

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Teri Sayles <terijsayles@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 11, 2019 11:41 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Public Hearings location

Good Morning,

I attended the public hearing at Palmyra Eagle High last Thursday. I have also attended other school board meetings at this location. I live in Eagle.

I would like you to reconsider hosting 3 public hearings in Palmyra and only 1 in Eagle. I personally did not feel comfortable speaking in favor of the dissolution in Palmyra.

Given the obvious animosity between the 2 communities, (Palmyra and Eagle), I am sure I am not the only one that feels this way. Palmyra feels very hostile to Eagle residents as a whole. In fairness, I believe there should be 2 public hearings in each community location.

Thank you for your consideration.

Teri

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Frank Ferdinand <palmyraresident50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 11, 2019 1:41 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Palmyra/Eagle Dissolution

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a current resident of Palmyra, WI. I have not attended the schools, nor do I have any children that have attended schools in this district. I state that so you understand my viewpoints are not based on emotion in any way.

Here are what I believe to be the facts:

1. The majority of the residents in Eagle believe the Mukwonago School District offers their children a better educational opportunity and do so while being better, more responsible, stewards of the taxpayer money. The DPI information about school performance would support those residents' viewpoints.
2. The enrollment trend downward in general from Palmyra/Eagle speaks to either problems within the school district, better options in surrounding communities, or both.
3. The open enrolling of Eagle students to Mukwonago will continue if the school district is not dissolved. Palmyra/Eagle school district does not have an answer to this problem.
4. The Palmyra/Eagle school district is hemorrhaging money and has been accumulating debt at a disturbing rate. The school district does not seem to be able to solve its financial problems, except by requesting more money from the taxpayers via referendum. In the April referendum, the school district attempted to first pass language that would have had the tax increase continue forever. When the voting public saw that, they voiced their clear disapproval and the school district scrambled to change the referendum language to a 4 year tax increase, not indefinitely. (See point 5 below regarding how that went.) The FACT is the school district has no solution for solving their financial problems except for referendum money. The referendum they proposed, which was more than the voters could stomach or afford, would have only kept the school doors open for the next 4 years. Referendum money does NOT solve the school's financial problems, it merely kicks the can down the road for 4 years until they have to come back again for another referendum.
5. The tax referendum of April of 2019 was clearly portrayed by the school district as a "do or die" scenario. They were CLEAR that if the referendum was not passed the school district would have to dissolve. The communities also were very clear when they voted against the referendum by a 61-39% margin (a landslide by the current political standards in this state.) Anyone who would claim they didn't understand dissolving was the only option if the referendum did not pass did not read any information about the vote, or are outright lying.
6. The November non-binding referendum regarding dissolving showed a second time that a majority of the voters support dissolving the district. 53% of the voters supported dissolving.

Those are the facts. Here are some of my own educated opinions.

Some people will point to the closer vote outcome in the November non-binding as a sign that people don't want the school to closer. For the April referendum, the total votes cast were 3,749. For the November non-binding,

the vote total was 2,298. That is a 38-39% decrease in voter turnout between the 2 elections. The November non-binding was initiated by a individual against dissolving and backed by the teachers' union. This referendum attempted to be hidden as the only item on the ballot so the anti-dissolving crowd could rally their troops. I only found out there was a referendum on the November ballot by seeing a sign in a yard in Eagle about 2 weeks before the election. Once the cat was out of the bag, both sides attempted to rally their support. It is my opinion that the non-binding results skewed more favorably towards the opposition to dissolving due to the power of the school district, teachers union, and extra time they had to inform their supporters of the referendum. I believe if the referendum had been properly advertised to all voters and had other important elections on the ballot, the 6% margin would have grown larger, although not to the 22% margin of the April referendum.

The side opposed to dissolving only have an emotion argument. Parents will get up to speak or parade their children up there to plead with you to not close their school. Alumni of Palmyra/Eagle will get up there and talk about how great their experiences were and plead for it not to dissolve. Teachers and staff may plead too. This is not an emotional decision. I hope you on this Board can understand that. It is a financial decision.

