

My name is Mary Guggenberger and I have been the principal at Killington Elementary School since 2015. Prior to that, I worked at the ski resort for 10 years starting in the late eighties when it was owned by S-K-I Ltd. I have family that continues to live in Killington. Like my family, our school families want to stay in Killington, but the town needs to grow.

The quality of life that Killington has to offer year round is sought after by young families. People desire to raise a family, work, and play in this community. With expanded opportunities to settle in this community, everyone benefits from the civic investment and the community engagement.

Community engagement will especially thrive if opportunities to make a living wage will support raising a family. Attractive employment will encourage families to invest in this community.

Professionals desiring to work at Killington Elementary School have had to decline offers, such as school nursing and speech language pathologists, due to the inability to find affordable housing within a reasonable driving distance to the school.

Since the pandemic, more heads of households are able to work remotely while living in an area suitable to meet their quality of life expectations. Killington is a very desirable area to live year around and those with homes already in the area have moved permanently into our school district. Without more affordable housing, enrollment at KES could be stalled. Growth is dependent upon increased housing and TIF would create a pathway to growth.

A more centralized community closer to the school will improve accessibility for all community members. The TIF Project is an avenue to increase functionality between and among the school and the community. At present, the school is secluded at the end of an isolated road. Restructuring of the Killington Access Road and sidewalks would increase walkability to town centers, such as the school, and improve connectivity within the community.