

Student Safety Training Committee  
Minutes  
March 17, 2009

Meeting called to order by Blenny Butterfield at 10:00 at Maranacook Area School Professional Development Center in Readfield. Minutes of the previous meeting were read with motion to accept by Priscille, and accepted by Jan.

Those in attendance were Ed Wentworth, Priscille Allard, Ron Deegan, Jan Mooney, Kathy Scherf, Blenny Butterfield, and Nancy Richardson.

Jan brought to us a smoking grill, picnic basket, and a Burton snowboard to be raffled at the Regionals, and the Annual. Ron has in a call to get something nice, and about 1200 small things to pass out at the Regionals.

Mapt is going to give the SSTC \$400.00 to use for raffles. Blenny used her own money last year for the bracelets; Ron would like to get her money back from MAPT.

Items to sell at the Regionals will be pins, and key chains with updated logos. Katy has all the button, and key chains materials, Blenny will check this situation out to see if we can get the materials from her. Key chains sold fairly well at the price of \$3.00. MAPT usually sells the school bus lunch boxes; Priscille had an idea for lunch boxes for the bus drivers.

Ron brought to us the policies for SAD #44 that we can use during our Regional Presentation. Ron went over the list of driver duties with us, Blenny is going to take this, and make a power point with this information. Blenny is also going to photo copy all the information to pass out to everyone at the Regionals.

The intersections that we have many near misses or accidents that are always happening need to be logged. Ed suggested if you have a near miss to let your Transportation Director know about the situation so they have knowledge of the situation before the calls come in.

DHHS has many workshops to come to your area on child abuse, neglect, or hunger is just a few programs they have to offer. This is to make drivers aware that these situations are also part of their responsibility.

Ron made out an accident procedure step by step on what you should do. Ed suggested having your seating chart all made out, so if there was an accident all you would have to do is cross off the names of the students not on the bus, and hand your sheet to the police officer. When do you evacuate the bus? Only during an emergency such as fire, rail road tracks. What do you say to the medics? Do you release the students to their parents if they are on the scene? Ron brought his procedure policies for his district for everyone to take a look at. Other districts may have different procedures or codes for emergency situations.

There are two different methods in the state for crossing a student across the road. One method would be the nod of the head from the driver to the student when all is clear. Ron pointed out that his method is for the driver to point his finger at the child, and to use his finger to cross the child across the road in front of the bus. DMV booklet says a signal is used, but they do not suggest which signal is to be used. Each district and each bus driver needs to be on the same page, incase you have a person filling in for someone.

If a bus happens to be in another part of the state, and you have a bus passing just do your paperwork, and pass into your office. They will take care of everything from your own district. No need to do anything in the town that you are visiting, let the court systems do their job.

Mandated materials in bus by law are; safety fire extinguisher and tag, pre trip sheet, insurance card, and registration. In chapter 10 there are a few updates, one is a bus driver is getting ready to make a stop for a student, they need to pull to the right side of the road without going over the white line for the breakdown lane, put their bus in neutral, and set their maxi brake. The other change is pulling up to railroad tracks; you need to put the bus in neutral, but do not set your maxi brake. You do still have to follow the same rules with your lights as in the past.

The drivers with child safety restraint systems also have to fill out a monthly form to check all their harnesses to make sure none are frayed.

Emergency Response Plan; do you have a plan and forms in case there is an emergency at a school, and students need to be evacuated to a safe place?

We now have a contract and a maintenance form with a pre/post trip maintenance form for Buster. He will be checked after each trip to make sure he is in good working condition.

We are looking for input on what you feel like the future direction of the SSTC is going to be.

One suggestion would be SSTC member going to the academy, and being trained for certain fields then that person would travel to areas of the state to train districts for a workshop day instead of the Regionals.

FERPA training has to be discussed with a bus driver before that driver is allowed to receive important medical information on a student.

Our retreat in Bangor at the Hollywood Slots was a disappointment only 8 Directors showed up.

LD Bills at legislative levels that have just passed. They would like the speed on the turnpike to increase for a bus to 65 mph. MAPT disagreed with this; they felt like a higher speed uses more fuel, and the safety of the children.

Ted Foss the director of Poland saw an interview taking place outside his area with his Business manager and Channel 13 interviewing about the possibility of advertising on the sides of buses. The attorney general said the federal law says that a bus just has to be school bus yellow, but not any particular set percentage has to be yellow.

Our raffle tickets are going to sell for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The key chains are going to sell for \$3.00 each.

The SSTC Regionals travel team will be as follows:

Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> at Berwick, Priscille at the table, and Kathy operating Buster.

Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at Brunswick area, Jan at the table, and Priscille operating Buster.

Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at Central area, Nancy at the table, and Kathy operating Buster.

Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> at Farmington, Jan at the table, and Priscille operating Buster.

Blenny will notify us on our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Nancy Richardson, secretary