According to the Daily Union newspaper website, enrollment has dropped more than 35% since 2007. Let that sink in. In a little over a decade, these schools have lost over a third of their students.

A plan of any kind that splits the district, allowing Eagle to go to Mukwonago, and Palmyra stay open as its own school district does not work. The school Board President said so himself. Palmyra, as a community, cannot sustain its own school district, nor can it absorb its portion of the debt racked up by the district over the past years.

If you need to play the blame game, here is what I think are the causes:

The school administration and Board have not cut costs equal to the decrease in enrollment over the past decade.

The school administration and Board have not found ways to improve performance or provide incentives to discourage open enrollment out of the district.

(The prior 2 points may not just apply to the current administration and school Board, but would likely apply to previous people in those roles as well.)

The majority of the current school Board are too personally vested in being beholden to the teachers/staff and having children in the school district to really be able to make hard, necessary cuts.

Jefferson County does not help the situation by making decisions that prohibit growth of their population and tax base.

I was discouraged and angered to see the form you are using at your public hearings. There are boxes people can check to express why they are there (in favor of dissolving or not in favor of dissolving, to name a couple options.) When questioned why that form had options like that, your representatives said it was to ensure the opinion of the community was being accurately represented. Why would your public hearings better represent the feelings of the community over the 3 votes passed just this year? I would remind all of you of the following.

1. The voting public overwhelmingly voted against the April referendum when clearly faced with the choice to give the school more money or dissolve the school district.
2. The school Board themselves voted to dissolve based on the results of the April referendum.
3. The voting public again showed their stance in the November non-binding referendum by voting to dissolve.

If you on this Board consider the pleas at your public hearings to be the accurate voice of the communities and not the 2 actual referendums we have had, then what you are doing is a partisan farce. The communities have

spoken not once, but twice. The school Board has voted to dissolve. It is your job to help the surrounding communities determine the best way to assimilate the Palmyra/Eagle students, in the best way possible for those students and families. It is not your job to decide it is in the best interest of the students to keep this failing school district open and ignore the 2 votes by the actual taxpayers of these communities.

I will not be providing my personal information as part of a public record as I believe my viewpoints will put me in the cross-hairs of an over-emotional and unscrupulous opposition to dissolving that are not afraid to harm those with whom they disagree. If it is necessary for me to validate my opinions or residency by providing my personal information, then I would welcome a solution that does not include my information being part of the public record.

Sincerely,

Unbiased Non-Emotional Resident of Palmyra

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Doug Landess <doug@centurysprings.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 11, 2019 5:52 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** School district scenario

Doug Landess  
W805 Rome Oak Hill Road, Palmyra  
262-470-3053

I am commenting in the hope Kettle Moraine is being considered for some of the areas getting dissolved. I think taking into account where kids in the Palmyra district are currently open enrolling to should be considered. In my area there are 3 families already open enrolling to KM that I know of and at least 3 more that will regardless of assigned district. This will only make matters worse for the new district if it is not KM. The bus comes within minutes of our area already. This does not have a big impact on my family as my child will have a drivers license next year but believe it is a logical result.

Thanks

Doug Landess

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Therese M. Ostermeyer <tmostermeyer@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 8:22 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** AFFIRM Dissolution - YES to dissolve

Good Morning,

On behalf of our family, please dissolve PEASD and join our properties into the Mukwonago Area School District.

Thanks,

Therese Ostermeyer  
W350S7895 Prairie Farms Court  
Eagle, WI 53119

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Jeffrey P. Ostermeyer <jostermeyer@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 8:28 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** AFFIRM Dissolution - YES to dissolve

DPI,

Please dissolve PEASD and join our properties into the Mukwonago Area School District. We can't afford increased property taxes.

