

I do not support using reserves for ongoing expenses except in true emergencies. Reserves exist to protect the district from economic downturns and unexpected costs, not to cover structural deficits or recurring spending.

At the same time, decisions about how much we hold in reserves should include transparent engagement with families, educators, and stakeholders. Over-accumulating reserves while programs are cut can undermine trust and compromise the quality of education students receive today.

We need transparent budgeting that aligns spending with student outcomes, prioritizes fully staffed classrooms, and rebuilds trust with families and educators. That said, reserves can be used strategically and with public accountability for one-time investments that stabilize schools, such as bridging programs and staffing gaps, but not as a long-term solution.

Fiscal responsibility requires maintaining a safety net for the future while ensuring today's students receive the best possible education.