



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Little Harbour School

DRAFT

The Safe Routes to School Committee met on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at Little Harbour School.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Rebecca Emerson, Co-Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m.
- II. ROLL CALL:** Debbie Finnigan, Traffic Engineer, Rebecca Emerson, Co-Chair and School Board Representative, Robert Lister, Superintendent of Schools and Kirsten Barton, Little Harbor Representative, Jean Ward, St. Patrick Representative, and Detective Rebecca Hester, Police Department Representative.

Also present was Robin Burdick, Principal of Little Harbor School and Sheri Nadeau, Little Harbor School Teaching & Learning Representative.

Absent: Christina Westfall, Christine Casa and John Golumb.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION made by Kirsten Barton to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting as presented. Seconded by Rebecca Emerson. Motion passed. Rebecca Hester abstained.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A.** South St. at Clough St. Intersection for LHS – Debbie Finnigan reported she sent a letter to the State for approval of the weebles and explained the process. If over \$500 or more you need to go out to bid, we received back 4 of 5, they were over the amount we had. Debbie forwarded them to John Corrigan and requested the full amount which needs to be approved and we're waiting for a reply.

Although not on the Agenda Debbie Finnigan reported that the bike racks were approved. What needs to be done is a CE checklist which is an environmental document to build these bike racks.

We have two grant items that need to be committee based. One is that we still don't have an incentive program in place. We will have money for this and

need to find a school base incentive program. Secondly, is the Walk to School Day activities. We have money for contest, t-shirts, banners, etc. which also needs to be committee based. The Walk To School Day can be anytime during the month of October, which is the National Walk to School month. The third item is the Workshop. The Committee needs to figure out what they want to do. Debbie Finnigan will take care of the Travel Plan and has sent the RFP for travel plan to Legal Dept. for review. The other items depend on the schools and how you want to do it.

The issue on the weebles is who will be responsible for placing the weebles each day and taking them down.

Even though there is a crossing guard at South and Clough Streets a weeble needs to be placed there because when the crossing guard leaves, the cars speed by.

Kirsten Barton said the School Board is putting out a communication and suggested that some information be submitted to into the newsletter. As this is a City Committee needs to go through Debbie Finnigan for review and forward to Supt. Lister for inclusion in the newsletter.

We can purchase six weebles and Debbie Finnigan will inform the Committee the designated areas.

Kirsten Barton suggested placing in the newsletter the fact that we are waiting for bike racks, weebles will be in. Custodians are needed for placing weebles.

Going back to bike racks, Debbie Finnigan stated she will need exact locations in order for Department of Public Works to construct the pads.

- B.** National Course for SRTS – Kirsten Barton stated the May date is being changed, it needs to be a regular day when the travel plan is normal with everyone is going to school, not testing and preferably not Monday or Friday. The Superintendent needs to be contacted to find out the when there is testing. We need to be more mindful of what the community thinks about safe routes to school.

Debbie Finnigan suggested picking a date for October in conjunction with Walk to School Day and can write a letter to John Corrigan stating it costs \$5,000, we have \$6,000 and can spend \$1,000 on materials, breakfast, lunch, snacks or whatever.

Rebecca Emerson feels October is a good idea and feels having everything in one week is more effective than something in the spring and something in the fall.

- a. Create list of key stakeholders to invite – It was suggested the new Superintendent, a representative from each school who is not on the

Committee, SABER, Step Up Seacoast, a parent representative from each school. We need help from the schools to make this all happen.

Kirsten Barton suggested two representatives from each school as opposed to one on the Committee. Also to have people who are enthused about SRTS.

Debbie Finnigan said we would need to ask City Council to add more openings on the Committee.

Rebecca Hester stated that Barbara Pamboukas, New Franklin nurse, has expressed an interest, she is involved in Step Up Seacoast and walking clubs.

Rebecca Emerson offered to write a letter to the Mayor requesting a City Council representative.

Rebecca Hester suggested that one of the two representatives be from the school who is there working every day.

Debbie Finnigan asked the committee what they'd like for their to do list next month? Debbie suggested coming with three organizations and a person associated with it so we can come up with a list and then she'll send out an invitation on City letterhead so they can reserve the date.

Supt. Lister asked the purpose of the course is?

Debbie Finnigan responded the purpose is so that we'll have the tools we need to be able to move all this forward. The goal is to get people enthusiastic about following through and doing things and giving them the tools to accomplish that. As a committee we have done a good job in terms of doing that but it would be nice for someone who has had more experience to suggest what has or has not worked on other programs.

- C. Walk to School Day – October 2009 – Incentives** – Debbie Finnigan reported that there is money. There is the grant we just received and stated it would be nice if there was a contest in the school to have a mascot for Portsmouth's SRTS. A winner from each school would get some kind of prize and those 5 students could be put on the city's website making it a City-wide vote and whoever won that would be the symbol put on the t-shirts as well as banners for each school that says SRTS with the school name with the symbol or mascot on it and then in the fall have the t-shirts for the kids to wear to walk to school that day. We will buy supplies, markers, fabric paint so that if the kids want they can decorate the back of their t-shirts. Debbie asked for enough t-shirts to cover all the kids and all the schools. There would be five banners for each school and one to be used for an event.

MOTION made by Kirsten Barton to increase the openings on the Committee for two representatives per school. Seconded by Rebecca Emerson. Motion passed.

Dr. Lister asked if people ask what the grant money is about, is there somewhere that people would have access to this information?

Debbie Finnigan responded “no”, but will speak with our Webmaster to see if a SRTS page can be set up.

Rebecca Emerson suggested this go into the newsletter.

Dr. Lister stated that at a School Board meeting, people said that if SRTS is concerned at all with walking and biking to school, what about the snowy sidewalks that aren’t plowed and kids have to walk in the street. Dr. Lister said that’s why we need a relationship to Public Works so we can answer that, and we should be concerned about kids walking to school safety in the winter as well as in October. These are the kinds of things that come up that he feels we should be addressing.

Robin Burdick stated that during the holidays 4th graders were suppose to walk to Edgewood following a snow storm and the sidewalks were not cleared and it was her judgment that she’d rather pay for a bus. She feels safety has to be first and then exercise wellness and other things.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. SRTS Representatives Required: City Council, New Franklin School and the Middle School – Kirsten Barton referred to the possibility of the Middle School age kids get involved, such as a student council representative.

Dr. Lister suggested that the next meeting is being held at the Middle School and he will ask John Stokel to be present.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Middle School.

The Complete packet is on file at the Public Works Department

Respectfully submitted

Elaine Boucas, Recording Secretary