

Thank you for inviting us here today. My name is Colby Barrett and I am from Burke Town School and I am so excited to talk to you about some pros and cons of our school and our community.

Burke Town School is important to my community because it allows us to enter a safe learning place, and it offers both academic and emotional support to the students. Every day in the homeroom our teachers provide time and activities to learn how to become members of a community, and bond with each other.

My school also offers unique programs like ropes courses at nearby Siskin Coutts, and Kingdom Sense of Place, where all students choose activities like swimming, golfing, mountain biking, and visiting farms. Every week throughout the winter our school gives us the opportunity to either downhill ski, ice skate, or snowshoe.

However, because of low staffing, low financial resources, and low population, I feel like we miss out on some opportunities compared to bigger towns. Unfortunately, our classmates couldn't be here as planned due to a bus driver staffing shortage.

We need a new gym because it is so small. The trailers that we use for classes were supposed to be temporary 25 years ago, but they are still in use and they are so tiny, hot, moldy, and infested with rodents.

I believe that community members should pass the school budget because that creates more opportunities and paths for students. It means we'll be better prepared for high school.

Thank you for listening to my testimony.