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Let's Communicate

First, I would like to acknowledge the outgoing Swampscott School Committee members, Mary DeChillo and Paula Bonazolli. In spite of any differences of opinion that I might have had with them, I would like to thank them, and the other, returning members, for the years of dedication and passion they have given to the School Committee.

Second, I would like to thank those who voted for me. With your vote, you have asked me to assume the role of public servant, and I will make every effort to fulfill that role. Third, I would like to thank those who actively assisted me, early, when I was making a decision of whether to seek office and, later, in the campaign itself.

Communication: *n.* interchange of thoughts or opinions. One of the primary contributions I hope to bring to the School Committee is a level of communication that is palpably different than that which Swampscott has previously experienced. Today, the internet provides an amazing medium for communication, and I intend to utilize the internet as my primary venue for that purpose. Also, both periodically and on an as-needed basis, I plan to submit opinion pieces and letters to the editor to the local newspapers.

What can you find on the web site, right now? How will it encourage a dialogue? What can you expect to find there in the future?

The web site, still under development, currently contains a few documents (a couple of agendas, the Swampscott School Committee Policy document and one other document), the information I posted as a candidate, and a mechanism to subscribe to informational e-mail updates.

Why would you want e-mail updates? Currently, notifications about School Committee meetings do not always get posted online (online posting is a "courtesy"). I plan to send notifications about agendas, meeting schedules (and changes), new postings to the web site (such as budget documents and other reports) and anything else that I find relevant. Also, users can send their own "moderated" updates (I must authorize all such updates).

I plan to significantly increase the number and types of posted documents. In the near future, I plan to add a "public forum", where users, registering under their real names, will be able to post comments, suggestions, questions and opinions. I am open to suggestions about other ways to expand the web site.

I plan to maintain the web site until it is rendered obsolete, that is, until the Swampscott School Committee expands it's own web site to cover such topics.

www.schoolcommittee.nsbernstein.com. Visit me there, and let's communicate.

Neil Bernstein
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Swampscott