

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
September 16, 2010 - 1:50 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on September 16, 2010 at 1:50 P.M., at Ladera Elementary, 308 E 35th St, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Champion:	Theresa Lawing
	Members:	Joe Delmagori Steve Krest Martin Lucero
Absent:	Members:	Lieutenant Hardy Diana Lang Shawn Lyle Officer Kyle Tyson Sergeant Taft Tracey Candace Young William Young

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:54 p.m. by Theresa Lawing and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Delmagori motioned to approve the August 19, 2010 minutes. Steve Krest seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Lawing opened the meeting with a discussion on the need to have parent involvement at each school. The PE teachers at each school have agreed to run the walking program, with the exception of Apache Elementary School. Mrs. Herman has agreed to help with the International Walk to School Day on October 6, 2010. However, without the support of a parent volunteer or the PE teacher the program activities may become limited at the school.

In connection to International Walk to School Day, Mrs. Lawing has contacted the state and has made a change to her original request for incentives. She has also made a secondary request for the rest of the schools within the Farmington School District.

Mrs. Lawing added that parent surveys have been issued to Farmington School Districts elementary schools. She has already seen some of the surveys from Ladera Elementary and has noticed some of the same concerns from past surveys at other schools. A total of 5,000 surveys have been handed out and each school will return the surveys by interschool mail. Once the surveys are returned, Mrs. Lawing will mail them to the National SRTS center. The National SRTS center will tally all the surveys and organize them by schools. Mr. Krest added that the surveys need to be bound and organized into a certain format or the national center would not tally the results or input them into the system.

Mrs. Lawing then directed the meeting toward efforts being made to encourage students to walk. She has sent out initial notes to the participating schools concerning the Walk Across America program. The school district sent out Sergeant Tracy's letter to all elementary school students concerning school zone safety. Mr. Lucero suggested following up on the initial encouragement letters with a subsequent letter to the schools concerning the International Walk to School Day. The letter can be included in the various school bulletins that are sent home with each student.

Mr. Krest inquired if the walking maps have been delivered to the participating schools. Mrs. Lawing confirmed that walking maps have been delivered to Apache, Mesa Verde, and McKinley. Ladera still needs a map and corresponding letter. Also the school has concerns with 38th street by Crestridge. Mr. Krest indicated that students need to go to the crossing guards located along Dustin Ave. He also indicated that he would have the new maps printed with the corresponding letter and have them delivered to the school. Mrs. Lawing pointed out that she would need approximately 450 maps to cover all the non-bus students.

Mr. Krest asked how Mrs. Lawing's presentation to the school board and principals went. Mrs. Lawing indicated that she wasn't able to make the meeting but that Mrs. Young was able to make the presentation on her behalf. Mrs. Lawing was however able to meet with Brown Shoes and was told that they are not in a position to give any donations at this time. Target could possibly make a donation but it is in need of a nonprofit number or letter indicating a nonprofit status to donate. Mrs. Lawing added that most companies currently are not big on cash donations but will provide donations of products or in-kind services. Mrs. Lawing is currently not sure how to handle the matter of seeking out donations. There seems to be a discrepancy in messages coming from the state and the national center. The message from the national center indicates that most of the time spent should be on SRTS efforts and not on seeking donations.

In order to complete the Phase I narrative Mrs. Lawing organized a meeting at the MPO office on the following Tuesday. The Phase I narrative is in progress but she feels that with a little help and direction she can have the narrative completed and ready to submit to Mrs. Frost, the NMDOT SRTS Coordinator. This will then allow her to focus on the Phase II application and have a draft ready for the committee to review. Her goal is to have the application ready to submit by November. Mrs. Lawing added that the state is still awaiting a new transportation bill and that a decision would be on hold for additional funds to possibly fund a full time position in this area. However, being able to show the possible need for further schools to come on board is essential for additional funding in Phase II.

Mrs. Lawing then discussed the student arrival counts for Ladera and Mesa Verde Elementary. Ladera's student arrivals counts may have been affected due to early morning school activities held on Tuesday and Wednesday. After comparison to Thursday counts it was noted that the counts seemed to be valid for all three days. Mesa Verde's student arrivals counts look good and the number of students arriving by walking or biking has increased from the last set of counts taken last spring. Apache and McKinley Elementary will follow during the week of September 20th. Apache is still in need of parent volunteers and McKinley has confirmed at least one parent volunteer. Mr. Krest indicated that he and Gary Moore would be available to help with the student arrival counts during the week. Apache would still need two parent volunteers for Tuesday and one for the additional two days. McKinley will be ok with the one parent volunteer but could use additional volunteers to cover all directions. Mr. Lucero

suggested using a teacher to count the students exiting from buses, as a teacher is assigned to escort the students from the bus bay into the school building each morning. The MPO Staff should be able to cover the remaining locations at McKinley with the help from school staff and the crossing guard along Butler Ave.

Mrs. Lawing then moved the meeting to informational items. Michele Delese has agreed to go to each school to teach elementary school students about walking and biking safety rules. During the Velo de Animas Bike Club meeting, Mr. Krest was informed that the club is looking for different opportunities to support biking and walking programs within the community.

A final discussion was had on concerns from parents at Ladera and some observation from individuals who participated in the student arrival counts. Ideas were discussed for helping to educate parents about safety, such as the use of traffic cones to highlight no stopping designations and further parental education through traffic enforcement.

The next SRTS meeting will take place at Ladera Elementary on Thursday, October 21 at 1:50 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.