. In the meantime, the City is submitting an application to the NMDOT Safety Program to fund reconstruction of the sidewalk from Apache School to the Auburn/Apache intersection.

Next meeting will be held on March 17, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at Ladera Elementary. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.