

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
April 16, 2012 12:00 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on April 16, 2012 at 12:00 p.m., at Apache Elementary School, 200 W. Arrington St., Farmington, New Mexico.

Present: Champion: Debra Mayeux
Members: Steve Krest
June Markle
Sergeant Dave Monfils
Duane Wakan
Vicki Whitaker
Tamara Pete, School Counselor

Absent: Members: Pat Cordell
Joe Delmagori
Shawn Lyle
Jeff Treat
Candace Young
William Young

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Debra Mayeux and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Mayeux asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2012 meeting. Mr. Krest moved to approve the minutes and Sgt. Monfils seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Apache Elementary – Mrs. Debbie Braff: Mrs. Mayeux reported that on May 3, the Apache school teachers will have their own walk to school day. Following the walk, those teachers who participated will be presented with bracelets and tokens by members of the Farmington Fire Department to acknowledge their effort. The teachers hope to inspire and encourage the students to walk and bike to school on May 9 which is the National Walk & Bike to School Day. Having fire fighters make the presentations to the teachers is hoped to be an added incentive for the students. Mrs. Mayeux said she needed to let the fire fighters know what time on May 3 they would be needed for the award presentations.

The Apache health carnival is set for May 10. Unfortunately, the bike rodeo hit some snags and will not be part of the carnival as they lack volunteers. Mrs. Mayeux and Sharon Brown plan to volunteer to help with the carnival.

The Walking for Books program scheduled for the start of the next school year is progressing. Mrs. Mayeux provided Mrs. Braff with some information from the Walk

Across America effort held several years ago to help her organize and prepare the groundwork for her Walking for Books program. The information packets on the program will be sent home with students this summer in preparation for the start of the program in the fall.

McKinley Elementary- Mrs. Marilee Dexel: There was no new information to report from McKinley Elementary. Ms. Whitaker still plans to speak with the McKinley parent group to see what SRTS can provide for them and to encourage their ongoing participation.

Mesa Verde Elementary - Mrs. Cynthia Sosaya: The bike rodeo planned for April 18th has been postponed. Although the school was enthusiastic about having the rodeo, finding qualified repair technicians and sponsors proved difficult. It is hoped to get a bike rodeo scheduled for the fall.

Ladera Del Norte Elementary- Mr. Gary Jackson: The “No Cell Phone Zone” ribbon cutting was held on April 13. Mrs. Mayeux said it was very exciting and was well attended by elected officials, including Mayor Roberts, Councilors McCulloch and Fischer. Also present were Farmington Police Chief Westall, Assistant Schools Superintendent Frank Stimac, Farmington Chamber of Commerce and the Redcoats. The two students who designed the artwork held the ribbon for the ribbon cutting and the plaque from the Chamber of Commerce was presented to Mrs. Ashworth for the participation and enthusiasm she and her 5th grade students showed in designing the pledge and the sign. Mrs. Ashworth offered to distribute the pledges to students and collect the signed pledges as they are turned back in to the school.

Mrs. Mayeux said that KOB-TV heard about the “no cell phone” zone and the ceremony that was held. They planned to present a story on these activities on their Albuquerque news at 6:00 p.m. tonight. The question was asked if the program would be expanded to all the schools in the area. Mrs. Mayeux said she would like to see the program grow and stated that Mesa Verde has asked to be the next school to promote a “no cell phone zone” at their location.

Report of Champion Efforts: Mrs. Mayeux stated the national bike/walk to school day will be May 9th. She has enrolled all four SRTS schools into the program and is expecting to receive some prizes and tokens from the state SRTS office to hand out to students who walk/bike to school that day. Mrs. Mayeux asked if Committee members would be available to assist in handing out tokens that day at Apache, Ladera, and McKinley. Mesa Verde said they would use their own teachers to hand out prizes that day to their students.

Mrs. Mayeux reported she had done some work on-line researching available grants for health related or walking programs. She said the information on available grants is overwhelming. Should DOT funding for the SRTS program ever cease when a new transportation bill is eventually passed, she is confident that grants would be available to keep many of the current SRTS projects up and running.

Education: Mrs. Mayeux explained that the planned bike rodeo at Mesa Verde on April 18 has been postponed indefinitely. Mr. Cordell made some calls to find who within the police department might be able to assist. The SROs said they could provide safety training and education but, unfortunately, do not have the manpower to take on a project of this size nor are they certified to repair bikes. It was recommended that SRTS look for a corporate sponsor to assist with the rodeo.

Mrs. Mayeux spoke with Conoco Phillips who already hosts two bike rodeos a year in conjunction with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Their program targets two local schools each year and they provide bikes and helmets for the rodeo. They said we could request assistance, but did not believe their company would be able to help out with a third bike rodeo. Mrs. Mayeux said she and Mr. Cordell had done some brainstorming, but decided more time was needed to put a bike rodeo together. Mrs. Mayeux commented that the schools really want this type of program and hoped that something could be organized for the fall. Mr. Krest recommended contacting the state SRTS coordinator, Jessica Griffin, to see what resources might be available through the state office.

Encouragement: Mrs. Mayeux said that Mesa Verde would like to host the committee meetings beginning this fall and would like to have the meeting dates before school lets out for the summer. Mesa Verde would also prefer that we meet there on Tuesdays rather than Mondays. Mrs. Mayeux asked if committee members were amenable to changing the meeting day/time. Most of the members present approved changing the meeting day to Tuesday. Mrs. Mayeux will schedule the September, October, and November 2012 meetings for Tuesdays at 12:00 noon at Mesa Verde and send out a revised schedule to all committee members.

Enforcement: Sgt. Monfils said the Police Department's traffic division will again be working with Melanie Majors with The Majors Company to conduct pedestrian observations at several intersections sometime in May. The traffic division works with Ms. Majors to observe vehicle and pedestrian traffic at the identified intersections and enforces pedestrian safety laws. Following the observations, the outcomes are reviewed by the state and the City receives grant money for their efforts.

Engineering: Mr. Krest reported that the "no cell phone zone" signs were installed on Dustin between 35th and 38th Streets.

Mr. Krest stated that approximately eight years ago, 30 driver feedback signs ("your speed is...") were installed around Farmington. Many of these have now failed and the Traffic Engineering Department has received \$64,000 to replace all 30 signs with new LED ones.

According to Mr. Krest, the Phase II infrastructure projects are proceeding.

- Priority #1 - Sidewalk repair/construction from Apache Elementary east to Auburn along Apache;
- Priority #2 - Installation of a raised crosswalk at Monterey and Boyd for McKinley Elementary students. This will be the first such raised crosswalk in Farmington;
- Priority #3 – Construction of a missing sidewalk section along Victoria Way;

Priority #4 – Installation of a pedestrian-actuated signal mid-block along College Boulevard for Mesa Verde Elementary.

Mrs. Mayeux said that if funds were still available following completion of the projects listed above, Mesa Verde would like to receive a new bike rack.

Evaluation: Mrs. Mayeux reviewed the volunteer schedule for the student arrival counts:

April 17, 18 & 19, 2012

McKinley: Debra Mayeux, Pat Cordell, Steve Krest, June Markle

Mesa Verde: Duane Wakan, Gary Moore, Joe Delmagori (Vicki Whitaker will fill in for Joe on April 17)

April 24, 25 & 26, 2012

Apache: Steve Krest, Duane Wakan, Joe Delmagori

Ladera: Debra Mayeux, Gary Moore, June Markle, Pat Cordell

The May SRTS Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. in the Apache Elementary conference room.

Mrs. Mayeux adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.