

What do you see as the major issue(s) facing your school district? How will you address them?

Funding, teacher retention, and student needs are my top priorities. Our district is still underfunded compared to the state's own adequacy study, which impacts class sizes, teacher pay, and facilities. I'll advocate to close this gap while ensuring every local dollar is used wisely and transparently. We can't provide strong education without strong teachers, so we must stay competitive in pay and benefits, while also creating supportive environments with smaller classes, quality training, and a culture of respect. Students today face academic, social, and mental health challenges. We will support growth in core subjects, expand career and technical pathways, and ensure access to counselors and mental health resources. By working together on these challenges, we'll keep schools strong and prepare every student for success.

How would you propose the district attract and retain well-qualified teachers?

Attracting and retaining great teachers starts with making our district a place where educators feel supported, respected, and fairly compensated. Competitive pay and benefits matter, as well as manageable class sizes, adequate planning time, and modern resources that let teachers focus on students instead of paperwork. We must continue to strengthen professional development, mentorship, and a positive culture where teachers' voices are valued. To sustain this, our community will likely need to consider a mill levy increase next year. Local support is critical if we want to remain competitive and ensure our students have the excellent teachers they deserve.

How will you respond when contentious issues are raised by students, teachers, parents, and/or the community?

When contentious issues arise, the first step is to listen, truly listen, to understand where people are coming from. Students, teachers, parents, and community members all bring valuable perspectives, and often tension comes from feeling unheard. I will work to create space for respectful dialogue, even when we don't all agree. As a board member, my role isn't to take sides in personal disputes but to stay focused on what serves students best and aligns with district policy and state law. I will approach every issue with fairness, transparency, and a willingness to ask questions before deciding. Most importantly, I believe we can model civility. Even when emotions run high, if board members show respect and openness, it sets the tone for the community and helps us find common ground.

What issues do you believe your district needs to address in its academic program and offerings? What changes would you recommend, if any?

As a business owner, I believe we should strengthen math and science graduation requirements to prepare students for real-world careers in farming, ranching, and the trades. Classes should focus on problem-solving and practical skills, and be engaging so students see them as opportunities, not roadblocks. I'm also excited about our new NWEA testing, which replaces benchmarks and tracks student growth throughout the year. This gives us a powerful tool to spot struggles early, step in with support, and keep every child on track for success.

What are your priorities to deal with tight budgets?

When budgets are tight, my priority is protecting the classroom, ensuring students have quality teachers, updated materials, and safe schools. We must review spending carefully so dollars go where they matter most for learning. I also want greater transparency so families and staff understand how money is spent and can share input on priorities. We will continue to find partnerships and grants which stretch resources, and we will advocate at the state level for fair funding. By focusing on efficiency and innovation while protecting core services, we can manage budgets responsibly without losing sight of our mission.