



School Committee Meeting | Superintendent Update

10.19.2026

Agenda

Superintendent Remarks

- WSNS Update: Instructional Updates & Planning
- Joy: Celebrating a Young Somerville Author
- Strategic Update: District Leadership Professional Development

District Reports

- Out of School Time Overview Presentation
- Equity Department Presentation

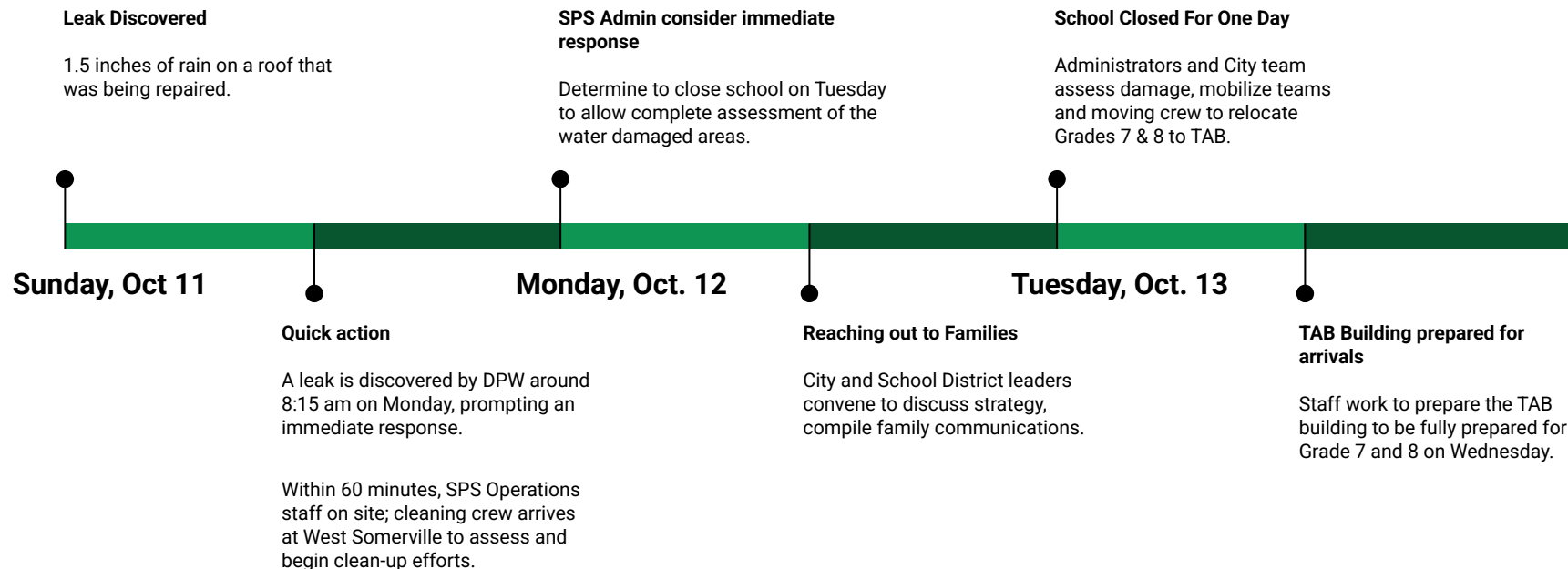


The background is a dark, semi-transparent overlay on a photograph of a desk filled with various art supplies like pens, pencils, and markers. In the bottom-left corner, there are three stylized hand icons in yellow, blue, and red, reaching upwards. Several colorful star shapes (blue, red, yellow, black) are scattered around the hands. A solid green vertical bar is positioned to the left of the main text.

Update: WSNS

Timeline: Time Was of the Essence

On Monday, October 12, City and District leadership were alerted of a significant leak at the West Somerville School. Leadership reported to the school later in the day to assess the damage and commence emergency planning.



Impact of Initial Damages

Fairly quickly, City and District leaders realized that classes would not be able to move forward as previously planned on Tuesday, Oct 13. Staff used Tuesday, October 13 to pack up and prepare to teach across two sites.



Look Back: Week of 10.12

Given the shortened week, District leadership focused on the following priorities and acknowledge the implications below:

Priorities
Limit the number of instructional days lost.
Minimize the movement of teachers across teaching sites.
Keep cohorts of students and staff together at the same learning site.



