

Brief Bio

Christopher Viereck, 55, is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. He was a senior executive in the pharmaceutical industry for 18 years. Five years ago, Viereck transitioned to consulting in medical education. He and his wife, Sitta, a middle school math teacher in a neighboring district, have lived in Basking Ridge for 13 years. They have two sons: a freshman studying chemistry and a junior studying mathematics and physics in college. Viereck holds a PhD in neurobiology from the University of Basel and has published numerous articles in clinical research and medical education-based journals. He writes a quarterly column entitled "Your Brain on Music Education" for the local nonprofit, Music Empowers Foundation. The column explains the positive interplay between brain development and a rigorous music education and how this greatly benefits students in many subject areas including the sciences.

Candidate Statement for PTO

When my company relocated to Bridgewater from Kansas City in early 2000, my wife, Sitta, and I chose to settle our young family in Bernards Township because of the excellent schools as exemplified by outstanding test scores, academic offerings, extracurricular activities and cultural arts. Over the past 13 years, we have seen our two boys flourish at Liberty Corner School, William Annin Middle School and Ridge High School. This fall, our older son will be starting his junior year in college studying mathematics and physics while our younger son will begin college in the chemistry program.

It is my goal to apply my corporate experience and record of making fiscally responsible decisions to help preserve our incredible school system as it navigates through the future. I coached intramural soccer in our township for 10 years and was a frequent volunteer on school outings. I got to know many moms and dads and their kids. Our community strongly supports its children and school system. But, it has not always been an easy journey. Over the years, our district has faced innumerable challenges. In my view, the Board of Education has striven to carefully consider all perspectives and make the difficult decisions to ensure the preservation of our excellent schools. Understandably, making difficult decisions does not always satisfy all stakeholders.

My executive experience in the global pharmaceutical industry, which included managing large budgets and groups of professionals through several mergers and acquisitions, will serve me well on the Board of Education. I am accustomed to considering various points of view, squeezing as much as possible out of budgets and working in teams to make decisions. I look forward to serving the students of Bernards Township.