

SIoux FALLS SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



PATH COMMITTEE MEETING

September 10, 2009

9:00 AM

IPC Building, Boardroom 2-3

I. CALL TO ORDER/ ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dallas Hofer, Heath Hoftiezer, Steve Natz, John Snobeck, Denny Pottebaum, Michelle Wolf, Brandi Kowalczyk, Sgt. Galen Smidt, Lt. Jerome Miller, Lisa Huemoeller, Bill Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT

Marilyn Buskohl, Craig Smith, Kerry Larson, Diane Hall, Teresa Boysen, Shannon Ausen

GUESTS PRESENT

Anne B. Williams, Discovery Elementary

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Susan Foster, new PATH representative for the Brandon Valley School District (Fred Assam Elementary).

Darin Daby, new PATH representative for the Sioux Falls School Board

Sharon Chontos, new PATH representative for Private Schools-Northwest

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

A motion was made by John Snobeck to approve the July minutes. Motion was seconded by Dallas Hofer. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT:

Anne B. Williams, Discovery Elementary- Anne asked the committee to discuss the possibility of having a crosswalk installed at Montpelier Avenue. Currently, the crosswalk is established at Hyde Park Avenue. The children on the north side cross to the sidewalk on the south side. Montpelier Avenue is located one block to the west. Dallas expressed a concern of having too many crosswalks in the area which would confuse drivers making the crosswalks less effective. Currently, a sidewalk is being installed on the north side of the school. After discussing, the committee recommended leaving the crosswalk at the Hyde Park location.

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V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* Sgt. Galen Smidt reported that the Police Department held their annual school enforcement week August 24-28. Ninety-eight tickets were issued; no major issues to discuss.
- *City Engineering:* Pettigrew Update - Dallas briefed the committee on the new traffic signal and signage for Pettigrew Elementary. The signal at 57th and Galway is now operating and signage has been installed. A safe path has been established south of 57th to Galway, crossing at 57th light, proceeding north to series of crosswalks at 53rd, and then west on 53rd to school.
- *Private Schools:* Michelle Wolf expressed a speeding concern at the Bahnsen and Mission crosswalk. Northbound motorists are traveling too fast through this area. It was suggested that an adult be stationed at this crosswalk, possibly a teacher aide, and be given a stop paddle. This method has proven to be successful in other areas. Sgt. Smidt mentioned that he would supply a catalog so the school could purchase a stop paddle.
- *Public Schools:* None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* Sgt. Smidt reported speeding issues at 49th and Sycamore, Marion Road and Windsor, and 37th Street. All of these areas have one or two children crossing. Parents are concerned that motorists are traveling too fast. A couple of suggestions were made that included installing a traffic signal push button or a flashing beacon. Dallas said that there would need to be 20-30 kids at these intersections to warrant installation. Sgt. Smidt will continue to monitor these areas.
- *City Engineering:* Heath discussed a speeding concern at the 12th and Valley View intersection. This issue encouraged discussion regarding flashing beacons. Heath suggested changing the PATH By-Laws to specify not installing flashing beacons in signalized intersections that are away from school property and marked with a crosswalk or signage. The committee asked Heath to draft a new By-Law and bring to next meeting.

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Susan Foster, Principal at Fred Assam Elementary, talked about a concern that parents have with children crossing Six Mile Road to get to school. The majority of the students live in the Mystic Meadow and Pine Lake additions located west of the school. Six Mile Road has heavy traffic in the morning and speed and visibility is an issue. Currently, there are about 12-15 students that cross Six Mile Road. The school does offer bussing for a fee. Susan asked the committee for suggestions on how to make this area safer. Dallas mentioned that the properties north and west of the school are not in the city limits. The County installed a crosswalk and signage is posted. Some of the suggestions included installing rumble strips or a flashing beacon. Heath mentioned that the crosswalk will be painted with epoxy paint for better wear. The City Traffic Office will do traffic counts and vehicle classification on Six Mile Road within the next month. This information will be brought back at a future PATH meeting.

- *Private Schools:* Sharon Chontos mentioned that St. Mary Elementary School is hosting a SRTS training course on October 15. Angela Olson, SRTS Coordinator for the SD DOT, will be facilitating the course along with an engineer who will provide engineering strategies for safe routes. Sharon invited the PATH members to attend and to please RSVP by September 30.
- *Public Schools:*None

In closing, Heath mentioned that October 7 is National Walk to School Day.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The next meeting will be held October 8, 2009 at the IPC Building.
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.