

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
March 17, 2010 - 1:00 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on March 17, 2010 at 1:00 P.M., at Ladera Elementary, 308 E 35th Street, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present: Champion: Theresa Lawing

Members: Steve Krest
Joe Delmagori
Martin Lucero
Katherine Lucero
Sergeant Taft Tracy
Shawn Lyle
Candace Young
William Young

Absent: Members: Diana Lang
Marilee Herman
Lieutenant Hardy
Officer Tyson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Theresa Lawing and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION

Theresa Lawing began the meeting with introductions of the members.

Ms. Lawing asked for the approval of the Minutes from February 16, 2010 meeting. Several members had not had the chance to review the minutes so it was decided to hold off on the approval until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Engineering – Ms. Lawing discussed the need to reapply for Phase II funding as the original Apache Application for Phase II had not been accepted. She asked what she had to do to be able to reapply for the Phase II funding. Mr. Krest explained that part of the reason the application had not been accepted was due to a stipulation that all of the Phase I funding must be spent prior to submitting an application. Mr. Krest further elaborated that he has been in contact with the state SRTS coordinator and she has indicated that it would be ok to reapply for the additional funding if it is made clear in the application why the additional funds are needed and why the Phase I funds have not been exhausted. The committee discussed why it was important not to exhaust our funds prior to applying for the Phase II funding.

Reports from participating schools were given by the school's parent volunteers:

- McKinley Elementary – reported that the SRTS committee was in attendance at the McKinley Parent meeting and ready to present on various issues, however, no parents were present. The Principal was appreciative of the support. McKinley is currently progressing along the walking route for the Walk across America Campaign. McKinley Elementary has reached Florida. However, they

- may need one more walking day to be able to finish the course prior to the pool party.
- Mesa Verde Elementary – Mr. Krest indicated that he had spoken to Officer Tyson who mentioned that he could make this committee meeting. However, in his absence Ms. Lawing indicated that she has been in contact with the school principal and that she is willing to lend support to the program but she is still in the process of grounding herself at the school. Ms. Lawing feels that progress will be made after school is let out and she is able to meet more with the principal and the PE teacher.
 - Apache Elementary – In the absence of Ms. Herman it was confirmed by the MPO that Apache has completed the Walk Across America Route.

Ms. Lawing discussed her plans for River Fest. She had made contact with the committee representative to apply for a Safe Routes to School booth. Her plans were to have the booth be next to the Farmington PD as it may bring in more people to ask questions about the program. Mr. Krest made a suggestion that a rotation of volunteers should be made to help man the booth. Shawn Lye indicated that he was going to attend the committee meeting later that evening and would follow up on the cost and the placement of the booth. Sergeant Taft Tracy indicated that he did not see why the committee couldn't be part of the same booth. This would help limit the number of hours that the Ms. Lawing would have to be there.

Evaluation – Mr. Lucero presented the McKinley school circulation layout. The committee discussed a couple of options that could help the circulation of the driveways and parking lots. A discussion was also held on possible ways to direct the children in and out of the school to minimize their interaction with the school bus bay and the parking lots. Moving the school zone up from Tycksen to Boyd was once again identified as a viable solution in helping students enter and exit from the west side of the school.

Encouragement – Ms. Lawing discussed the swim dates that she was able to secure for the Walk Across America participants. She had indicated that the Aquatic Center had agreed to allow the three schools to come to the pool for a charge of \$200. The dates that the schools have been scheduled for are Mesa Verde on May 1, Apache on May 8, and McKinley on May 15. No permission slips are needed as the parents will be bringing the children and the schools are not hosting the event. However, the Aquatic Center has requested that an RSVP be given for staffing purposes. Mrs. Lucero is going to rework the RSVP slips for her school with the logo that they have been using for the Walk Across America Campaign.

Ms. Lawing indicated that prior to bringing on any more schools in the program that she needed to figure out the cost for each school to form a base cost estimate. She didn't want to bring in anymore schools than the funds could support. Mr. Delmagori indicated that there are some things that the program could do that do not require any additional funds such as the student arrival counts, evaluation, and educational activities. Mr. Krest emphasized the need to find a parent to work under Ms. Lawing who can help organize SRTS activities at the school. Ms. Lawing explained that she would like to set up individual meetings with other principals, PE teachers, and the PTO as an opportunity to introduce herself and to hear their thoughts on the safe routes program.

Enforcement – Sergeant Taft Tracy discussed the crash data numbers that had been provided for Apache. He had indicated that the numbers included various intersections and not specifically the Apache and Schwartz intersection. For that specific intersection

there were 7 crashes. He explained the type of incidents recorded and broke out the specific numbers from the report. Mr. Krest indicated his discussion with the Farmington PD and the need to begin a step up in red zone enforcement around the drop off zones for the schools. Sergeant Taft Tracy explained a little bit about the plan and how and when it would occur.

Ms. Lawing discussed the planned student arrival counts for the three schools and the upcoming walk to school day. Mrs. Lucero indicated that McKinley would need four individuals to perform the counts. She thinks that she will be able to obtain the majority of the individuals through parent volunteers. McKinley Elementary is scheduled for counts the week of May 4-6. Apache Elementary is scheduled for counts the week of May 11-13. Mesa Verde Elementary is scheduled for counts the week of April 27-29. The walk to school day is scheduled for April 20th. The walk to school day will be a good way of getting the students motivated again to walk to school prior to the counts the following weeks.

Ms. Lawing introduced Gary Jackson, the Ladera school principal, and the committee had a brief discussion with him about the drop-off zones and traffic patterns around the school. A suggestion was made to use 38th Ave as a parent drop-off location to help alleviate traffic problems on Dustin.

Ms. Lawing asked if the members had any other information for the group. Mr. Delmagori mentioned that the MPO created a SRTS page on the MPO website. It gives a history of the program, includes the student arrival count data, and has the minutes from previous meetings. Mr. Krest gave an update on the proposed ordinance change on blocking sidewalks. He has asked Ms. Lawing to give a presentation to City Council sometime in the summer about the possible change.

Next meeting will be held on April 21, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at Ladera Elementary. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.