MEMORANDUM

TO:          School Committee
FROM:        Dr. Zielinski
DATE:        August 9, 2017
SUBJ:        $150,000 Excess and Deficiency Middle School Project

The three towns approved in FY 15 the use of $150,000 from the Excess and Deficiency fund for the repair of a sewer line under the auxiliary gym floor at the Middle School. The precursor to the allocation of these funds was a recurring sewer backup in the restrooms across from the auditorium. A visual scope of the pipes was done. The video showed what appeared to be a bend in sewage pipe section under the auxiliary gym floor due. It appeared that the pipe was now pushed upward and a crease in the pipe had occurred due to stone pushing upward while the building was pushing down (settling). The section of pipe involved is in the older portion of the Middle School, and it was not a part of the renovations to the building ten years ago.

In the process of going out to bid the project, we did not receive any bids for this project. We decided to “flush” the system every week until we had a viable bid. The weekly flushing was working and there were no more backups. We decided to look at the pipes again (video) and the bent pipe from the first scope was now fine. The original video was showing a significant blockage which appeared to be a pipe bending upward due to settling of the building.

We have continued to flush the pipes every month, and we no longer have sewage backup issues. The monthly/6 week flush is now a part of the regular maintenance routine.

It has been recommended by the Budget and Finance Subcommittee that the allocated $150,000 set aside for the Middle School sewer project be closed. A vote of the School Committee is needed to return the $150,000 to the Excess and Deficiency fund.