



## OPINION

# SCHOOL FOR THOUGHT IN SWAMPSCOTT

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September 2, 2019

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A new school year has started in Swampscott and town officials are hoping parents completed their August homework assignment.

Residents were asked to fill out a survey ranking the importance of energy efficiency in planning a new elementary school. Asking people in the middle of August to think about anything except a vacation is often an exercise in futility. But the town request for resident participation dovetails with an acceleration in planning for a new town school.

The School Committee picked Philadelphia-based firm Hill International a month ago to be the school project manager. As soon as the state School Building Authority signs off on Hill, the company can get to putting together a project design team and completing a feasibility study for the project.

That study could end up being one of the most important documents written on behalf of Swampscott in a long time. Its bottom line will focus on the best option for constructing a new school and recommending where that school should be built.

Once the study is completed, Hill will advise local officials on school building details including design, engineering and construction schedule.