

School Committee/Board of Aldermen Recap - 2011

January

- Healey-Choice Unification update
 - Work continues on the unification process. Details may be found at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/unify. The Final Recommendation will be presented to the School Committee on March 8th.
- Evening School Registration
 - The Evening School housed at Somerville High School offers a wide variety of academic and practical courses. Registration can be done in person at Somerville High School or online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/eveningschool. Classes begin the week of January 24th.
- Kindergarten Registration/Open Houses
 - Kindergarten Registration begins on January 22. In an effort to help parents/guardians with their school decisions, all elementary schools hosted Open Houses on January 19 and 20. Some schools/programs will also provide evening opportunities for parents and guardian to visit. For more information, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/register.
- Planning for next year's classes
 - Following along with Kindergarten Registration, the Administration of the Somerville Public Schools is currently studying projected enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year in order to ascertain needed classroom space and staff for next year. This is in the preliminary stages at this point.
- Reviewing the NEASC Draft report
 - The Superintendent and Administration from Somerville High School have met to discuss the draft report of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, following the recent accreditation process. The report from NEASC is due from NEASC in the Spring.
- Somerville High School student awarded full football scholarship to UMass Amherst
 - Somerville High School senior, John Wallace, has been awarded a full scholarship to UMass Amherst, a Division I School, to play football there. Congratulations to John and his family!
- The School District has begun the budget process for FY2012. The first budget presented will be a level service budget. Mr. Pierantozzi announced the many factors which could influence the budget process including less local aid, a decrease in grants, increased transportation costs based on fuel prices, increased private placement tuitions for our special education students, charter school costs and other factors. The first presentation will be made at the next Finance and Facilities subcommittee meeting on February 2. Discussion took place among members regarding the best way to proceed with this process. Alderman Gewirtz reported on a revenue proposal, An Act to Invest in Our Communities, currently before the legislature and reported that she will forward this information to the School Committee. (A copy of the legislation was forwarded to the School Committee on Tuesday, January 25)

For information on all activities and news in the Somerville Public Schools, visit our website at www.somerville.k12.ma.us

February

- 2010-2011 School Calendar Updates – The last day of schools for elementary students will now be June 28th and the last day for high school students will be June 29th. These dates are contingent upon no further emergency school closings.
- Two presentations were held on Bullying, Cyber bullying, etc. at Somerville High School on February 9th. The first was held after school for high school staff and a small group of elementary staff. That evening, a similar presentation was made available to the public. These presentations were done in conjunction with the Middlesex Partnerships of Youth (MPY) the educational component of the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office.
- Along the lines of bullying prevention, a new hotline has been established whereby anonymous reports of bullying, cyber bullying or retaliation can be made by **leaving a voice mail at the Somerville Public Schools' bullying hotline 617-629-5222** or by **emailing bullying@k12.somerville.ma.us**. For more information, please visit: The Director of Student Services will begin a preliminary investigation of this anonymous report as soon as it is received. If necessary the Principal/designee of the School(s) being affected by the incident(s) you are reporting here. Please be aware that we will not administer any disciplinary actions solely on the basis on an anonymous report. There are consequences for making a false allegation of bullying.
- The 13th Annual Somerville High School Multicultural Fair will take place on Friday, March 11, 2011, from 8:00 to 2:30 in the Field House.
- The Region IV Science Fair will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2011, in the SHS Field House. Public viewing will be from 1:00-3:00 with the award ceremony being held at 3:00.
- This is National School Breakfast week.
- The auditing team of Powers and Sullivan are on site at Central Office performing an audit of our end of year report.
- On Monday, March 07, 2011, 39 Somerville students from grades 6, 7, and 8 participated in a Leadership Institute provided by the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth.
- It's been a banner winter athletic season. All four of the high school's winter sports teams, as well as our cheerleaders are involved in tournament play. Also, six members from our male and female Track and Field teams will compete at the national level on March 11, 12 and 13.
- Somerville High School senior Kelsey Garrity became the 5th Somerville High School student to score 1,000 points during their high school career.

- On Wednesday, March 9, there will be a presentation/training for high school and a small group of elementary school staff members on sexting at Somerville High School.
- On Thursday, March 10, there will be an Emergency Response Training for Somerville Public Schools staff. The Somerville Police Department, Somerville Fire Department, School Nurses and Cataldo Ambulance Service will all participate in this event.

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MARCH

- Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation selected Somerville High School as the MassBioEd Innovative School of the Year!
- Saturday, 3/5: History Day participants from the Kennedy School competed at Winchester High School for the History Day regionals
- § Tuesday, March 8th at 12:00 PM – A new Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning and Outreach began meeting to review strengths and weaknesses of the Somerville Public Schools from community perspective.
- Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00 PM – The Healey School Site Council presented the proposed Healey Choice Unification Plan to Education Programs Subcommittee of the School Committee in the Healey School Library.
- Friday, March 11th – Annual Somerville High School Multicultural Fair
- Saturday, March 12th: Region 4 High School Science Fair (hosted at Somerville High). 21 Somerville High School students competed in this Science Fair.
- The Spring Sports Season at Somerville High School is underway!
- Somerville High School's Andre Rolim – State Champion in the 600 meter and 1600 meter relay. Also named All-Scholastic in Track and Field by the Boston Globe and Boston Herald.

