

Good afternoon, everyone. I am so honored to be here today. I am Lenore Steen, and I go to Burke Town School. My school has been a welcoming community with great educational opportunities, as well as a positive learning environment.

During my time at Burke, I have had a fun-filled educational adventure, learning while hiking, presenting, and more. The inclusive and kind space at Burke makes me so grateful to be in a generous, healthy environment. I appreciate my school and educators more and more every day.

Burke Town School is important to my community because it brings people of all ages together at fundraising events. While the legendary Burke ski swap brings affordable equipment to our whole community, other events like bingo night and our dances help bring out both our older and younger community members.

My school's rural location is one of its biggest assets. We don't have to travel far to get to great hiking trails and have outdoor adventures. We also have access to cross country skis and snowshoes, we do outdoor team building exercises, and our campus has a nice large outdoor play area for recess and physical education.

I believe that it is important for voters to pass the school budget. It helps fund our educational resources such as laptops, math books, pencils, and folders. If our school is funded well, the quality of our cafeteria food can be healthier. A good budget can help hire more bus drivers. It would have been really great to be able to have our whole class with us today, but sadly we have a shortage of bus drivers.

An important infrastructure need for Burke Town School is a full-sized gym. PE could offer more games; for example, volleyball would be more enjoyable with a bigger playing space. Our gym is the largest room in our school and it can not hold the whole community for an event as it is. Another important infrastructure need my school has is a larger art room. Our current art space is very crowded. Having a bigger space would make a positive impact on every student in the school. The

needs consist of adding natural light, providing more working space, building more storage for artwork in progress, and more art materials.

Thank you for having me and I am excited to have been able to share my perspective with all of you. I appreciate your support of our Northeast Kingdom community. Your service is greatly noticed in Burke, and we are all grateful to have it.