



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

April 20, 2023

Jill Underly
Wisconsin State Superintendent
Department of Public Instruction
125 South Webster St
Madison, WI 53703

To Superintendent Underly,

On DPI's website, you state that "Our mission is to ensure that every child, regardless of zip code, has access to quality public education programs, enrichment opportunities, and special education supports, so that all of our kids can be successful."

Your recent letter to Superintendent Sebert and the School District of Waukesha School Board is a departure from your mission. It has nothing to do with helping students access quality public education, enrichment opportunities or special education supports. Instead, your letter is political activism that does not belong in our schools. We are proud of our school district and its actions, because they did what was best for its students and in line with what the parents of the district wanted.

You speak of exploring fully and fairly all sides of an issue, and yet you have weighed in on a politically-charged issue from one side while completely disregarding the others, and you did it without first speaking to the Waukesha School Board and gathering all of the facts.

Your letter also undermines local control. You should trust that the people of Waukesha have elected a board that represents them. The policies they enact reflect the values of the local community. This is what local control is all about.

We hope that in the future you will take the time to first gather the facts by speaking with the local school district superintendent and board before weighing in publicly on a matter such as this. Perhaps you should spend more time helping school districts increase their reading and math scores instead of stirring up political controversy.

Sincerely yours,

Rep. Scott Allen

Rep. Adam Neylon

Sen. Chris Kapenga

Sen. Rob Hutton