

October 20, 2025

Dear School Committee Members,

Re: Annual School Facility Walkthroughs

In September, representatives from the Superintendent's Office and various City departments—including Public Works, Inspectional Services, and Capital Projects—conducted walkthroughs at all 11 schools in the district. Additionally, the Superintendent's Office conducted a walkthrough of the Tufts Administration Building, which houses the Central Office and SCALE.

The purpose of these walkthroughs was to observe and assess current facility needs, identify potential solutions, and prioritize maintenance and repair efforts.

This process required significant time, coordination, and effort. However, it proved effective in supporting our goal of maintaining optimal building conditions and proactively addressing concerns. Somerville Public Schools is deeply grateful to our City partners for their commitment to this collaborative assessment.

Attached is a summary of notes from each school walkthrough. Please note that this summary is not an exhaustive list of the work being conducted by DPW, ISD, Capital Projects, or the City of Somerville to ensure safe and inclusive school environments. Rather, it reflects items specifically observed and discussed during the walkthroughs. Certain items related to safety protocols have been excluded from this report.

We thank you for your continued partnership, dedication, and support.

Sincerely,

Danielle Barry

Facilities, Safety and Transportation Coordinator
Somerville Public Schools

Amara Anosike, JD

Chief of Staff and Strategy
Somerville Public Schools

CC. Dr. Ruben Carmona, Superintendent, SPS
Commissioner Jill Lathan, DPW
Director Rich Raiche, IAM

Fall SY25-SY26 School Facility Walkthroughs

AFA 9/16/25

- Playground area¹
 - **Request for removal of “inclusive orbit” piece of equipment.²**
 - Broken Benches near front door heading toward playground
 - Recenter stage at outdoor classroom area
- Gym bleachers damaged do not open and close
- Gym floor needs repair: broken wood planks, gaps in wood flooring, sand and refinish
- PA system needs update
- Door sweeps be installed or replaced throughout the building of exterior doors
- 2nd floor girls’ bathroom door does not close properly near M-201
- Room 201 is cold all year long even with heat on
- Rug pads for door mats are needed they no longer stay in place
- ~~Room 310 new classroom strip and wax floor not just wax~~
- Room 307 add recess lighting and change to LEDs
- 2nd floor leaks into kitchen & gym

Brown 9/11/25

- Gate for boiler room needs to be replaced so that students cannot access - in progress
- Duct outside of the kitchen is open and needs cleaning
- Water fountains throughout the building need filter changes, and some have low pressure - filters were replaced, still low water pressure
- Remove old water fountain in basement by restroom
- Shade replacement throughout the school, particularly on the second floor
- ~~Air compressor noise is loud and disruptive. It goes off every 5 minutes for 4 minutes (noise caused by leak)~~
- Leaks: RM 205 leaks; Library - stair 1 exit by window
- Significant cracks in the foundation of the building were observed
- **Radiator by RM 206 needs a box. It is a hazard because it gets so hot.**

¹ Certain items were excluded from this document due to security considerations.

² Items in bold represent immediate safety concerns.

Cap 9/8/25

- PA system repairs and updates needed
- Hot water is spotty in certain wings of the building. Repair in progress.
- **Blind Cords need to be shortened for safety. In progress.**
- Damaged vent exterior of room 121 facing soccer field
- Stagnant/pooling water at the exterior of building outside rooms 121-145 facing soccer field
- ~~Room 133 needs a new window screen~~
- Room 138 is either extremely hot or extremely cold
- ~~Ceiling tile in room 138 needs to be replaced~~
- Room 141 needs corner protectors for wall
- Principal's office windows need repair to be closed from the exterior
- Rodent activity in staff lounge room 212
- ~~3 stairwells need additional black strips due to student impairments and navigating the cream-colored stairs safely. The black strips help with depth perception and navigation~~
- **Playground equipment - chain link ladder is rusted, broken in certain spots and is unsafe and should be replaced. See images attached.**
- Playground equipment stairs need updated yellow safety strips to help students with impairments to navigate the equipment.
- Playground area the ground by the entry point gate from the front of the school has water damage from flooding and is protruding up
- Gym emergency exit door: water gets into gym through the door
- Door sweeps should be installed or replaced throughout the building of exterior doors

East 9/8/25

- **Falling Bricks along the exterior of the building.**
- Exterior near door 2 dents in metal on columns at the front/main entrance of the school building
- Soccer fence needs repair - there is a bar that has been detached on the chain-link fence of the soccer field nearest the building across from the water fountain
- Cement on concourse in various locations needs repair tripping hazard
- New door sweeps on exterior gym doors
- New door sweeps on exterior doors at door #3 & door #4
- Install card swipe on door #4, 8 & 5
- **Playground on Pearl Street needs rubber ground replaced, cement needs repair tripping hazard rebar exposed**
- Needs new exterior water fountain by soccer field
- Area below exterior needs to be excavated and pea stone laid down for rodent mitigation
- Outdoor lighting by front entrance on the ground need light covers
- Gym curtain at East needs repair, it is stuck and likely needs a new motor
- Fire Extinguishers in gym needed cages over them
- Room 163 split into 2 classrooms
- Cafeteria presentation systems that includes: projector, screen, audio system
- Auditorium floor repairs
- Auditorium screen projector locking mechanism

