Notes from the Lowell Community Relations Council Meeting
Prepared by Lowell School
July 13, 2021, 6:30 pm
By Zoom call

In Attendance

- Naima Jefferson
- Cynthiana Lightfoot
- Sharon Giles
- Columbus Giles
- Laurice Redhead
- Ed Atkins
- Jess Rosenbaum (Lowell)
- Chris Ginter (Lowell)

Lowell Update

- **Regarding Lowell's on-campus programs:**
  - Lowell had a successful end of year, culminating in a graduation ceremony for our 8th grade graduates and a moving-forward ceremony for our 5th graders, both held under a large tent on our front field.
  - Beginning after our spring break, all of our students were invited back to campus for full-time in person school. A large majority of our students did elect to come to campus. For those who chose not to, a robust online learning program was offered.
  - We have just completed the first of 2 three-week summer camp sessions. As compared with previous summers, we capped our enrollment at about 80% of capacity. We are also operating with a slightly lower camper to counselor ratio.
  - Yesterday we began summer session number two, and we will host a one-week minicamp session beginning on August 2.
  - We continue to require COVID-19 testing. Per the recommendation of DC Health, we no longer require testing for fully vaccinated faculty, staff, or students.
  - Since our testing program began in January we have conducted approximately 9000 COVID-19 tests, three of which came back positive.
  - A large part of our focus has turned to return to campus in September. As part of this process we recently provided for the Office of the State Secretary for Education a written plan for our reentry. The policies and procedures outlined in the plan are based primarily upon requirements and recommendations provided by OSSE and DC Health, and upon our own experiences on campus last year.
    - Masks and a daily health screening will be required for everyone who comes to campus.
    - Grades will be cohorted, (1st grade, comprised of two classrooms, will be considered a single cohort). Cohorts will not be mixing.
    - Weekly testing will be required.
    - We will maximize outdoor time, including the use of outdoor classrooms.
    - Carpool drop-off and pick-up times will continue to be staggered.
    - Aftercare will return and will also be cohorted by grade.
  - Lowell did receive permission from the zoning administrator to erect two tents on the Fraser field site for temporary use as part of our program. We have done our best to use the site sparingly. As a precaution we do intend to ask the zoning administrator to extend permission to use Fraser field.

Traffic/Neighborhood Agreement

- Needed modifications to our carpool procedures, specifically staggered arrivals and dismissals, and our inability to have carpool staff enter vehicles to assist students, have significantly affected our carpool line efficiency. An increase in staffing has not fully offset the additional time it takes each student to embark and disembark, resulting in un-neighborly impacts on surrounding streets. We work hard to inform our community about the rules and procedures for the carpool line, having communicated numerous times by e-mail, made efforts to communicate directly with drivers in the carpool line, handing out fliers containing carpool line rules, and increasing enforcement of our time-slot arrival system. We will continue to work hard to eliminate all of the negative impacts of our morning and afternoon commuting rituals and to having legally authorized traffic control officers and Lowell personnel at driveway intersections.

Old Business

- Lowell's facilities team is working to design and fabricate removable rims for our outdoor basketball court. Version 1.0 has been designed and tested, but it needs improvement. Version 2.0 is being worked on and we hope to introduce it shortly.

New Business

- No new business was introduced.

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Upcoming dates of interest

Camp Session 2 begins	July 12
Mini-Camp	August 2-6
Offices closed	August 11-20
Faculty return to campus	August 30
Students return to campus/orientation	September 8
First day of school	September 9
Back to school night	September 23
Back to school night	September 30
Fall bazaar	October 9
Thanksgiving break	November 24-29
Winter break	December 18-January 2

Upcoming meeting dates

- October 12, 2021
- January 11, 2022
- April 12, 2022
- July 12, 2022