Thanks,

Jeff Ostermeyer  
W350S7951 Prairie Farms Court  
Eagle, WI 53119

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Angie Yamashita <yamashita.angie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:33 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** In Favor of Dissolution

Good morning,

My name is Angie Yamashita and I am a resident of Eagle, WI, which is currently part of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District. There is truly a battle going on right now in my community over whether or not the district should be dissolved. The most frustrating part of this is the community has spoken (twice!) that we wish the district to close. Furthermore, the school board itself voted to dissolve. They are over-staffed by their own admission, they are in debt, they are losing students to Open Enrollment left and right, and until very recently, they were unwilling to change. It's far too late to made realistic changes to the district which will save enough money, while still maintaining a learning environment that children deserve. The referendum that failed in April for MILLIONS of dollars would have only kept the doors open and a roof over the kids heads. That money was not for more learning opportunities for our children, it was only to keep the district above water.

Please let it be known that dissolving the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District is what our community wishes to happen. We have other robust and successful school districts in our immediate area that are willing and ready to welcome our students into their schools. Many are already open enrolled into those schools and the number will only increase if PEASD does not close and the cycle will not end.

Thank you for your time,

Angie Yamashita  
Eagle, WI



**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** David Carpenter <stonewallaces09@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 11:03 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Palmyra School District  
**Attachments:** 19-1112\_Dissolution Letter.pdf

Greetings,

I would like to respectfully submit my letter to the board just in case I don't get to present my thoughts at a public hearing.

Thank you,

David Carpenter  
N2939 County Road Z  
Dousman, WI 53118  
262-443-7967  
Palmyra-Eagle Area School District resident

Greetings Board Members,

I would like to thank you for listening to the people and students of Palmyra-Eagle. I have been watching the votes over the past 2 referendum votes in April and November. It is obvious to me that The Village and Town of Eagle no longer wish to be part of Palmyra-Eagle district. Which is fine, I have no complaints about seeing it go back to the Palmyra Panthers if need be.

I have also been doing some research and find that rural towns are more likely to disappear/fade away when there is no school in the area. I mean, who would move to Palmyra if you had to bus your kindergartener 45 minutes to school. How do the smaller districts do it? And why has Palmyra-Eagle operated as a complete district for so long without help? That time has come to an end with this referendum.

I would like the board to look into keeping a 4k-12<sup>th</sup> in Palmyra, in the current Middle/High School and depending on enrollment, adding the Elementary school in. To do this we will have to get rid of the district office and move everything into the main office. The admin should consist of Superintendent, Building Principal, Guidance/Curriculum and Pupil services. These 4 people would make up the district and may have to pull double duty if needed. We would need to share all other services like Food Service, business manager, etc. I am sure one of the surrounding districts would gladly offer theirs if we pay half of the salary. We could also utilize some of the college courses at UW Whitewater or do some co-op classes with surrounding districts.

If need be, share athletics like Football with other districts, like we do with soccer (with East Troy) already. It is very possible to accomplish this.....BUT it would mean getting rid of Eagle because, having lived in Eagle before, most, NOT all, will not give up their fight to be part of Mukwonago. I would rather let Mukwonago have Eagle and any Eagle folks who wish to be part of the new smaller Palmyra district would have the opportunity to OE into Palmyra.

As I said, I do believe it is possible to have a district in Palmyra, and that is what the majority of Jefferson county voters seem to want. So I encourage you to give the loyal students and faculty of Palmyra a second chance to have what they want and deserve, a small rural school with great student to teacher ratio and the ability to succeed at many extracurricular activities. After all, that IS the reason why my wife and I CHOSE Palmyra-Eagle to educate our children and wish to continue to do so!

Thank you

*David Carpenter*

N2939 County Road Z  
Dousman, WI 53118  
262-443-7967  
Palmyra-Eagle School District resident  
Would like to still be in this district

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Tony Fohey <ar15match@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 5:29 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI

My name is Anthony Fohey. I live at W363 S11011 Burr Oak Trail. My phone number is 262-875-0768. I would like to urge the DPI board to dissolve PEASD. Considering the fiscal mismanagement, declining enrollment, and open enrollment out of the district, they have made themselves unaffordable to the residents. We should not be put in a position of losing our homes to these excessive tax increases. Allow the surrounding districts to absorb the few students left. Do the will of the people as expressed in the last two referendums  
Thank you.

