## MINUTES Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting April 21, 2010 - 1:00 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on April 21, 2010 at 1:00 P.M., at Ladera Elementary, 308 E. 35th Street, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Champion:	Theresa Lawing
	Members:	Lieutenant Hardy Steve Krest Shawn Lyle Dee Dee Moore Sergeant Tracy Officer Tyson Candace Young William Young
Absent:	Members:	Joe Delmagori Marilee Herman Diana Lang Kathee Lucero Martin Lucero

**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 both the February 16, 2010 meeting and the March 17, 2010 meeting. Mr. Krest made a motion to approve the minutes, Sergeant Tracy seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Lawing briefly shared information on these topics:

- The Walk to School Day took place on April 20<sup>th</sup> and McKinley showed a definite decrease in vehicle traffic in the parking lot. At Apache and Mesa Verde Elementary the buses were detoured to off site locations and the children walked from there.
- McKinley Elementary has finished the Walk Across America Course and has achieved their goal for the swim party.
- At Mesa Verde the PTO is unable to assist at this time since they are limited to three people.

In regards to the Riverfest, Ms. Lawing stated that she had been in contact with the NMDOT SRTS Coordinator to identify if there is a flyer geared more towards the parents. Her idea is to explain the benefits of children walking to the parents and also ask for volunteers during this event.

Ms. Reeves, the Aquatic Center Director, has contacted Ms. Lawing and asked to have a headcount for the swim parties in order to staff the lifeguards. Ms. Reeves also

mentioned that she had not yet received payment for the three dates. Ms. Moore will contact Ms. Reeves to expedite the payment process.

Encouragement – Ms. Lawing suggested that the program might expand more if the SRTS group met with the principals to discuss the program. Even if the principals were not directly involved the program, they could still rely on volunteers.

Engineering – Ms. Lawing explained that the Phase II funding can be used for hard improvements such as signage or sidewalks. Other schools can join the SRTS to school program and enjoy the benefits of that funding. Mr. Krest stated that the City had requested funding through the Highway Improvement Safety Program for sidewalk improvements at Apache Elementary. However, that project was not selected to receive funding.

Evaluation – .Mr. Krest discussed the planned student arrival counts for the three schools and that he would be available to volunteer. Mesa Verde Elementary is scheduled for counts the week of April 27-29. McKinley Elementary is scheduled for counts the week of May 4-6. Apache Elementary is scheduled for counts the week of May 11-13. Officer Tyson said he would be able to assist with the counts on April 27. Ms. Lawing shared that the Ladera school principal is still interested in changing the drop-off zone to 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. to reduce congestion along Dustin and the front of the school.

Enforcement – Mr. Krest shared that the proposed ordinance change on blocking sidewalks has been put on hold until June, but is ready to go to City Council. Mr. Krest also mentioned that he had responded to a letter that the Mayor received regarding the intersection of 32<sup>nd</sup> & Sunset and a request for a stop sign. Mr. Hardy suggested that the Police Department may be able to be a more visible presence around the schools.

The meetings for June and July will take place at the Civic Center at 10:30am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Mr. Lyle said that he would take care of the reservations for those meetings.

Mr. Krest asked Ms. Young if the district had a written walking/biking policy. Ms. Young said that the current administrative handbook suggests that walking/biking students be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Mr. Krest also asked if other modes, such as skateboards, skates and scooters were addressed in that handbook. Ms. Young stated that she would find out for the committee. Mr. Krest wanted clarification if the last day of school, on May 26<sup>th</sup>, was going to be a half day. He also questioned on what day the next school year would begin. Mr. Young shared that those dates would be posted on the school districts website.

Mr. Krest informed the committee that the school zone on Dustin would be moved one block north to Boyd to better align with the new entrance at McKinley school. Ms. Lawing brought up the stranger danger program and Mr. Hardy shared that all 1<sup>st</sup> graders participated in the Safety City Police program but that additional presentations could be provided by the School Resource Officers (SRO).

Mr. Krest and Ms. Lawing will meet together and speak with Jessica Frost regarding questions and issues with the application process.

Next meeting will be held on May 19, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at Ladera Elementary. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.