Implications
For the week of 10.12, students at each site were offered 2 out of 4 specials
Hot meals were provided to both sites by Wednesday afternoon
1st grade students were temporarily housed in one learning space.

Look Forward: Week of 10.19

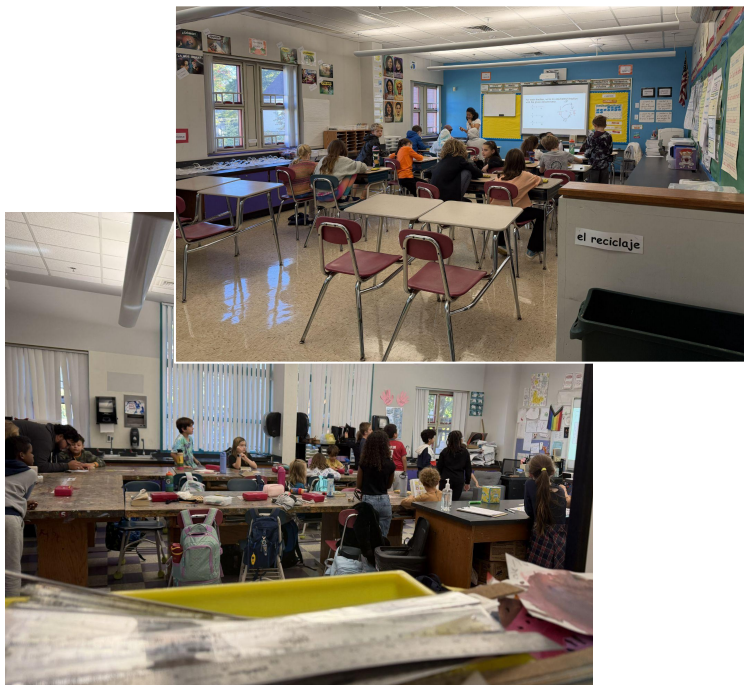
For the week of Oct 19, the 5th and 6th grade teams were temporarily reassigned to the TAB to alleviate space limitations at the West School.

	WSNS Location	TAB Location
Grade Level Assignments:	PK - 4th grades	5th - 8th grades
Access to Specials:	ALL Students are getting the same amount of time with all 4 Specialists - following an updated schedule	
Access to Special Education Services	ALL IEP/504 Plan services are continuing as outlined in student learning plans, at both sites, following an updated schedule.	
Access to Recreation Spaces:	All WSNS outdoor spaces are open/accessible	Lou Ann David Park - adjacent to the TAB - has a basketball court and grass park area
Access to Out of School Programming:	All OoS Programming continues to run at WSNS	All OoS Programming will run - either back at WSNS (w/staff escorts) or at TAB