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Jeffrey McSwain <jpcmcswain@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 11:24 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Dissolve Palmyra Eagle Area School District

To whom it may concern,

I am in favor of Dissolving the PEASD.

I live in the Town of Eagle, Waukesha County, WI. I'm a senior citizen and no longer have a child in this system. That said, I also have great interest in our future generations of children. I have seen the mismanagement of PEASD over the past several years, both financially, and academically.

I see the performance of PEASD lagging behind that of both Whitewater (WASD) and Mukwonago (MASD) area School Districts. My choice is for the Eagle children to attend the MASD. Clearly MASD has risen above the rest in the area. The academic numbers speak for themselves.

Now examine the financial side of it, especially for those of us living on a fixed retirement income. MASD taxes are far lower than what PEASD has stated they need to survive, yet their academic numbers are better. It simply isn't feasible, reasonable, or sustainable.

Over 40% of Eagle parents have Open Enrolled their children to MASD. You MUST ask yourselves why? I read comments from those parents that opted out of PEASD and into MASD and say their children have now thrived at MASD, and they are very happy with their choices.

I've spoken to many people in the both the Town and Village of Eagle. Each and every person tells me, and this is true for my family too, that we identify with Mukwonago as a community rather than Palmyra. Rarely do we go to Palmyra for a reason that isn't a School event. All of our shopping and social issues are based around Mukwonago, not Palmyra. Why would we want to continue to have a School District that has no other community ties to us except the School itself? This District was only established in 1974, not a very long time in the big scale of things.

Now through mismanagement PEASD is in terrible debt. with no end in sight, other than pound us with outrageous taxes. Even with massive tax increases there is no guarantee the problem will actually be solved.

We have had 2 public advisory referendums now, with a third on the drawing board for January 2020, why? Why was this past referendum needed? The dissolution referendum passed by a huge majority last Spring. Why would PEASD hold another one, on a non election day, with nothing else on the ballot? I'm very suspicious of their motives and you should be too. The overwhelming majority of voters have spoken, and they shouted loud and clear, DISSOLVE PEASD!

Thank you very much,  
Jeffrey McSwain  
W363S10985 Burr Oak Trail  
Eagle, WI 53119  
262-594-3489

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Olson, Kathy A (GE Healthcare) <Kathy.Olson@med.ge.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 12:15 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Dissolving PEASD

We the taxpayers have spoken our wishes through our voting. I thought that in this country the majority wins...that doesn't seem the case here! I'm not sure what your role is in this but I went to the first meeting and felt severely outnumbered to speak for dissolving this failing school district since the meeting wasn't in a neutral location. I decided NOT to speak in fear of being boo'ed out of the place. My concern is for the people who are on fixed income, which I will be in the next year. The tax increases they proposed in the referendum was unthinkable to the people who are retired or soon to be! We have worked hard all our adult lives to get to have what we have now! To be taxed out of our homes and to loose in property value on top of it seems wrong! I hope in making your decision that you think about this group of people! Kids grow up and get on with their lives but taxes are here to stay!

Sincerely, Kathy Olson

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** donna holcomb <donnanoz@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 3:55 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Against dissolution

My husband and I are 72 years old and both graduated from Palmyra High School in 1965. My husbands grandmother, parents, 3 aunts, and one uncle also graduated from Palmyra. Our three children, one of their spouses and two grandchildren have graduated from PEHS and we have one who will graduate this coming spring. We also have an eight year old grandson who is in the second grade in the Palmyra Elementary school. We have always supported the schools in every way we could. We hope and pray that there is a way to continue the education in these schools.

The small class sizes are a plus and the friendliness of the teachers and administrators has always been top notch. If there were any concerns they were always willing to listen and work with the student to solve an issue. Besides receiving a good education the student knows that they can always get the help they might need or be directed to the answer.

