

LOWELL PUBLIC
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Virtual Listening Session with Students

TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: April 2, 2021

The following report is in response to the motion by Jackie Doherty:

Request the Superintendent work with school leadership and student advisory teams at LHS to organize a virtual listening session with students and the school committee to discuss remote learning concerns, options and plans going forward.

Attached please find a report from Lowell High School (LHS) Head of Schools, Michael Fiato, outlining current student listening sessions occurring at LHS.



Michael Fiato
Head of School

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Student Advisory Council Listening Session Summary

In the first semester of the 2020-21 school year, in an effort to elevate student voice and build and establish foundational relationships between the Student Activities Director, Mr. Thornton, and the Head of School Mr. Fiato, LHS formed the Student Advisory Council. We felt it was incredibly important to build connections with students with the new Head of School, and connect students to the Student Activities Director, especially during remote learning.

The Student Advisory Council consists of 95 students in grades 9-12 who meet by grade level each week. On the following dates, 2/12, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12, Mr. Fiato and Mr. Thornton met with the Student Advisory Council to:

- Learn more about what was working well in their remote classes,
- Learn more about what hasn't been working well, and
- Learn about some possible solutions to improve their overall experience.

What is working?

- Consistent administration of WIN (*What I Need Days*). Students found WIN Days helpful because it reduces the amount of screen time and allows them time to get caught up on their work. Allows students and staff to take a mental health break with a reduction in screen time.
- Teachers are making weekly check-ins with students.
- Distribution of information going out to the students seems to be helping and improving. The addition of the "Week Ahead" video aids in communication, especially in the remote environment.
- Both students and teachers seem to be getting into regular routines and it has made remote learning more manageable and flexible during the course of the year.