Notes from the Lowell Community Relations Council Meeting
Prepared by Lowell School
July 23, 2024, 6:30 pm
By Zoom call

In Attendance

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

Old Business

- No advancements have been pursued on the Fraser site.

Lowell Update

- **Regarding Lowell's on-campus programs:**
  - Capstone trips for 5th through 8th grades continue to be a great success.
    - 6th grade visited the Eastern Shore to study the Chesapeake Bay and its people, culture, and history.
    - 7th grade went to the American South to further their social justice work and study the civil rights movement in Atlanta, Selma, and Montgomery, among other destinations.
    - 8th grade traveled to Costa Rica to deepen their study of cultures and Spanish.
  - Lowell's athletes completed a very successful spring athletics season, with over 150 students from K-8th participating in track and field. As a team, Lowell punches well above its weight in meets with other schools. Individually, our athletes achieved numerous results that ranked among the top 10 in the city. We also offered lacrosse for our girls, which was operated as a training program only.
  - Lowell graduated 30 8th grade students in June. They will be spreading out to high schools throughout the DC area, mostly independent schools and some public schools. Every student was accepted at one of their top three choices.
  - Lowell moved 33 5th grade students up to middle school in June, most of whom will attend Lowell for middle school.
  - Ceremonies for both groups of students included short speeches by each honored student as well as performances by student musicians.
  - Lowell's administrative team had two members depart recently. Maureen Miesmer has moved from Admissions to assume the role of Assistant Head of School and has been replaced by Tanya Espy-Disparti. Chase Mangioni has taken over leadership of our auxiliary programs.
  - Lowell has recently hired a new Director of Safety and Security, (Sterling Breeden)and a new Director of Facilities (Donald Morrison).
  - Camp session 1 wrapped up last Friday. It went very smoothly, with nearly 400 campers in attendance.
  - Camp session 2 began yesterday. About 400 campers will be with us for the next three weeks partaking of options that include horseback riding, swimming, bicycling, arts and crafts, theater, music, free play, and various athletic pursuits. Our summer program continues to offer academic enrichment among its offerings, options which are well received by parents.
  - Admissions count for the 24-25 school year currently stands at 312 students.
  - Lowell is undertaking some projects:

- the former commercial kitchen in the main building currently serves many purposes, all separated from each other by walls and doors. We have removed all of the walls and doors and are rebuilding the spaces to serve the same purposes, but in a new, open space.
- Solar panels will be installed on all three of our buildings.
- Three large trees behind the main building will be removed on August 7 and 8.

Traffic/Neighborhood Agreement

- Lowell has had an increasingly difficult time hiring legally authorized traffic control officers and has sought traffic control training for its safety and facilities teams. In an effort to provide safer traffic control, neighbors agreed to interpret the language in the cooperation agreement to allow Lowell's trained staff to assist with traffic control despite their lack of legal authority.

New Business

- No new business was introduced

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Upcoming dates of interest

Summer camp session 2 ends	July 26
Summer mini-camp session begins	July 29
Employees begin return to campus	August 19
First day of 24-25 school year	September 3
Back-to-school picnic	September 6
Fall athletics begins	September 9
Back-to-school nights	September 19, 24, & 26
Fall Bazaar	October 19
Book Fair	November 9-10
Fall/Thanksgiving break	November 25-29
Winter break	12/23 through 1/6

Upcoming meeting dates

- October 8, 2024
- January 14, 2025
- April 8, 2025
- July 8, 2025