Notes from the Lowell Community Relations Council Meeting
Prepared by Lowell School
October 6, 2020, 6:30 pm
By Zoom call

In Attendance

- Cynthiana Lightfoot
- Sharon Giles
- Edmund Atkins
- Amy Mauser (Lowell)
- Laurice Redhead
- Jess Rosenbaum (Lowell)
- Columbus Giles
- Erick Mullen (Lowell)
- Chris Ginter (Lowell)

Lowell Update

- Lowell currently has our Pre-Primary division on campus and will be welcoming 3 additional grades back to campus beginning next week. Students are being given the option to remain in a virtual learning environment after their grade returns to campus. We hope to bring more grade levels to campus soon and have committed to re-analyzing our situation every 4-6 weeks. In preparation, we have been re-imagining classroom cohorts, classroom sizes, safety measures and protocols, learning styles, cleaning and sanitization regimens, and carpool procedures. We are extremely confident that we have, using a group of Task Forces set up for this purpose, created a solid and thorough plan for returning to campus. We are taking guidance during this process from DCHealth, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the office of the State Superintendent of Schools, orders from mayor Bowser, and a handful of independent school organizations and consultants.

- Lowell has experienced two events which caused disturbance to the community and for which we offer apologies.
    - The fire department reported to campus in early September to find smoke in our facilities area. Being unclear about the source of the smoke and knowing that it originated nearby our swimming pool mechanicals, the first responders called the HAZMAT team in to investigate. They found a pipe which had sprung a small leak. The leak dripped onto the motor of a piece of operating mechanical equipment, causing the smoke.
    - Our burglar alarm was activated two nights in a row, causing a considerable loss of sleep by some neighbors, especially those closest to our back playground. Unfortunately, this occurred at a time when the alarm system was not properly engaging with the monitoring company which notifies MPD and our team of an alarm being activated. The engagement problem has been fixed and the outside horns/speakers have been permanently deactivated.

Traffic/Neighborhood Agreement

- DC Safe Routes to Schools has shared their Spot Safety analysis with us. It includes recommendations for, among other things, pavement markings (which have already been installed on Kalmia Road and on 17th Street) crosswalk markings, sidewalk repairs, new

sidewalks, curb extensions, and bike climbing lanes. In their analysis, Lowell and Shepherd Park Elementary were considered together since we are such close neighbors. An area ¼ mile around both schools was considered in the analysis.
- Request was made to circulate the analysis to those in attendance. Lowell agreed to circulate it promptly.

New Business
- No new business was introduced.

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Upcoming dates of interest

Thanksgiving break	November 25-29
Winter break	December 18 - January 3
Grandguest day	March 19
Spring Break	March 19 – March 28

Upcoming meeting dates
- January 12, 2021
- April 6, 2021
- July 6, 2021
- October 5, 2021