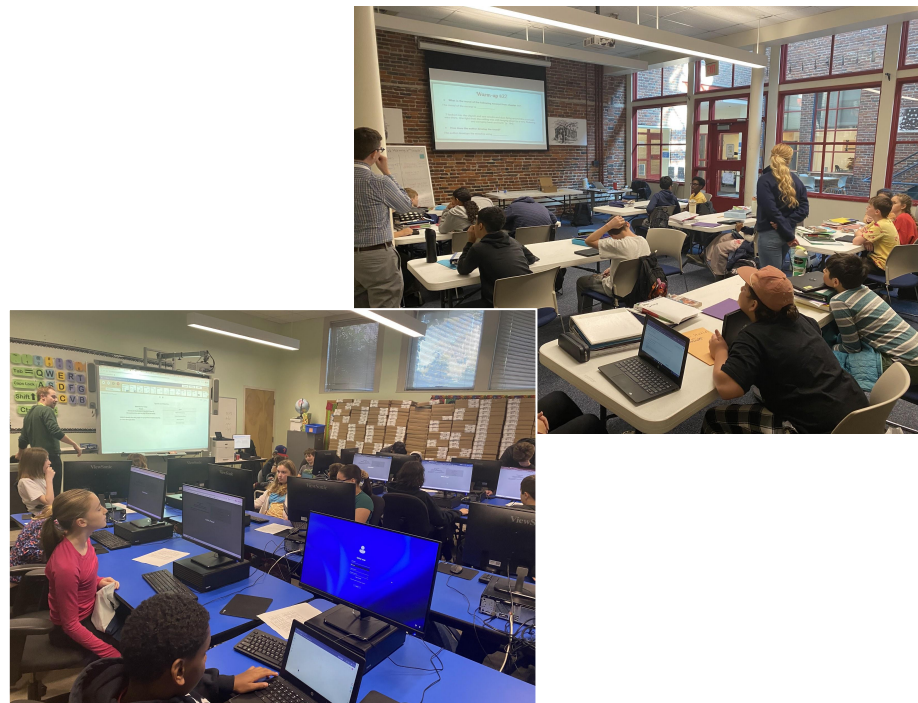
Focus on Instruction

While not ideal, staff and students very quickly pivoted to focusing on the instruction at hand.

@WSNS



@TAB



Additional Programming Impacts

In addition to temporarily housing WSNS students, several other City and SPS programs were impacted by this temporary arrangement.

	SCALE	City Depts @ TAB	Council of Aging
Space Considerations	9 SCALE classrooms were displaced to accommodate West students and staff	Provided additional space by offering up conference spaces and office spaces.	Provided additional space by offering up conference spaces on Monday all day and Tuesday AM
Programming Impacts	SCALE programming tied to grants (i.e GED testing and ESOL classes) have continued while leveraging other TAB spaces.	The Recreation Department generously allowed for conference rooms and the Teen Center to house SPS and SCALE programming.	Suspended programming for Monday/part of Tuesday. City is currently implementing a contingency plan for the near future.



Click here for important updates on WSNS damage restoration and relocations

Updated 10/19/26

UPDATE

177 Powder House Boulevard
Somerville, MA 02144
617-629-5600
Fax: 617-629-5601

Lindsay Weaver
Asst. Principal

Lee-Anne King
Family Liaison 617-625-4400 x6401

Pre-Kindergarten

8:45am to 1:45pm
(12pm dismissal on Wednesdays)

Free Breakfast starts at 7:30am

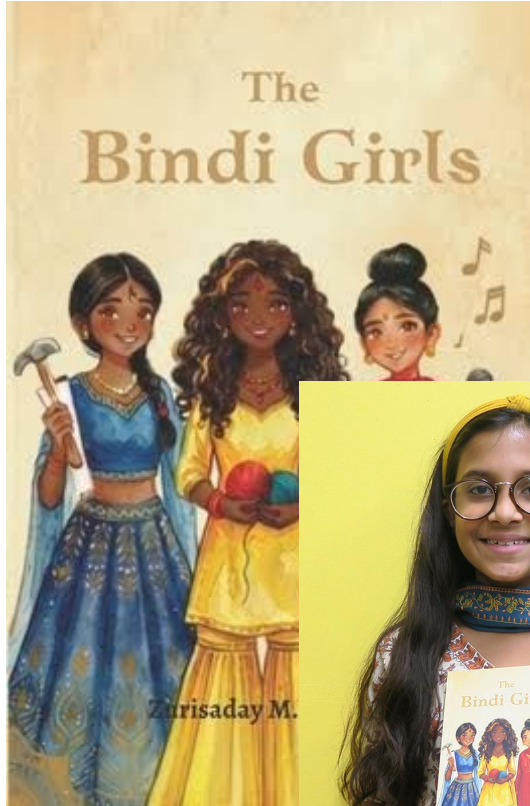
relocations

Updated 10/19/26

Report Absence

617-617-5750 (TDD)

Celebrating a Young Somerville Author



Ten-year-old Benjamin G. Brown School fifth grader Zurisaday turned her love of reading and writing into her first published book, *The Bindi Girls*.

Inspired by her own Indian heritage, the book follows three Indian-American girls on an adventure in India as they explore their talents, friendships, and identities.

Zurisaday spent more than a year writing the book, drawing on encouragement from her family, cultural insights from friends, and her own artistic talents, including writing two original songs.

Zurisaday hopes her story encourages readers to embrace who they are and recognize the power of friendship. Her advice to aspiring writers: keep writing from the heart.

Principal Supervisors @ Relay School of Ed



As part of our strategic focus on improving instructional practices AND thanks to our grant from the *Barr Foundation*, last week, Jess, Bobby, Chris Glynn, and I had the privilege to participate in Relay's three-day national training for principal supervisors.

The training focused on strengthening our ability to observe instruction, provide meaningful feedback, and support principals in leading instructional improvement.

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