



Facilities Update: ***Annual Walkthrough Report***

School Committee Meeting
November 3, 2025

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Agenda

- ❖ Welcome! Facilities, Safety, & Transportation Coordinator
- ❖ Highlights and Areas for Progress
- ❖ Annual Walkthrough Summary
- ❖ Rodent Mitigation Strategies
- ❖ Thank you



Facilities, Safety, & Transportation Coordination

Advance district-wide facilities, safety, and transportation goals aligned with the SPS Strategic Plan.

- Build and enhance systems (e.g. Facilities Cheat Sheet, district-wide guidance, etc)
- Conduct annual walkthroughs, weekly building assessments
- Respond to urgent, emergent and crisis situations in coordination with district and city staff
- Attend regular w/ City Departments (311, Safe Routes to School, SEMG)
- Staff public meetings (MSBA, CAG, School Building Facilities and Maintenance)
- Fire drills, lockdown drills, crossing guards
- Develop transportation procedures

The background of the slide is a photograph of a large, multi-story school building. The building has a mix of brick and large glass windows. A prominent feature is a large, arched glass structure on the upper left side. The entrance area is visible at the bottom, with a sign above the doors that reads "WILLIAM D. HAYES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL". The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent green filter.

Annual Walkthroughs

See Walkthrough Memo [here](#)

Annual Walkthrough: IAM Results

Capital Projects Needed Within 0-3 Years

- **Roofs:** WSNS, Healey, JFK
- **Chiller:** WSNS & Healey
- **BMS** (Building Management System): WSNS, Healey
- **Unit ventilator replacement** in classrooms (Air quality): WSNS & Healey
- **Healey classroom conversion** of room 208 and acoustic treatments in cafetorium

External Bricks/Tiles

- **ESCS:** cement tiles easily crack, come loose and are a safety risk
- **SHS:** one terracotta tile on the Medford St. side of the building fell off the building on 9/23/25 and one terracotta tile at the front of the building was loose

Electrical transformer for Winter Hill @ Edgerly

Annual Walkthrough: DPW Results

DPW works around the clock in our facilities, identifying and resolving needs across plumbing, electrical, security, custodial, maintenance and more. Below is a short list of items raised during the walkthroughs.

Various water fountains across the district need filters replaced

- DPW collaborating with CTE Let's Get Workin program, beginning at SHS
- Hope to expand the program district-wide

Lack of hot water in certain areas at Capuano

Customized ventilated gate for the boiler room is needed at Brown

Air compressor at Brown was very loud and disruptive due to a leak.

- DPW has addressed and fixed this issue.

Carpet removal needed in the in nurses' office at WHCIS (vinyl floor replacement)

Annual Walkthrough: ISD Results

- **Replace or install door sweeps** throughout schools to reduce access points
- **Add pea stone** to exterior locations of buildings as needed to mitigate rodents from entering buildings
- **Food storage:** all food should be stored in sealed containers
- **Enter 311 request** when rodent/pest activity is reported (data tracking and support)

Annual Walkthrough: Outdoor Play Spaces

- **Rubber safety surface** some schools need extensive repair particularly at ESCS
- Removal of **inclusive orbit equipment** at AFAS for safety
- **Playground equipment** overall require inspection and some repair across schools
- **Sealing and graphics** at WSNS playground
- **Kennedy School basketball court** will be updated and a new playground will be constructed.

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent overhang and a glass-enclosed staircase. The building features a mix of brown and grey panels and large glass windows. In the foreground, there is a paved plaza with people walking, a small tree, and a sculpture. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Highlights and Areas for Progress

Strengths

Volume of completed projects

- AFA Production kitchen
- WHCIS accessibility ramp
- AFA classroom addition
- School readiness, and more

Enhanced City-SPS Partnership

- Parks & Rec (Ginny Smithers Pool)
- SPS Continuity of Operations Plan / Office of Emergency Management
- DPW's timely response
e.g. protecting curriculum materials at TAB, MSBA coordination

Strengths

Systems and Procedures

- Annual walkthroughs
- Monthly walkthroughs
- Regular meetings with internal/external stakeholders,
- Enhanced guidance, *e.g. facilities cheatsheet*

MSBA - WHCIS Building Project

- On target with the MSBA timeline

New facilities, safety & transportation coordinator role

Opportunities for Growth

Enhance systems for tracking and transparency

- Real time and transparent access to 311 Dashboard

Establish cadence for preventative maintenance

- For Roofs, BMS, Chillers, Boilers, gyms and playgrounds and more

Strengthen rodent mitigation efforts

Increase access to additional and appropriate space

- TAB building: Rising SCALE enrollment and family-facing departments such as enrollment and SFLC

Rodent Mitigation in our Schools

Rodent activity is an ongoing challenge in Somerville and other densely populated cities like ours. There are many external and internal factors that contribute to incidences of rodents in our schools. In collaboration with the City, measures have been put in place to address this challenge, and still more needs to be done.

Investments

- Bigbelly Trash Receptacles
- A24 rodent traps
- Doors repaired to limit points of entry
- Sealed storage containers

Shifts in Practice

- ISD now joins all annual school facility walkthroughs, provides feedback
- ISD conducted comprehensive inspections at Capuano & ESCS, identified critical recommendations
- Data collection and entries by school building admins via 311

Next Steps

- Leverage pest control activity logs for shared accountability
- Implement ISD Recs from walkthrough

Thank you

SPS would like to give a very big thank you to Mayor Ballantyne, our City partners and their teams.

- ❖ Alicia Privett
- ❖ Colin Zeigler
- ❖ Jill Lathan
- ❖ Kevin Hatcher
- ❖ Khin That Mar
- ❖ Matthew Bennett
- ❖ Michael Bowler
- ❖ Ralph Henry
- ❖ Rich Raiche

