

Dr. Bub and members of the board

After giving this decision a considerable amount of thought, tonight I want to inform the board of my resignation as Zone 2 Trustee.

It has been a true honor to be elected by my peers and to serve and represent Zone 2 over the past couple of years. The outpouring of continued support from so many individuals has been amazing and truly humbling. I am especially grateful to my neighbors and the patrons, teachers, and staff of schools in Zone 2 who constantly sent notes of encouragement, pulled me aside at school events to say thank you, and dropped off numerous small tokens of appreciation at my door randomly during the past two years. I could not be prouder to live amongst such kind, caring, and truly community minded Idahoans.

Much like our colleague in Nampa, I am stepping down because I am exhausted and candidly want to protect my family and my employer from further harassment. My term started in January of 2020, and within two months a global pandemic changed the world and the trajectory of my term with the board. While the entire pandemic has been challenging for everyone, the behaviors of a minority of individuals in our West Ada community in the last 6 months have been shocking and appalling. These individuals have threatened me personally, made threats against my children, they have made slanderous and false allegations that were baseless and without proof. Additionally, my employer - a highly regarded, heavily respected Idaho based business, that has served this state and its citizens faithfully for over 75 years, was targeted and continually harassed. I can handle the deplorable nature of a small few, and my family wasn't naïve that there would be impacts to our lives, like missing dinner or bed time a couple times a month for board meetings -- but when attacks and threats are made regarding my children or my employer -- neither of whom chose to run for public office - it is my responsibility to stop them from facing further despicable behaviors.

These behaviors displayed by a small few are "bullying" -- the threats, the falsifying information, the continued and prolonged harassment -- these are unacceptable actions that are not tolerated in our schools and should not be tolerated in our community. As adults we set the example for our children, and acting this way is unbecoming and incongruent with Idaho values. Idahoans have long valued **service to the community, respect and care for one another, independence**, and most of all **personal integrity**. As citizens of this great state, living these values are how we **demonstrate true freedom**.

These values are the reason I have loved every moment of being an Idahoan and these values are why so many want to live here. It is but a small consolation that these "bullies" are mostly individuals who moved to Idaho recently, and while their behaviors may have been tolerated in other states -- many Idahoans have expressed to me how disgusted they are at what has happened at our school board meetings, on social media, and by informal parent associations or groups.

It is incumbent on us all, both native Idahoans and those that relocated to here – to protect Idaho values. We can do this by living them every day, by seeking to understand, listening, and respecting a diverse set of perspectives; by empathizing with different experiences, by acknowledging that our own experiences may be coloring our views, by living our lives with honor, and by each of us having the self-awareness and forethought to correct our errors in the treatment of others.

By far, the best parts of the trustee experience have been the kids, the staff, and getting to know my fellow trustees outside of their school board role. It has been a privilege to serve alongside the current and former trustees, to become friends with each other and with many staff members, to visit classrooms and see learning in action, to watch our kids play sports or perform fine arts or excel in so many other diverse ways - and to be part of the team moving the educational strategies of West Ada forward for the future. I will miss these and many other parts of the trustee role, but my service to West Ada will continue – my daughter told me this morning she is excited to have me volunteer in her classroom – so that is on a future agenda for me. As is likely some work on Idaho laws pertaining to harassment of elected officials, their families, and their employers.

My hope for this (mostly) new board as you guide the future of Idaho's largest school district, is that you are intentionally open to different perspectives, that you take the time to really understand the facts, the data and hear from the experts before making decisions, that integrity be your guide, and that you will protect with your entire being the non-partisan nature of the trustee role and the school board. That being said, my utmost hope – is that you honor the vast responsibility you have now to serve ALL kids, ALL staff, and ALL parents in this great district.

What is happening in West Ada is amazing, it was happening long before I became a trustee, and the pandemic accelerated some remarkable educational advancements. West Ada will continue to thrive in the future if as a community and board we protect and live Idaho values every day, strive to treat each other with respect and kindness, forgive and accept one another as individuals, and continue to grow what has made West Ada great – our kids, our staff, and the immense educational experiences delivered in this district. #wearewestada

Thank you,

Amy Johnson