

Dear Mike and Peter,

I would like to be considered for appointment to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District School Committee.

I have lived full-time in Stockbridge for 20 years, during which I served on the Planning Board, and I continue to serve on the Finance Committee. I have been board chair at Hancock Shaker Village, where I continue to serve on the board, and have spent many years on the boards of Camphill Village in Copake, NY, and Camphill Ghent, in Ghent, NY, not-for-profit organizations serving persons with developmental disabilities in non-institutional settings. For a number of years I was chair of both boards. I also serve on the Camphill Village Copake Foundation board and investment committee.

I graduated from Georgetown in 1968 with a bachelor's in government, then spent four years on active duty in the Army as an intelligence officer, having attended the Defense Language Institute for a year to study Korean, followed by 13 months doing intelligence work at Eighth Army headquarters in Seoul. I left the Army with the rank of Captain.

I then spent 30 years working for J.P.Morgan Chase & Co. I worked in corporate finance in New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Lagos. I then spent almost 13 years managing the municipal finance credit department. In that role I was heavily involved in tax-exempt financings for cities, states, hospitals, airports, cultural institutions, and, importantly, educational institutions, both higher education as well as primary and secondary education. J.P.Morgan underwrote and credit-enhanced hundreds of bond issues for school districts and colleges and universities, giving me a useful perspective on the challenges faced by public and private schools as they expanded their physical plants as part of their strategic plans. Underwriting or credit-enhancing school district bonds involves a comprehensive analysis of not only a district's financial position but also important factors such as enrollment trends, economic factors influencing the tax base in the district, and forecasts of state and local funding. I enjoyed this work immensely.

Although my children are grown and never attended schools here, I have always been interested in general in trends in education. Of course on the Finance Committee I have reviewed the school district budgets and Stockbridge's support of both operating and capital requests. I am intrigued by the work going on relating to the merger and would welcome the opportunity to help in any way I can.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about my application.

Sincerely,

Bill Vogt
413 298-3166; billanddianevoigt@msn.com