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Editorial: Competition is healthy

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NEEDHAM - As Needham's School Committee race comes to a screeching halt — with seats no longer contested — it's nice to see another race heat up.

Earlier this week, Needham psychologist Sara Orozco threw her name in the ring for state Senate, vying for the seat Scott Brown has held since 2004, when he ran unopposed.

This helps balance the brief, three-way race for two seats on the School Committee that ended last week when Kim Marie Nicols — the two-time candidate — pulled her candidacy, citing work and family reasons for her withdrawal.

Without Nicols, incumbents Michael Greis, who was first elected to the slot in 2005, unopposed, and John O'Leary, who defeated Nicols at the polls last year, can return to their familiar seats.

Regardless of how well constituents feel they've performed so far, they now maintain their seats without a public campaign addressing the major issues facing the schools. The now-moot conversation is one that could only have benefited the town.

This would have left Needham with only one contested race: another three-way for two seats on the Board of Selectmen between current Chairman Jerry Wasserman, Board of Health Chairwoman Denise Garlick and attorney Matthew Borrelli.

When Orozco stepped forward, she didn't just give Needham another chance at new representation, she gave it an excuse to begin important discussions. We look forward to that conversation, and hope residents of Needham do, too.