

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
September 15, 2009 - 10:30 A.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on September 15, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., in the Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington St, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Coordinator:	Lori Meszaros
	Members:	Joe Delmagori
		Steve Krest
		Katherine Lucero
		Martin Lucero
		Marilee Herman
		Lieutenant Tyson
		Diana Lang
Guest:	Visitor	Marilee Herman
Absent:	Members:	Amanda DeWees
		Lieutenant Washburn

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:36 a.m. by Coordinator Meszaros and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION

Lori Meszaros called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes for the August 18th, 2009 meeting. Steve Krest asked to review portions of the minutes from August 18th, 2009. After some discussion Lori agreed that additions to sections of the minutes to clarify the Walk Across America would be made.

Lori then asked how the Maps were coming along for each school. It was agreed that the maps would be completed and delivered to the schools prior to the International Walk to School Day.

Marilee Herman indicated that the improvement could have been attributed to the better weather and more kindergartners walking this year.

Mr. Lucero then presented the final numbers for the Kid Counts at Apache elementary. The total number of walkers had improved by 2% and the number of vehicles had dropped by 10%. The walking counts went smoothly and were straight forward. Mr. Krest met with the school and Parent Rep on Friday and made notes of the schools concerns and needs.

McKinley Elementary, after one day of counts, appeared to have made a large jump in the number of walkers. Kathee Lucero indicated that they have had a large success due to notes being sent out and a successful open house. She indicated that she is waiting for the walking map and has already scheduled her in-class presentations.

Lori indicated that she would like to have all the walking surveys administered and returned prior to the international walk to school day. A reward for the classroom that returns the most surveys could be made. Lori also indicated that a prize for the class that has the most walkers on October 7th could be helmets or maybe \$25 dollars to the teacher to Office max or the Teaching Store. A discussion ensued about either rewarding the students or the teacher. A donation to the classroom with the most walkers was finally agreed upon.

Lori then turned time over to Engineering.

Steve discussed areas of concern for Apache Elementary. Some of the areas observed were the addition of parking blocks to keep the cars from parking over walking areas, creating a break in the fence along the southwest portion of the parking lot to allow students to enter the grounds without having to enter through the parking lot and to expand the sidewalk along Apache to Auburn. Steve is to summarize his findings and send out a letter to the principal and school board.

McKinley's evaluation has been changed to Thursday as the scheduled Friday is a teacher professional day.

A discussion ensued on how to help educate the parents and students and Lori suggested that Lieutenant Tyson may be able to attend and present to the students of the three schools. It may be able to help with some of the concerns of McKinley elementary.

Steve indicated that new school zone markings have been placed and that he has eight more to go to finish with the ones he has planned for this year. Steve also indicated that sidewalk improvements for Apache will have to wait for Phase II funding.

Lori then turned the time over to Enforcement. Lieutenant Tyson indicated that the Traffic Team are now giving out tickets and will continue throughout the month. They are policing the corner of Kingsway and Windsor to help stop the speeding by high school students.

The Fire trucks made a big difference this year and they are no longer at the schools.

Steve commented that distracted drivers in the school zone are a big hazard. A push to educate parents needs to be made, especially to stay off their cell phone.

Kathee asked if the idea of speed zone cameras have ever been brought up for the school zones. After some discussion the SRTS Committee was not opposed to the idea but indicated that it may be difficult to implement. Kathee asked if there was a better way to enforce and if there were statistics that may help gain more support.

Lori asked how the maps were going to be made. The walking maps for the Walk Across America campaign could be printed down then glued to foam boards and push pins could be used to indicate how each school is progressing. Lori indicated that she has developed walking logs and just needs to know how many logs each school needs.

Kathee indicated that she is organizing a walking club and will only need about 100 logs at the beginning. Marilee indicate that Apache would only need about 200 and Lori stated that she plans to start with a school wide program and will be sending out walking logs with each student. Kathee asked if she could have sticker printed for her club as encouragement, such as stickers that stated I walked. Lori indicated that she is using the water bottles as encouragement and looking into pedometers. Lori also indicated that the use of certificates may be a possibility. After some discussion it was agreed that stickers would be ordered as they could be used by all the schools and throughout the year.

Lori asked for all the school colors as the walking cards for the three schools are being designed. Lori indicated the student would receive a punch for every 10 miles they walked and the card intern could be redeemed for a raffle at the end of the school year for a bike or other items.

Marilee asked if T-shirts could be developed for the students that walked 100 miles. The shirt can be given to the student with the certificate. Mr. Lucero indicated that Advertising Ideas may be willing to a discount if there name was included on the shirt. Lori indicated that there was still time to figure out what incentives could be used.

Kathee asked if there was a template for letters to encourage parents to walk with their student's on October 7th. Lori agreed to develop the template and send it out to all of the parent representatives. Lori indicated that it is imperative that we try to promote now to have a large turnout. Lori indicated that all schools receive awards for the international walk to school day including Tibbetts Middle School which is being represented by a student and faculty member.

Lori introduced Jeff from the Daily Times who indicated that he had written an article that will come out on Wednesday in the Daily Times. He also indicated that he will be writing an article on the International Walk to School Day. Lori indicated that the articles would be important for the Phase II funding and that we should try to get letters from the students after the walking day to show their support of the program. Kathee indicated that would be a great activity for the walking club.

Lori asked what some of the activities that each school had planned. Lori indicated that Mesa Verde had planned for remote drop off as they did last year. She reminded the parent representative to remind the principals of each school that the activity may not finish until after the normal start of the schooldays. Kathee and Marilee both indicated that their principals did not ok off site drop off but that other activities such as walking tracks are being arranged.

Mr. Lucero indicated that he noticed that parent volunteers may benefit from having tally counters. After some discussion Lori asked for five counters to be order that can be used during the walking counts.

Marilee introduced her daughter as the Tibbetts Middle School Representative. Time was given to the school Representative to discuss her program. She indicated that she is organizing a walk to school event as a community service project. She has a teacher that is helping her organize the event. She hopes to be able to hand out certificates signed by the principal for students who walk to school or that are dropped off by the bus and walk around the track four times. She also hopes to get out the word through the

use of the Tibbetts Newsletter. Suggestions were given to how she may promote her program and some other incentives that maybe used. Lori handed out some handouts that she uses when teaching students about the program as examples.

Lori asked that the walking maps be distributed prior to the week of October 7th. Lori asked if everyone received her email on the two webinars this month.

The bike rodeo was discussed. A decision was made to cancel the Rodeo due to lack of location and volunteers. Lori indicated that she hoped to have one more but just didn't have the details at this time.

Lori asked for Steve, Joe and Martin to consider a meeting at each school to develop a Phase II plan. No dates have been set just need tentative ideas. Steve would like to set goals for what the meeting is to be about.

The Action plan will begin to be developed in October as it is due in December. Each school representative needs to attend at least one webinar training for Phase II funding. Webinars are on September 28th and October 19th.

The next meeting will be held on October 20th at 10:30. The meeting ended at 11:55.