



My name is **Robert Edgar**, and I am running again for a one-year term on the Danville School Board.

My flatlander credentials are impeccable: my birth in a sanitarium in New York City during WWII (The hospitals were full.); my first successful sighting of a cow in the Bronx Zoo a few years later; my Brooklyn-born father being a competitive business executive in the City and region throughout his working life; and my mother sprung as a miller's daughter from the breadbasket of the Confederacy (who later taught English, because she fell in love with the English poets).

I was graduated from a New Jersey high school, then extended my education at the University of Virginia (A.B.) and then again at Rutgers University (M.S., Ph.D.). I am a professional biologist specializing in a group of photosynthetic microorganisms called diatoms. As a Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth (1968-2002), my teaching focused on evolutionary biology, and as an Associate of the Harvard University Herbaria for 45 years (1975-2020), I pursued my interests in diatoms, which I continue.

Since 1998 Danville has been my home with my wife Stacy, a science teacher at Danville High School for the last 8 years – a place distant from the increasingly madding crowd, where personal and professional lives might find a better pace and balance. Later we were joined by our two kids: Thomas (now grade 10) and Patrick (grade 8), both lofted by birth into this village in the hills and into its school, with me tagging along occasionally coaching baseball and soccer.

In 2017 I was first elected to a one-year term on the board and again each year since, serving each year as the Board Clerk. I have written minutes and Highlights, transcribed meetings, served as representative to the CCSU Board and a principal search committee, drafted a policy on student representation, and engaged candidly with board colleagues to find fair, productive and unitary responses transparent to the public to a broad variety of school issues.

Enough happens before a board that one can lose sight of its mission, but a mission guides a board –it is a North Star. Thaddeus Stevens, a native son for whom a historical marker graces the Danville Green, offered one in 1835, which I follow: *A public, as opposed to private, school should produce citizens competent to financially care for their families and competent to wisely conduct their civic duties, so as to safeguard our democratic Republic.* There is still work to do for all our kids.

I ask for your vote for another one-year term on your board.