The extra curricular activities were also well done. Sports that are offered made it possible for many student athletes to play at a competitive level. The music programs are exceptional providing beautiful concerts and performances to be enjoyed by everyone. The theater arts are another growing and enjoyable portion of the extra curricular activities.

Students are able to be a part of many things. Student council, National Honor Society, and varied outreach programs. Well rounded, and caring students become well rounded, caring and productive adults.

Please let these traditions continue in our schools. Do not dissolve the district.

Adjustments can be made to better serve this community, but closing this school is not the best choice.

Sincerely,  
Ozzie and Donna Holcomb  
102 W. Bluff Street  
Palmyra, Wisconsin 53156

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Palmyra Eagle <palmyraeaglereferendum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 9:25 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Fwd: Dissolve PEASD PLEASE

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **PD other** <pmcd@wi.rr.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 13, 2019, 5:51 PM  
**Subject:** Dissolve PEASD PLEASE  
**To:** <PalmyraEagleReferendum@gmail.com>

Dear neighbors,  
Please dissolve PEASD and join our properties into the Mukwonago Area School District.  
We can't afford increased property taxes and less people will decide to move to our area if taxes are high.  
Therefore, fewer people will have to carry the HEAVY LOAD of the tax burden.

Thanks much for your consideration.  
Patti and Michael Holsen

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Deb Ackermann <DebAckermann@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 10:32 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Dissolve the Palmyra Eagle School District, Please!

**Importance:** High

To Whom it May Concern;

I am a resident in the Town of Eagle within the Palmyra-Eagle School District. I realize that these are criteria you will be taking into consideration regarding the decision to dissolve Palmyra-Eagle School District if applicable:

- (1) The geographical and topographical characteristics of the affected school districts, including the estimated travel time to and from school for pupils in the school districts.
- (2) The educational needs of all of the children residing in the affected school districts, the educational programs currently offered by each affected school district and the ability and commitment of each school district to meet those needs and continue to offer those educational programs.
- (3) If territory is proposed to be detached from one school district and attached to an adjoining school district or proposed to be included in a new school district under s. 117.105, whether the proposed detachment will have any adverse effect on the program currently offered by the school district from which the territory is proposed to be detached, including both curricular and extracurricular aspects of that program.
- (4) The testimony of and written statements filed by the residents of the affected school districts.
- (5) The estimated fiscal effect of the proposed reorganization on the affected school districts, including the effect of the apportionment of assets and liabilities.
- (6) Whether the proposed reorganization will make any part of a school district's territory noncontinuous.
- (7) The socioeconomic level and racial composition of the pupils who reside or will reside in territory proposed to be detached from one school district and attached to an adjoining school district, in territory proposed to be included in a new school district under s. 117.105 or in school districts proposed to be consolidated or in a school district proposed to be dissolved; the proportion of the pupils who reside in such territory who are children at risk, as defined under s. 118.153 (1) (a); and the effect that the pupils described in this paragraph will have on the present and future socioeconomic level and racial composition of the affected school districts and on the proportion of the affected school districts' enrollments that will be children at risk.
- (8) The results of any referendum held under s. 117.10.

To be honest...Items 1-3, 5-7 have been addressed by the 279 Eagle students that have open enrolled out of Palmyra-Eagle School District. 217 of these students are already being educated in the Mukwonago school district that is closer and able to provide a better education to them. Mukwonago and Whitewater have been proactive to make sure they have their residents covered and possible Palmyra-Eagle School District students will be taken care of by researching and coming up with plans to incorporate Palmyra-Eagle School District if dissolved.

Item 4 seems to be what needs to be looked at for our situation. This is not about annexing (which a large portion of Eagle in the Palmyra-Eagle School District has already tried) this is about if the community wishes to dissolve or save Palmyra-Eagle School District. I can tell you that over 75% of the residents of Eagle have



refused to pay for any referendum that this district asks for. We are tired of the "arrogant holier than thou bully mentality" of the District staff, administration, and school board (past and present).

