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

In Attendance

- Cynthiana Lightfoot
- Sharon Giles
- Jess Rosenbaum (Lowell)
- Columbus Giles
- Oliver Sockwell
- Chris Ginter (Lowell)

Lowell Update

- **Regarding Lowell's on-campus programs:**
  - On April 5, Lowell welcomed all students to campus to attend classes 5 days per week.
  - A large majority of students are choosing to return to campus, but we continue to offer distanced learning for those who opt for it.
  - We have re-assessed our indoor spaces to allow for class cohort requirements.
  - Outdoor spaces have been re-considered, with addition of designated learning spaces and the creation of numerous lunch/social areas.
  - Lowell has made a special request of the zoning administrator to allow temporary use of Fraser Field, specifically:
    - erect 2 – 20' x 20' tents each accommodating up to 20 people, maximum occupancy of 40.
    - during school hours, between 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM through the 2021-2022 school year, ending in mid-June 2022.

    Lowell shares neighbor concerns that tents on the Fraser site will attract users on evenings and weekends. Use of our outdoor space has changed and increased over the last year, the noise from basketball players being of particular annoyance. Lowell's administration has been monitoring and will continue to monitor the situation and seek solutions that allow neighbors to enjoy our campus without causing undue inconvenience.
  - Safety measures no longer allow for employees to physically assist with students or their belongings in the carpool line, so parents must manage those processes. Hence, we have completely re-imagined our morning and afternoon carpool protocols. The carpool line has been expanded from 30 to 90 minutes while individual arrival and departure windows have been reduced to 15 minutes per student. Drop-off and pick-up locations have been changed.
  - Parents and visitors are not yet being allowed into our buildings though we are working on protocols which may allow us to have prospective employees, guest teachers and/or student applicants on campus in the near future.
  - Athletics teams have been re-formed for cross country, soccer, baseball, and girls lacrosse. Practices have been modified to accommodate needed safety measures, and are focused on skills and conditioning. No games/meets are planned.
  - No aftercare is being offered.
  - Our swimming pool remains closed.

- Plans for graduation ceremonies are underway. No decisions have been made about how or where ceremonies will be held. DCHealth has recently released guidance for graduation ceremonies which will guide our thinking.

Traffic/Neighborhood Agreement

- A letter reminding the Lowell community of the stipulations in the Neighborhood Cooperation Agreement was sent prior to return from winter break on January 21. An update was sent prior to return from spring break on April 5.
- Lowell's afternoon carpool line has not reached peak efficiency. Lowell continues to work hard to educate parents and employees about methods that will help us to do so.
- There have been no further updates relating to the DC Safe Routes to Schools Spot Safety analysis.
- Questions were raised about the work being done at Lowell's exit during the morning carpool. Lowell hires one MPD officer to control traffic at the exit every morning and will do everything possible to ensure that an officer is present each day. Lowell also positions two employees at the exit to enforce the regulations contained in the Neighborhood Cooperation Agreement.

New Business

- No new business was introduced.

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Upcoming dates of interest

Last day of classes	June 10
Graduation	June 11
Camp Session 1 begins	June 21
Camp Session 2 begins	July 12
Mini-Camp	August 2-6
Faculty return to campus	August 30
Students return to campus/orientation	September 8
First day of school	September 9

Upcoming meeting dates

- July 13, 2021
- October 12, 2021
- January 11, 2022
- April 12, 2022