

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
May 19, 2010 - 1:00 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on May 19, 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
Marilee Herman
Martin Lucero

Absent: Members: Lieutenant Hardy

Shawn Lyle
Diana Lang
Kathee Lucero
Sergeant Tracy
Officer Tyson
Candace Young
William Young

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Theresa Lawing and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Lawing asked for the approval of the Minutes from both the April 21, 2010 meeting. Mr. Krest made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Lucero, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Theresa Lawing began the meeting with a discussion of Riverfest preparations. She indicated that she has not found any group to combine a SRTS booth with since the PD, fire department, and Farmington City Parks Department all are not participating this year. Ms. Lawing will make contact with Shawn Lyle to try to secure a booth for the SRTS program. A discussion of supplies that would be needed to promote the program ensued. The MPO is currently storing the Farmington Walk and Roll banner as well as various other items, such as the 100 mile shirts and water bottles. Ms. Lawing would like to handout general overviews of the program, both in English and in Spanish, to members of the community who stop by at the booth. She would also like to have a volunteer signup sheet available for individuals to sign if they show interest in the program.

Mr. Krest has spoken to Jay Peterman, from the City of Farmington's Planning Department, to see if he would be able to help construct the booth. Ms. Lawing also indicated that a table will also be needed. Mrs. Herman indicated that if a table could not be located that she had a table that she could bring to the event. She also has Walk to School Day pictures that she can provide for the display table. In preparation for the event Ms. Lawing is going to the MPO office on May 28th to create a display board and will need all the pictures and items at that time.

Encouragement – Ms. Lawing inquired about the pool parties for each individual school. Mrs. Herman indicated that Apache had half the number of the students attend the event than expected. She indicated that she had wished that she would have taken pictures of the event. McKinley Elementary had around 100 students come for their pool party. However the number does not include parents and some siblings that also attended. In all, approximately 175 to 200 individuals attended the event.

Ms. Lawing has called San Juan Kids, a local publication for children and parents, and will be placing an article in the near future. It is a way to try to bring recognition and volunteers to the program. Ms. Lawing also indicated that she is in the process of speaking with the principals of the various schools to discuss the SRTS program. McKinley Elementary will have a new principal for the following school year and Mr. Lucero indicated that the principal from Animas Elementary will be coming to McKinley. Ms. Lawing stated that even if the principals were not directly involved with the program, they could still rely on volunteers and possibly the PE and Gifted teachers. Mrs. Herman explained that the teachers and the school principal are on board at Apache Elementary. She also indicated that Apache does not have a PTO but that would be a group in other schools that would need to be on board to help the program take hold. Ms. Lawing asked about the PTO at McKinley. Mr. Lucero indicated that the PTO had not taken on the program as part of the PTO efforts this past school year and that the PTO looks to the principal as the lead for their activities. Mr. Lucero explained that the PTO is very strong at the school and has been vital to the school's success. A consensus was reached that an effort needed to be made to find more individuals that believe in helping children be safe and healthy.

Evaluation – Mr. Delmagori discussed student arrival counts for the three schools. Mesa Verde Elementary counts were taken the week of April 27-29 and displayed a drop in the number of students that were walking and/or biking to school. McKinley Elementary was taken the week of May 4-6 and were consistent with the fall numbers of participating students and a significant rise over the numbers last spring. Apache Elementary was counted the week of May 11-13 and saw a slight drop in the total number of students walking and/or biking to school. Ms. Lawing indicated that they decided to hold off on taking walking counts at Ladera until the following school year to help kick off the program when the program would be fresh with the start of a new school year.

A discussion ensued on the results of the three schools. It is assumed that the large drop in walking students at Mesa Verde was due to the lack of a parent volunteer at the school. A discussion was also had on the reward system and the need to possibly have a midyear party or reward to help keep the students motivated. Mrs. Herman gave the example of how her school completed the route for the Walk Across America campaign early and how the students had to wait until May for the reward. Also she has had some students continue with the walking program and ultimately had 6 individuals reach 200 miles this school year. A decision was made to add rewards for these students and have Mrs. Herman give them out at the end of the school year assembly.

Ms. Lawing indicated that it is important to start the programs early next school year. Mrs. Herman echoed the comment by stating that if we wait until the International Walk to School Day in October to begin to encourage students to walk we have already lost a month and a half of good walking weather. Mr. Lucero added that correlating the McKinley SRTS booth with the school's open house at the beginning of the school year really helped to gain the support of the parents and to find the parent volunteers they

utilized throughout the school year for walking days and counts. It was also added that it is important that we help the bus students participate either with remote drop-off during walking days or with a walking track at the school.

The next SRTS meeting will take place at the Civic Center at 10:30am on June 16. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.