This is NOT a new problem that just occurred due to open enrollment, this has been an issue for over 13+ years. Over 13 years ago, it was brought forth that the district did not have a single dollar budgeted for building repairs. They spent everything they had and felt that residents would just have to pay when they needed it. Referendum after referendum have failed. The Administration and School Boards have refused to make changes to account for declining enrollment. Instead of consolidating schools, they cut educational programs and teachers and yet increased upper admin staff with higher salaries. They continue to hire relatives and friends, yet cut more educational classes and offerings for disabled students. With their math and reading scores dropping, they cut summer school and additional educational offerings, yet sports continue on. At this time the educational offerings are not meeting the needs of the students compared to our surrounding districts. They continue to state arrogantly that "They like the school district the way it is, it is fine". Eagle residents are fed up and done with this district! We have refused to pay money to a sinking ship that refuses to make any changes and correct its mentality. I am not going to throw money at something that is beyond repair. Eagle residents have been telling me they are done being the money bank for Palmyra Eagle and its narcissistic attitude. They are done! We are tired of being told pay up or else. Well "or else" is right next door to us in the Mukwonago District. It is a 10 min drive from my house to the Mukwonago High School. Why would anyone drive 20-25 mins to PE high school when Mukwonago is closer?

I am sick and tired of the bullying that is happening within this district. To be honest it will not be repaired by keeping the district open. Eagle is done with having to listen to Palmyra village board members state pay up or move. We are not to blame for the school being a failure, the admin and boards are. We are fed up with damage to property (tires being slashed on adults and open enrolled teenagers), boxes of nails being tossed into driveways, signs being destroyed, glitter bombs, male residents harassing female residents out getting the word out about the referendum, obscenities being screamed out driving cars past houses while young children are out, people screaming in their yards when an open enrolled person drives by, harassing email/texts/Facebook messages from school employees and residents and so much more. This has created a irreparable rift in this community. How dare anyone speak out against a bad school district? We all must suffer this minority's wrath. This has just caused the majority to refuse to give in any longer.

Many people are terrified to attend your meetings, due to having kids still in the district. They know that their children will have to deal with repercussions at school from some of the kids and teachers. They have no problem voting---since they can be honest yet keep their children safe. But to attend a meeting, they know that this group will find out how they feel and they cannot take a chance with their kids. These are the same people who published every name that signed the annexation petitions. Then proceeded to call, harass in person, and tell their kids not to play with these families kids unless they removed their names. Over 75% of Eagle voters voted down the last "pay an obscene amount of money or we dissolve" referendum and 75% voted for dissolving the district. Pretty obvious Eagle residents understand the question thoroughly and want the district dissolved. We don't need to beat a dead horse over and over again...Eagle residents want out!

I was active in this district for 13+ years and saw the irreparable corruption and arrogance of this district. After 13 + years of trying everything to see change and improvement occur, my husband and I came to the realization that our kids were more important than a district. We chose our kids and choiced them out. THANK GOD that is an option!!!! I knew there were issues, but to my surprise I learned how far behind and how bad Palmyra-Eagle School District issues were and continue to be. It is to long to list all the issues that came to light. Feel free to call me if you wish. Lets just say \$5000 and months of tutoring, our son finally got to grade level in elementary school! Palmyra-Eagle School District said he was fine and continued to move him along. I

will never support Palmyra Eagle and neither will my entire subdivision that have all open enrolled to Mukwonago.

This District is beyond repair. The community is broken and keeping this district open will continue to divide it further. Eagle has made it clear that they no longer wish to be part of Palmyra-Eagle School District. Palmyra has made it clear that Eagle is the bane of their existence and they want us to go away. Please end this madness and dissolve Palmyra-Eagle School District. Whitewater and Mukwonago have very good plans to help with the transition. Please allow them to absorb Palmyra/Whitewater and Eagle/Mukwonago. Allow the community of Eagle to now grow with families that will want to now move here because we actually have a good school district instead of Palmyra-Eagle School District.

