

DATE: February 9, 2017

TO: School Committee

From: John Portz

RE: Next Steps for Facilities Planning - Building for the Future

At the February 13<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting we will continue our discussions around district-wide facilities planning and development. Building upon the master planning process completed last fall, there are several key steps underway to move the district closer to identifying and beginning important improvements to our school buildings. These steps include:

- Hiring a consultant to assist in planning and identifying next steps to prioritize building projects. A “request for qualifications” has been issued for this purpose with an application deadline of February 24, 2017. A committee has been formed to review applications and choose a consultant. Members include: John Brackett, Mary DeLai, John Portz, Liz Yusem, Vincent Piccirilli and Steve Magoon.
- Filing a Statement of Interest (SOI) in the next round of the MSBA Core projects cycle (due April 7, 2017). More information is being sought from the MSBA to clarify the shortcomings in our last SOI submittal. At this point, it is the intention to focus again on the high school. This is the building identified as the most in need of physical improvements and the one that can have the broadest benefit for the community.
- Creating a steering/advisory committee to work with the consultant in providing overall guidance for next steps. The committee would include school and town officials as well as community members. Mark Sideris, Liz Yusem and I will collaborate to put this group together. Key decision points will come back to the School Committee for discussion and votes.

I look forward to discussion and comments and ask for the support of the School Committee in moving forward with these steps.