Notes from the Lowell Community Relations Council Meeting
Prepared by Lowell School
July 12, 2022, 6:30 pm
By Zoom call

In Attendance

- Wendell Hughes
- Sharon Giles
- Columbus Giles
- Cynthiana Lightfoot
- Chris Ginter (Lowell)

Lowell Update

- **Regarding Lowell's on-campus programs:**
  - Lowell's spring was marked by the graduation of 32 8th grade students who will continue on to independent, public, and parochial schools throughout the area.
    - We continued to test everyone on campus weekly.
    - Everyone coming to campus participated in a daily online health screening.
    - Masks were required indoors for most of the spring.
    - Some classes and many lunches have been outdoors.
    - Carpool line pickup and drop-off times remain staggered.
    - Many of our non-program aquatics offerings returned to the pool. There is no current plan to re-start the Lionfish, our USA Swimming team.
    - Two track and field teams, one baseball team, and one lacrosse team completed full seasons. Girl's lacrosse won it's first-ever game and finished with a winning record. Track and field consisted of 2 teams, one for kids as young as Kindergarten. More than half of our K-8 students participated in spring athletics.
    - We held celebration for graduating 8th graders, 5th graders who were moving-up to middle school, and for employees who have retired during the past 3 years.
    - We held our first Spring Bazaar, in lieu of the regular fall bazaar.
    - STEMFest returned
  - Summer camp is back to feeling quite normal
    - Enrollment is close to our capacity of 400
    - A much larger percentage of new campers and new employees than usual are on campus
    - Camp programming has seen small adjustments due to circumstances, but all of the usual camp joy is present
    - Summer campers and employees are testing weekly

Traffic/Neighborhood Agreement

- Day one of camp brought morning and afternoon carpool gridlock to 17th and Kalmia. By day 3 the lines were quite normal.
- We have been working hard to find police officers to direct traffic, with no positive result.
- A neighbor shared compliments for MPD Sergeant Mark Lee for the work he does directing traffic during carpool times

- Responding to a request, Lowell will work with the carpool team at the exit to address families who park and walk onto campus during carpool times.
- Responding to a request, Lowell will remind families of our commitment to not drive through alleys and our commitment to safe and prudent driving throughout the neighborhood.

Old Business

- Lowell has acquired a tool which will enable us to prevent basketballs from descending through basketball hoops in hopes that its temporary use in the evenings will deter late-night play.

New Business

- A generous donation to Lowell has inspired some improvements to the creek that runs through campus and its surrounding areas. A permit application has been submitted to DCRA and our team is working with HPRB and CFA on project approval.
    - The West end (downhill side) of the creek, nearest 17th Street, is the focus
    - Creation of outdoor nature areas for native habitats such as amphibians, learning environments, and fun is the focus
    - Project will honor the member of Cathy Creech, neighbor, parent, board member, and friend.
- Lowell has been working with SPES parents to obtain a crossing guard at 16th and Kalmia. The appropriate form has been sent by Lowell to DDOT
- Responding to a question about garbage levels and garbage cans, Lowell has not observed an increased level of garbage on or about campus

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Upcoming dates of interest

Summer Camp session 2 begins	July 11
Mini Camp begins	August 1
Staff and new employees return to campus	August 22-24
Gearing-up begins	August 29
Welcome back open house	September 6
First day of school	September 7
All school picnic	September 9
Fall Bazaar	October 29

Upcoming meeting dates

- October 11, 2022
- January 10, 2023
- April 11, 2023
- July 11, 2023