Thank you for your time.

Deb Ackermann  
S78W35343 May Forest Rd  
Eagle WI  
262-617-4326

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Annalyse Kreger <annalyse.kreger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 5:21 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Comments

Hi,

I am for dissolving the district. I live in Eagle and am baffled by the mismanagement of funds throughout the years. My children are getting close to enrolling in school very soon. I have done research when determining what would be appropriate for my children and PEASD does not live up to the expectations of the surrounding area school districts.

By keeping the school we are doing a disservice as we are taking away opportunities and increased academic advancements. The amount of taxes we are paying for a failing school district is unjustifiable. You are trying to keep these towns a family/small community town but with astronomical taxes you hinder families and young couples from moving here.

I would like to attend Mukwonago.

My address is W369S10410 Shearer Rd Eagle WI 53119

Thanks,  
Annalyse Victor  
262-930-0005

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Mike Beitz <mbeitz1@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 6:07 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Keep our schools

I am against the schools district dissolving. Mary Beitz, S97W37050 Serenity Ct., Eagle, Wis. 53119. Phone:  
262-594-2625

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** mrsjbenjamin05 <mrsjbenjamin05@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 6:29 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Public Hearing 11/14

Please note not comment as I can not attend the meeting tonight.

1. I am not for dissolution, I hope there's another option.
2. If the school has no choice but to dissolve we would choose East Troy. We refuse to put our kids in Mukwonago with 6000 kids! We are eagle residents that DO NOT WANT Mukwonago.
3. Name: Jennifer Benjamin (mother of 3 children in the district)
4. Address: S102W36682 COUNTY ROAD LO, Eagle, WI 53119
5. Contact number 262.470.0998

Thank you,  
Jennifer Benjamin

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** myorange79z28 <myorange79z28@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 6:44 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI

Please note not comment as I can not attend the meeting tonight.

1. I am not for dissolution, I hope there's another option.
2. If the school has no choice but to dissolve we would choose East Troy. We refuse to put our kids in Mukwonago with 6000 kids! We are eagle residents that DO NOT WANT Mukwonago.
3. Name: Adam Benjamin (father of 3 children in the district)
4. Address: S102W36682 COUNTY ROAD LO, Eagle, WI 53119
5. Contact number 262.470.0702

Thank you,  
Adam Benjamin

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** tael@wi.rr.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 6:44 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** questionnaire response

1. Are you for/against the school district dissolving?
2. If you are for dissolution, what school district do you want to be moved to? I have already graduated 2 children from Mukwonago High School and will graduate my 3<sup>rd</sup> from there as well so no matter what happens we will be at Mukwonago HS.
3. What is your name? Ellen Lamping
4. What is your address? 304 Larkin St, Eagle
5. What is your phone number? private

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** jtclmack@wi.rr.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 6:58 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Dissolve PEASD

Hello,

My husband and I want PEASD dissolved. Our sons started at Eagle Elementary and after four years of a horrible education, we open enrolled them into the Mukwonago School District - the best decision for our family. Our sons have excelled within the Mukwonago School District. We were never asked by PEASD why we left. Basically PEASD has financially been mismanaged and enough is enough.

If you have any questions:

John and Tammy McCormack

W369 S10866 Shearer Road

Eagle, WI 53119

414-221-6855

Thank-you for your time,

John and Tammy McCormack

John McCormack [jtclmack@wi.rr.com](mailto:jtclmack@wi.rr.com)



## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Ryan Healy <[ryanh@superiorcrane.com](mailto:ryanh@superiorcrane.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 8:17 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Public Hearing - Palmyra/Eagle School District

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight but I want to make sure my points are made again.

1. I am for dissolving the school
2. I would like eagle students to end up in Mukwonago

This item has been voted on twice now and had the same result so I hope this will officially put this item to bed.

