

Working Families Elected Officials Oppose Adamowski's Budget Proposal

Board of Ed Member Patterson-Stallings and Councilors Deutsch and Cotto Speak Against Reserve Fund

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HARTFORD – Working Families Party elected officials including Council Minority Leader Dr. Larry Deutsch, Councilor Luis Cotto and Board of Education member Sharon-Patterson Stallings joined voices today in opposition to Superintendent Stephen Adamowski's budget proposal for Hartford's schools.

"If we want to open a reserve, then let's wait until we have a budget surplus. You don't open a new savings account when you're having trouble putting food on the table," said WFP Board of Education member Sharon Patterson-Stallings. "Right now, we should focus on putting every dollar we can into our school system."

Superintendent Adamowski's budget, which sets aside \$6 million dollars for a reserve fund and millions more in contingency funding to be spent at the discretion of school principals, includes 250 lay-offs.

"Layoffs should be an absolute last resort," said WFP Councilor Larry Deutsch. "Every parent in the city of Hartford knows we need more good teachers, more hard-working paraprofessionals and school counselors and custodians, not less. To hold money off the side while making these cuts is unconscionable."

“Now is the wrong time to be setting up a reserve fund, when we could be using the money to protect our schools and save jobs,” said WFP City Councilor Luis Cotto.

“Nothing is more important to our future than education, and it’s unreasonable to pull so much money out of the system in a year where our schools needs every bit of help they can get.”

Working Families is a minor political party formed by a coalition of community organizations, labor unions and neighborhood activists who united to fight for a fair economy. The Working Families Party was formed to inject issues like healthcare, quality education, and livable wages into the public debate, and to hold politicians accountable on those issues.

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