

Greetings,

As we wrap up this bitter cold week, I have been reflecting on what keeps me motivated through challenging times. The truth is, it is our kids. All 3,800 of them. They are my daily reminder of why this work matters, why we face hard decisions head on, and why we stay the course even when the path is not easy. They are the reason I do what I do.

I must also say, however, that my professional commitment has had a personal cost. Like many of you, the dedication I have to my professional life has meant missing many of my own children's events, moments I can not get back. This weekend, though, will be different. Over the years, I have missed more of my own children's events than I care to count, moments I will not get back. This weekend, though, will be different. I will be flying down to Virginia Tech to visit my two kids after having to cancel on them twice this year. My daughter is performing two solos in her Technotes A Cappella concert, and I am determined to be there in the audience cheering her on. I will also finally get to see my son's motorcycle, though I am still processing how I feel about that.

As I think about my own kids, I am reminded of the responsibility we have to the children of this community and the responsibility we have to one another. The work ahead of us is serious, and it is essential. This week, the district shared the Three Year Fiscal Recovery Plan at the Board of Education meeting, outlining a clear path forward. The plan includes strengthening internal controls, implementing spending restrictions, enhancing revenue opportunities, and making long term structural adjustments to restore financial stability. It is rooted in transparency, accountability, and thoughtful action, with benchmarks and monthly fiscal reporting to keep our community informed every step of the way.

As also noted at our Board meeting, none of this can be accomplished in isolation. We will only move forward by staying united, staying focused, and leaning into our shared purpose. Our students, all of our students, deserve a district that is stable, resilient, and positioned for excellence. And together, we will get there.

I hope this weekend gives you a moment to recharge, reconnect, and find joy in the people who matter most to you. I know I plan to do exactly that.

And as always, it really is a privilege serving this community as your superintendent of schools!

Tony Santana
#clipperPRIDE