



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Dondero School

The Safe Routes to School Committee met on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at Dondero School.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Rebecca Emerson, Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 9:10 a.m.
- II. ROLL CALL:** Rebecca Emerson, Chair and School Board Representative, Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director and Jean Ward, St. Patrick Representative.

Also present were Jill LeMay, Principal Dondero School, and Joli Foucher, proposed At Large member.

Excused absences: Debbie Finnigan, Councilor Nancy Clayburgh, Dr. Robert Lister and Brendan Cooney. Absent were Kirsten Barton, Christine Casa and Rebecca Hester.

- III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** As there was not a quorum the minutes will be accepted at the next meeting.
- IV. DISCUSSION WITH PRINCIPAL:**

The Chair introduced Jill LeMay, Principal of Dondero and asked if she had any concerns. Jill LeMay has concerns about bicyclists. When you pull into the school you turn into Adams. Bicyclists are supposed to go down Adams to go to the bike racks. Some of the children from the Woodlands take a short cut going through the parking lot which is very dangerous. Perhaps possibility of better signage. The Principal has been working with the parents, it is extremely dangerous at entry time in the morning.

Another concern is the traffic flow through Elwyn Park with the increased number of children walking and biking to school. People don't stop at the stop sign at McKinley, cruise through them. Ms. LeMay has put a note out to the parents who drive up and down the road to please stop at the stop signs, these are all our kids, please be careful. There are no sidewalks in this neighborhood.

Steve Parkinson stated there is an approved project through this grant to do some striping in Elwyn Park for bikes. There is \$27,000 approved for the Elwyn Park neighborhood pavement markings to stripe bike lanes leading to the school, not throughout the neighborhood but roads going to the school.

The Chair referred to the cut through as becoming a wetlands nightmare due to the high cost of the permits.

The Principal stated she will work with individual parents and feels the bike lanes on the road will be helpful.

Steve Parkinson stated the proposed bikes lanes are for McKinley all the way down to Harding, the whole length of Harding, Van Buren on both sides of the street and feels it makes sense to do Adams as well. There was talk of having this done this summer.

The Chair asked if the stripe could something other than white.

Mr. Parkinson responded he feels they have to be white and will look into it. The Principal asked if the 4-way stops at McKinley could have crosswalks painted on the street, feels they would be helpful. The two coming down McKinley and the one at Van Buren.

Steve Parkinson responded would need to go to Traffic & Safety.

The Chair suggested SRTS writing a letter to Traffic & Safety requesting this.

This will be placed on the next Agenda.

The Principal asked about the status of the cut through.

The Chair stated this is a wetland and becomes a mitigation project and is very expensive. Part of the cut through is on private property and suggested speaking with the property owner to see if the foliage could be cut back.

The Principal stated this is a method of egress in an emergency situation in case of evacuation.

Mr. Parkinson will take a look at that area.

The Principal stated that the custodian referred to the roads in Elwyn Park, shouldn't they all have stop signs.

Steve Parkinson stated there are warrants that need to be met. If there is a particular intersection someone feels should have one, send it to Traffic & Safety.

The Principal will try and get a representative from Dondero for next year.

The Chair informed the Principal of the Safety Course to be held at the Library the last week of October and a Walk To School Day that same week.

The Principal thanked the Committee.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

The Chair referred to the e-mail received from a Board member and Middle School parent who is concerned about no sidewalks, only one crosswalk going from the front of the School across to the pond and wondered if there could be more crosswalks; it is highly congested; there are no crosswalks on Parrott Ave. at the Court House end.

Steve Parkinson stated on the pond side there is a sidewalk from the crosswalk back towards Richards. Starts there and goes back along the ball field. There is a crosswalk from the Middle School to the walkway going to the dog park and one that goes along Parrott back towards Richards Ave, there is no sidewalk from that point back towards Jun

The Chair stated she questioned the yield sign at the end of Junkins and Parrott. The Chair asked Steve if there were plans to Tee that.

Mr. Parkinson responded that it is t'd. He also doesn't feel there's a need to change the yield sign to a stop sign. It functions well, plenty of site distance.

Crosswalks, sidewalk requests need to go to Traffic& Safety. Sidewalk requests should be something that we would evaluate.

There will be, if not already, a crosswalk at the library.

The Chair stated to keep this in mind as the Middle School project develops.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

The Chair referred to the Walk To School Day.

Jean Ward stated students at St. Patrick will meet at the Library and walk to School from there. The St. Patrick students are now doing a Walk-A-Thon.

Weebles updated was discussed earlier and Mr. Parkinson will speak with John Corrigan regarding the number of weebles, 6 of 8. The bid shows 8.

Placement was not been decided and cannot decide until we find out how many.

Steve Parkinson will have the information for the next meeting.

Steve Parkinson stated that the interviews were held of the three applicants, Appledore, Collaborative and Alta. They were all very impressive. Alta had the most experience and are using some local firms to do some minor work such as engineering. We have received a preliminary contract from Alta, they are within our budget, will be going through legal review and hopefully will begin before the end of the school year. There are a number of public meetings which they will set up with our involvement.

The Chair suggested inviting them to the National Course Day being held in October.

Steve Parkinson stated they probably would want to be involved.

All three of the firms interviewed were very impressive.

Steve Parkinson suggested setting a time to meet the week prior to the meeting for Elaine, you and myself to sit down to prepare the Agenda for Elaine to send out Friday for a Wednesday or Thursday meeting.

Joli Foucher asked if there would be a meeting within each school prior to the Walk to School Day?

The Chair stated that it was talked about last year to have each school taking ownership of that day.

Joli Foucher stated that Sheri Nadeau of New Franklin and herself propose this to Mr. Shea.

The Chair suggested asking Nurse Barbara to join them and send something to all the PTA's.

Steve Parkinson stated the idea behind this Committee was to have representatives from each school so that each school would be represented. The Committee to organize it in the beginning and then perhaps go out to the individual schools.

The Chair referred to a letter to Traffic & Safety requesting traffic signal in front of New Franklin which does not meet warrant. Traffic & Safety will again write a letter to the State and will ask the Principal of New Franklin to also write a letter. If not a traffic light, something needs to be done there.

A letter to John Stokel, Principal of the Middle School again requesting a representative.

The Chair will prepare the letter and e-mail to Elaine who will then print it to send it out.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT (as time allows) – No public comment

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair will inform the members of the date and place for the June meeting.

The July and August meetings will be held at Public Works Department,
680 Peverly Hill Road in the upstairs Conference Room.

The Complete packet is on file at the Public Works Department

Respectfully submitted

Elaine Boucas, Recording Secretary