

A Message from the West Ada Board of Trustees

We don't often send messages like this, but given recent media attention, we felt it was important to reach out. If you've been following the news, we hope this message provides clarity.

What the Board Does

We set policies, oversee district operations, and hire an administration to run our schools. We're five unpaid elected officials who meet twice a month, and because we must conduct business in public meetings, we can't always respond as quickly as we'd like. This email is the soonest we could come together legally to share a unified message.

Everyone is Welcome at West Ada

West Ada welcomes every student—of every background, belief, and identity. That's never been in question. The recent issue over a classroom sign isn't about the message; it's about ensuring consistency in how messages are displayed across all classrooms. To reinforce our commitment, we are working with the Superintendent to create protocol aligned with our policy and prominently display signs that say: **"EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT WEST ADA"**, at every school in West Ada.

Why Do We Have a Sign Policy?

Board Policy 401.20 was established in 2022 after months of collaboration between teachers, administrators, and parents. Its goal is simple: keep the focus on learning. Teachers already navigate a challenging environment where every decision is scrutinized. Parents, seeing national controversies unfold, want assurance that Idaho classrooms remain focused on education. Our policy helps provide that assurance.

What Happened?

For over two years, this process has worked well. Teachers received guidance, questions were addressed, and compromises were reached—without disrupting learning. This time, a sign included "Everyone is Welcome," which we support, but also graphics that were deemed potentially political. The district offered a solution: keep the sign up through the end of the year while finding a district-funded alternative that aligned with policy. Unfortunately, that arrangement fell through.

Rather than use the established grievance process, the media were contacted instead. This escalated the issue beyond the classroom, turning it into a national controversy. Suddenly, West Ada—our teachers, administrators, and board—were painted as unwelcoming, which couldn't be further from the truth.

Moving Forward

We can't undo the past, but we can make things right. We're reaffirming our commitment by providing clear, consistent signage that reinforces our inclusive values. We will continue enforcing our sign policy because it works. And we will ensure every teacher knows they have a fair process when they have concerns.

West Ada is, and always will be, a place where every student belongs.

Sincerely,
West Ada Board of Trustees