Notes from the Lowell Community Relations Council Meeting
Prepared by Lowell School
April 9, 6:30 pm
By Zoom call

In Attendance

- Chris Ginter (Lowell)
- Sharon Giles
- Columbus Giles
- Ed Atkins
- Cynthiana Lightfoot
- Paula Edwards (ANC4A01)

Old Business

- No advancements have been pursued on the Fraser site.

Lowell Update

- **Regarding Lowell's on-campus programs:**
  - Kitchen/Lounge project has opened for use by employees. A few punch-list items remain to be completed.
  - Permit for solar panels have been obtained. We hope to begin installation within the next few weeks.
  - Work continues towards our re-accreditation, an ongoing process that increases in intensity during the renewal phase which we have substantially completed.
  - Middle School students have engaged in service-learning projects with Level Playing Field, A Wider Circle, and Adventist Community Services.
  - Primary School students have been to Politics and Prose to study the writing process and People's Books to study identity through poetry.
  - 8th grade students recently built cardboard boats and captained them in a regatta in our pool. Only two of them sank!
  - Fall athletics seasons were highly successful. Soccer and cross-country teams compete admirably region wide. Our cross-country team continues to punch well above its weight.
  - Winter athletics season began in late November. In addition to 4 MS basketball teams and 3 PS teams, we are working to assemble a MS swim team and possibly a MS swim league.
  - Basketball seasons wrapped up in early February. Our girls' team again finished at the top of our Middle School league and this year had one player invited to participate in the DC MS all-star game
  - Spring sports are underway, with practices having begun for track and field teams for students aged kindergarten through eighth grade.
  - Leveraging our very unique swimming pool, we created a Middle School swim team and invited a small group of local schools to join us for a few swim meets.
  - In early February, we hosted our second annual Community Shabbat. This potluck dinner is open to people of all faiths and attracted over 100 community members.
  - Admissions/Enrollment season ended in mid-March and was successful for both incoming students and graduating students.
  - STEAMFest, one of our most in demand events, was wildly successful again this year. It's scheduling, allows us to invite newly admitted families to attend, which always brings extra joy to the event.
  - Our annual Fundraising Fete occurred in early March, a Sneaker Ball. This annual event raises money to support the financial aid that is provided to 33% of our students.
  - Solar panels are in the process of being delivered to our roofs and being staged for final installation. Electrical and other preparation work is underway.
  - Grandguest days were held in two parts on March 18th and 19th.

- Our afterschool program has added cheerleading as an option for students in 1st through 8th grades. Recently, we hosted a community cheer exhibition for MS cheer teams.
- We held our annual Social Justice Day last week. Highlights included a speaker, Thu Ahn Nguyen who is a Vietnamese, American activist, poet, artist, and educator; a panel discussion moderated by MS students and including parents and guests whose careers have been spent in the social justice Arena; and a march for justice through the neighborhood which included handmade signs and support from neighbors and passers-by.

Traffic/Neighborhood Agreement

- For Grandguest Day and for other large on-campus events occurring during the school day, Lowell has recently partnered with Temple Shalom to use their parking lot as a satellite parking location.
- ANC Commissioner Paula Edwards will visit Lowell to observe traffic as part of her effort to assist in making the 17th and Kalmia intersection safer and more efficient.
- Lowell reiterated its opinion that the best and quickest way to eliminate traffic problems that inevitably occur at the opening of the school year and the opening of summer camp is to create on-campus efficiency. Our method of communicating directly with parents and working to quickly get students out of cars has been proven to work well and to mitigate our impact within a few days at most. Lowell intends to continue with this method.

New Business

- Responding to a question, Lowell stated that it is aware that its front field is used by guests over the weekend for play, picnics, dog walking, and other purposes. Lowell has said since its arrival on Kalmia that it would allow neighbors to use this space when the school is not using it for our program.

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Upcoming dates of interest

Summer Camp Meet-the-Team and tour	April 19
Lowellapalooza	May 17 (rain date May 24)
5th grade moving forward ceremony	June 3
End of year picnic	June 4
Last day of school	June 5
Graduation	June 6
Summer Camp open house	June 14
Camp sessions begin	June 16 and 30, July 14 and 28
New employees and staff on campus	August 18
All employees on campus	August 25
First day of school	September 2
Back-to-school picnic	September 5 (no rain date)
Fall Bazaar	September 27 (rain date October 4)

Upcoming meeting dates

- July 8, 2025
- October 14, 2025
- January 13, 2026
- April 14, 2026