APRIL

- Massachusetts History Day State competition was held in Worcester. Moving on to National Competition are:
 - Junior Group Performance**
2nd place - Nickolas Eliadis, Navdeep Maini and Andre Dangi - "Boston Busing: The Debate Goes On"
 - Junior Group Websites**
2nd place - John Iacovino, Stephen Savoy, Rafael Lima, and Ryan Nolan - "Eyeball to Eyeball"
- Monday, April 11th at 9:00 AM, National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at Somerville High. 38 members of the Somerville High School Class of 2011 were inducted into the Anthony V. Fedele Chapter of the National Honor Society.

- College Fairs - Tuesday, April 12th at Full Circle Alternative School; Wednesday, April 13th at Somerville High
- Wednesday, April 13th starting at 7:10 PM at Fenway Park, East Somerville Community School students were recognized for academic achievement at Red Sox Latino Heritage Night
- Thursday, April 14th, Somerville High School students departed for a visit to France. Bon voyage!
- Saturday, April 16th from 11:00-4:00 PM at Somerville High School – Somerville Peace Conference, an annual celebration of teen and young adult leadership and activism to promote safe and healthy communities. The Somerville Public Schools was a proud co-sponsor of this event.
- Monday, April 25th starting at 8:30 AM, Somerville High School was proud to welcome Nobel Laureate Dr. Richard R. Schrock for a morning lecture, discussion and lunch with a select group of students and other VIPS. The event will be rebroadcast on local cable access television
- Monday, April 25th starting at 6:30 PM at the Kennedy School, the Special Education Parent Advisory Council welcomed Mass Advocates for Children for a discussion of the impact of the State's bullying law on youth with disabilities. Learn more about the District's bullying plan online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/no_bullying
- Tuesday, April 26th from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Argenziano School, **Summer Activities Fair** for families who want to learn more about the many camps, summer activities and other programs available to youth not just in the Schools, but across the City
- Wednesday, April 27th from 6:00-8:30 PM, the formal opening ceremonies of the Somerville High School Art Fair. Members of the community are welcome to visit the high school between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM April 26-28 to browse students' art in the Atrium.
- Friday, April 29th, Visitors from Somerville's Moroccan Sister City visit schools and community organizations
- Saturday, April 30th, City-wide cleanup day. Visit www.somervillema.gov to learn more.
- The East Somerville Community School reconstruction resumed on November 1.

The Somerville Public Schools welcomed five new administrators over the summer--

- Mr. Darius Green – Housemaster, Somerville High School, Broadway House
- Mr. Mark Hurrie – Assistant Principal, Kennedy School
- Ms. Melissa DeResendes - Human Resources and Diversity Administrator
- Ms. Susanna Hernandez Morgan – Coordinator of Grant Writing and Information
- Mr. Lorne Murphy – Interim Assistant Principal, Healey School

Backpack donations

- The Somerville Public Schools received a total of approximately 1,460 backpacks, most of which were filled with school supplies. All backpacks were distributed to students across the District.

Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC)

- The Fall Brochure is now available. Many great events centered around four categories of focus:
 - § Family in the Community – Parent/Guardian English Classes, the Honk! Festival, Family Literacy Celebration: Early Childhood Fair and more
 - § Leadership and Advocacy – School Council Training, Special Education Parent Advisory Council offerings, PTA Information, etc.
 - § Teaching and Learning – Volunteer Training, Family Reading Night, Family Math Night, College Financial Aid Night
 - § The Whole Child – Healthy Snacks/Healthy Drinks, Ages and Stages, No Sibling Left Behind and more.
 - § To view the entire SFLC Fall Brochure, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us and look under Family Programs District-wide programs for families that welcome you into our schools and help your child succeed in every way.
- The Somerville Public Schools is undergoing a District Review by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education during this school year. See attached PowerPoint presentation for more detailed information.

October

- College Graduation Happens in High School presented by Dr. Pamela Ellis – October 2, 2011
- Somerville High School Seniors held a Walk for Somerville Seniors – October 4th
- SPS 8th graders began their visits to SHS on 10/3/11
- Volunteer training to support English Language Learners – 10/6/11
- School Council Training – 10/6/11
- 10/13 – Back to School with Healthy Snacks/Healthy Drinks
- 10/8 – Unification Celebration at Healey – Healey School Country Carnival
- Nature's Classroom – Argenziano School Family Harvest Fest – 10/2/11
- Many classes visiting Plimoth Plantation

November

- The first academic quarter of the school year ended on November 14. Report cards will be coming home the next week and PTA meetings and parent conferences will take place over the next month.
- Next Wave/Full Circle is taking orders for Holiday Wreaths. Proceeds fund field trips and other student activities.

- The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) is holding a Family Reading Night on 11/17 and a Family Literacy Celebration – Early Childhood Fair on 11/19.
- On November 16, at 3:00 p.m., in the Somerville High School auditorium, El Sistema in “the Ville” a collaborative orchestral concert featuring instrumental music students from the East Somerville Community School and the Conservatory Lab Charter School (CLCS) will be held.
- On Saturday, November 26, Holiday in “the Ville”, a holiday show, will be held at the Somerville Theater from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. The Music Department is looking for Somerville High School alum who participated in musical activities while in high school, to come back and participate in the show.
- Books for Bingo will be held on November 18 at the Winter Hill Community School from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.