Notes from the Lowell Community Relations Council Meeting
Prepared by Lowell School
October 10, 2023, 6:30 pm
By Zoom call

In Attendance

- Joan Buhrman (Lowell)
- Chris Ginter (Lowell)
- Sharon Giles
- Columbus Giles
- Paula Edwards
- Cynthiana Lightfoot
- Laurice Redhead

Old Business

- Kalmia Creek project has been completed. Lowell hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 1, attended by many family members, friends, and colleagues of Cathy Creech, in whose memory the project was conceived and executed.
- No advancements have been pursued on the Fraser site.

Lowell Update

- **Regarding Lowell's on-campus programs:**
  - The last of three successful summer camp sessions wrapped up in early August.
  - 10 new faculty members participated in a New to Lowell orientation during the week of August 21. All employees reported to campus for Gearing Up during the week of August 28.
  - Students appeared on campus for the first time on September 5 for a 2-hour open house. Lowell's first day of school for Primary School and Middle School was September 6. Pre-Primary students began on September 7 and 8, half of the group each day. Lowell has 330 students enrolled.
  - After school activities began on the first day of school and offerings opened on a rolling basis over the first few weeks, including aquatics, music, and mini-courses.
  - Fall athletics teams in soccer and cross country began their seasons the week of September 11. Teams practice 2-3 times per week, depending upon age, and have been competing against area schools.
  - Parents attended back-to-school nights during the weeks of September 18 and 25.
  - Admissions tours for the 2024-2025 school year have begun.
  - Lowell will be undergoing its accreditation by the Association of Independent Schools of Maryland and DC (AIMS) this year, work which is ongoing on campus and will be throughout this school year and well into next year.
  - For safety reasons, specifically emergency vehicles being able to access our buildings, Lowell has taken the decision to close our driveway to parking.

Traffic/Neighborhood Agreement

- After getting through the difficult first 1-2 weeks of school, morning and afternoon carpools have been running smoothly.
- Lowell struggles to locate legally authorized traffic control officers per the terms of the Neighborhood Cooperation Agreement. Many efforts have been made to fins off-duty MPD officers who are willing and interested. It was recommended that the MPD 4D Commander and the Department of Public Works might be good resources and Lowell committed to reaching out to both. Lowell will also pursue traffic safety courses similar to those provided for the teams which work with road construction contractors.

No **New Business** was introduced.

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Upcoming dates of interest

Book Fair	November 4-5
Winter athletics begins	November 8
Fall Bazaar	November 11
Thanksgiving break	November 22-26
Winter break	December 16-January 1
STEAMFest	March 16
Grandguest Day	March 22
Spring Break	March 23-31

Upcoming meeting dates

- January 9, 2024
- April 9, 2024
- July 9, 2024
- October 8, 2024