

STEVE MAGGIACOMO CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for Westwood School Committee and to take this opportunity to address the many issues I believe important to our community. My candidacy is based on Encouraging Excellence - in our teachers, our administrators and in our students.

First, we need to Encourage Excellence by providing our students with the tools critical for a 21st century education. The use of technology prepares our students for top colleges and the workforce; affords flexible and differentiated use of classroom space and teacher time; enables co-curricular models; and reduces costs across the board. There currently exist untapped financial opportunities to support our students' education, including public and private grant funding and unexplored university and business partnerships. On School Committee, I will aggressively pursue these opportunities.

Second, many of our Elementary and Middle School classrooms are beyond capacity. I'll seek to Encourage Excellence through the use of graduate and undergraduate student teachers. These teachers will, at little to no cost, support our educators and ensure that our students are receiving the attention necessary to rise to their potential. Local area universities have well established programs of student teachers and many of our comparative school districts have long and successfully used them.

Third, I'll work tirelessly with our local officials to create a stable funding commitment. A long term plan supports higher performance levels and stems the tide of increased user fees for transportation and athletics.

Fourth, the School Committee has recently committed to overhauling their policies on an array of matters, from advertising to special education. Every policy requires strict adherence to legal standards, while being reflective of Westwood's unique culture. I will encourage a full and open dialogue and will seek community input through electronic means, coffee hours and any manner convenient to my constituents.

Given recent events, the passing of anti-bullying laws, in addition to the recent anti-harassment legislation, is anticipated. I will work positively with our legislators and administrators, again with full community input, to develop the policies needed to protect our students and encourage a healthy, supportive educational community.

My wife, Jennifer, and I moved to Westwood with our two young boys because it was a community of involved and dedicated people and we, too, sought to be actively involved. I have a finance degree from Villanova University and a law degree from New England Law | Boston. For the last ten years, I have worked as in-house counsel to Arbella Mutual Insurance Company. I am confident that my business and legal background will enable me to be successful on your behalf in the work of the Westwood School Committee and I'd appreciate your vote on April 27, 2010.

You may contact me at Steven.Maggiacomo@comcast.net___You may also view my Facebook Page at "Steve Maggiacomo for Westwood School Committee."