**Notes from the Lowell Community Relations Council Meeting**
**Prepared by Lowell School**
**March 10, 2026, 6:30 pm**
**By Zoom call and captured by the AI Companion**

**In Attendance**

- Chris Ginter (Lowell)
- Donna Lindner (Lowell)
- Joan Buhrman (Lowell)
- Donald Morrison (Lowell)
- Mike Bolotin
- Sharon Giles
- Columbus Giles
- Cynthiana Lightfoot
- Molly Rauch
- Karin Bencala
- Paula Edwards (ANC4)
- Tanay Tatum-Edwards

**Lowell Update**

- Lowell intends to erect a fence that will fully enclose its perimeter and called this meeting to be upfront and unambiguous about its process and to answer as many questions as possible at this point in the timeline, recognizing they are still on the early side of the process.
    - Rationale - SAFETY
        - Care for students and the broader Lowell community has been a priority for some time; as a progressive school for which social justice is a core value, they have, over the years, found ourselves at risk, even in danger on occasion.
        - 2019 and 2022 - safety and security audits of campus. Both cited a fence as a high priority, especially at a time when ICE is making rules on the spot about what is considered public property and accessible to them.
        - Have used the Swiss cheese approach to safety and security: no single prevention measure is perfect in and of itself, because each has "holes" (much like a slice of Swiss cheese). But when layered together, the holes become much smaller, or even covered almost entirely, significantly strengthening protection.
            - Hired Director of Security and campus safety officers
            - Added cameras inside buildings and outside
            - Increased training of staff and students
    - This school year, Lowell applied for, and received, a grant to enable the continued attention to the care of the community - one part of the proposal included monies to install a fence. The proposal was accepted, and the first phase of the installation has begun.
    - Lowell shared four slides, copies of which are attached to these Notes.
        - An image showing the approximate location of the fence along Kalmia Road, where it will be installed at the bottom of the hill.
        - An image showing the style of fence they will install. The fence will be 72" tall. The fence design is intended to limit potential harm to all types of creatures.
        - A survey of Lowell's campus showing where the campus already has a perimeter fence (in green) and the approximate locations of the new fence (red).
        - Timeline:
            - Lowell conducted design consultations in January and identified property lines in February.
            - Permitting applications will be submitted in March or April.
            - Construction is expected to occur during the summer months.
    - During the slide presentation, some additional facts were shared:

        - Along 17th Street, the fence will pass behind the tennis backboard, cross the driveway, and intersect with the Parkside building.
        - There will be no fence in front of Parkside (the building will serve as the barrier to entry).
        - The Parkside parking lot will not be within the fence. The fence line will be between the parking lot and the Main Building.
        - At this time, Lowell does not intend to close campus during the evening or weekend times when neighbors enjoy using the field and outdoor equipment.
        - Lowell will circulate these Notes to the neighbors within 200 feet and to the CRC email group.
        - Lowell will post these Notes to the Shepherd Park listserv.
        - The permitting process will include input from the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Commission of Fine Arts.
        - Lowell accepted Paula Edwards' (ANC4A) offer to host an ANC SMD meeting at which Lowell can share its plans and will follow up with her to make arrangements.
    - Lowell reiterated that its goal is to be straightforward in this process, including sharing as much as it can about what it is doing and why.

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**The following information was not shared at the meeting, but is being included here for informational purposes:**

**Upcoming school dates of interest**:

- Spring break — March 23-27
- Community Cheer exhibition — April 4
- Social Justice Day — April 22
- Lowellapalooza — May 16
- 5th Grade Moving Forward Ceremony — June 5
- Last day of school — June 9
- 8th Grade graduation — June 10
- Summer Camp begins — June 15
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**Upcoming Community Relations Council meeting dates**:

- April 14, 2026
- July 14, 2026
- October 13, 2026
- January 12, 2027