Healey 9/11/25

- Door 14 replacement or removal of center mullion to allow for deliveries
- PA System repairs and updates needed
- Fire alarm in Art RM211 doesn't work
- Extra desks on stage need to be moved to storage. In progress.
- Door 2 there is flooding and collecting water
- Water leaks: 107, 108, 109
- Room 208 renovation to support small group learning
- Cafetorium sound proofing (request of SC)
- Need to replace 3rd and 4th floor water fountains
- Roof needs replacement within 0-3 yr timeframe

Kennedy 9/11/25

- Tot lot doors - need 3 card readers installed
- Door 19 needs card reader installed
- Door 20 needs card reader installed
- Pool entrance exterior, water pools at the bottom of the steps
- Doors 2-5 need sweeps
- Roof needs replacement within 0-3 yr timeframe
- Bleachers need replacement. In progress.
- Light fixtures need repair in gym
- Blinds need replacement in gym
- Need to replace water fountains in the gym with new bottled ones
- Scoreboard needs replacement in gym
- PA system repairs and updates needed

NW/FC 9/9/25

- Walk bikes/scooter signage - in progress
- Mop floors daily
- Staff bathroom sink needs new faucet
- Replace open trash with big bellies. In progress.

SHS 9/9/25

- Request for additional bike rack at main entrance
- Mullion needs to be added to the door between CHA and daycare to mitigate damage caused by high traffic. To ensure the door closes and locks properly.
- Broken windows in principal's office, highlander forum and nurses' office. These windows have just shattered with no indication of foul play. Windows have since been replaced but we need to find out the root cause.
- Walk bikes/scooter signage needed. In progress.
- Rodent activity in IT office room 117. SPS to move boxes off wall for custodians to clean and mitigate rodent activity

- Door 24 crack at bottom of doors rodent entry point
- PA system repairs and updates needed
- **Terracotta tile on the exterior of the building located on Medford St. fell on 9/23/25. Again tile on the exterior of the building at the front of the school on Highland Ave. fell on 9/26/25. This is a significant safety concern.³**

West 9/11/25

- Would like to install a projector that comes down in cafetorium
- Doors:
 - Door 2 leaks from up top, may need sealing. Opening at bottom of doors is rodent entry point
 - Door 6 significant gap and rodent entry point
 - Door 9 has a gap where rodents could enter.
 - Front door overhang causes water pooling. There is water damage.
- Rodent activity in main office
- Scoreboard is broken in gym
- Gym windows do not work. They either stay open or closed. Seems to be a mechanical lever issue. Would be nice to have AC.
- Electrical rm 116: electricity went out twice in the last weeks/ months. Electrical cables and timer have tripped up.
- Trash out by tot lot should be replaced more often.
- Need to replace 4 water fountains with new bottled ones.
- Rm 210 is either very hot or very cold (system switch scheduled to start Spring of 2026)
- Rm 205 leaks
- Roof needs replacement within 0-3 yr timeframe
- Playground - the rubber patching needs to be fixed, piece on play structure missing and needs to be replaced. See images attached.
- Playground asphalt needs graphics and to be sealed

Winter Hill @ Edgerly 9/8/25

- PA system repairs and updates needed
- ~~Ramp door on Bonair St. needs non-maintenance solution to mitigate challenges caused by heavy use~~
- Room 117 install 2 window screens
- West Wing Rooms (227, 230, 237) have temp control issues, either hot or cold, + shared thermostat
- Broken window pane needs replacement between hallway and stairwell near room 312
- Cover vent to prevent cool/hot air from escaping in Room 125
- ~~Lower camera located at Cross St. play area toward corner of Otis, to have visibility under canopy~~
- Need an electrical transformer to increase electrical capacity.

³ This was discovered by school administration, and not in connection with the SHS walkthrough on 9/9/25.

- The gym, cafeteria and kitchen need heating and cooling. Temps get very hot. Without a transformer installed, mini splits and heating and cooling are not possible.
- Signage needed:
 - Need 6 signs and two at each play area: No dogs allowed
 - Update no parking sign for school van stop to include all year and not just Sept-June on Bonair Street
 - Update school arrival/dismissal signs
- Remove carpet in nurses' office room 120 and replace with flooring - in progress

TAB Building 9/24/25⁴

- SPS requires additional and/or more appropriate space in areas of the building that are currently vacant
 - SCALE enrollment has grown substantially and to properly function requires more classrooms on the first floor behind the current SCALE program section of the TAB.
 - Enrollment/SFLC - would benefit from a more centralized location within the TAB to better service families and the community. Ideal location would be on the second floor by the 169 Holland Street entrance near the atrium conference room.
- There are several leaks throughout the building/ roof replacement needed
 - Concern for mold due to wet ceiling tiles, carpets and walls

District Wide

- Roof replacement within next 0-3 yrs: West, Healey, JFK and then East in order.⁵
- The TAB building roof needs to be assessed and likely replaced
- Need gymnasium maintenance plan for each
- Door sweeps should be installed or replaced throughout the buildings of exterior doors
- Need a playground maintenance plan for each school
- Building Management System maintenance plan (e.g. heating and cooling systems)
- **SPS to remove small appliances from classrooms**
- SPS will review food storage stored in sealed containers this includes rice and beans used for curriculum
- **PA System needs repairs and updates across several schools**

⁴ City officials did not join SPS staff on a TAB building walkthrough in September as a part of this process, however they have accompanied us on walkthroughs in the past.

⁵ These roof replacements are critical to keeping our school buildings safe and operational. Postponing them increases the risk of emergency closures or relocations, which are significantly more disruptive and expensive.