My home address 807 Leeds Dr, Eagle, WI 53119. Our home phone number is 262-594-2644

Thank you

Ryan

### Ryan Healy

Chief Outside Operations Officer | **Superior Crane Corporation**  
208 Wilmont Drive | Waukesha, WI | 53189 | [ryanh@superiorcrane.com](mailto:ryanh@superiorcrane.com)  
(P) 262.542.0099 | (F) 262.522.7767 | [www.superiorcrane.com](http://www.superiorcrane.com)



**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Michaelene Healy <mickieh@superiorcrane.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 8:25 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Public Hearing-Palmyra/Eagle School District

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight but I want to make sure my points are made again.

1. I am for dissolving the school
2. I would like Eagle students to end up in Mukwonago

This item has been voted on twice now and had the same result so I hope this will officially put this item to bed.

My home address 807 Leeds Dr, Eagle, WI 53119. Our home phone number is 262-594-2644  
Thank you  
Michaelene

**Michaelene Healy**

Quality Assurance Manager/Lead Auditor | **Superior Crane Corporation**  
208 Wilmont Drive | Waukesha, WI | 53189 | [mickieh@superiorcrane.com](mailto:mickieh@superiorcrane.com)  
(P) 262.542.0099 | (F) 262.522.3510 | [www.superiorcrane.com](http://www.superiorcrane.com)



**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Kyle Alexander <kylea3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 10:24 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Palmyra-Eagle School District Comments

Hello,

I am a Village of Eagle resident with two young children. I am unable to make today's meeting regarding the PESD dissolving but I wanted to share my family's input on the matter.

1. Are you for/against the school district dissolving?
2. My family is in favor of dissolving the PESD. The financial burden this district is placing on the residents is unreasonable. There is also a superior school district for lesser taxes nearby in Mukwonago.
3. If you are for dissolution, what school district do you want to be moved to?
4. Mukwonago School District
5. What is your name?
6. Kyle Alexander
7. What is your address?
8. 812 Andover Dr, Eagle, WI 53119
9. What is your phone number?
10. #262-894-6934

Thank you,  
The Alexander Family

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am [REDACTED] years old. I am a sophomore at Palmyra-Eagle High School. Unfortunately I will not be graduating from my school. From the very district that I have known my entire life. I have two older brothers that graduated from here not that long ago. It was my goal to graduate from here too.

I am very afraid of what the future has in store for me. Right now all I know is that I will be forced to attend a different school. I will be separated from all of my friends and the teachers that I have grown to know and respect. I will be forced to attend a school where I will just be a face in the crowd. I am afraid of being forced to attend a much larger school. A school where kids are judged by the clothes that they wear and by the wealth of their family.

Palmyra-Eagle School District is a very small district. All of the elementary teachers knew me before I was their actual student. When I was little I often visited the school and attended many of my brothers' events/activities. This has made school so much more comfortable and easy for me. Especially during my freshman year of high school. Most of the teachers knew me as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm not gonna lie, it made me feel pretty special. It paved the way for a very successful year for me.

I am so angry with the results of the April referendum. I am mad that people did not care about the students or what will happen to us. I am pissed at the people that thought it was better to vote against the referendum so that their kids could attend a different school. A school that they believe is better than the schools in Palmyra-Eagle School District. These people could have done open enrollment for their children. Instead of screwing the rest of us and our district. It's just not fair.

I am in the special education program. I have a learning disability in math. The teachers and aides have been very helpful to me over the years. Because of their encouragement, patience, and time I have managed to make the honor roll grade. They have made my life so much happier. They have given me confidence and the

ability to succeed in my math classes. They also have been there to support me whenever I need them. Their door is always open to me and they are just an email away.

I have decided to do home schooling my junior and senior years. I have low self esteem and anxiety. It is too difficult for me to pick up and attend a new school. Especially when none of my friends will be attending the same school. I do not want to go to a larger school or have to be on a school bus for a long period of time, especially in the winter. Plain and simple I don't want to start over. I love Palmyra-Eagle High School. I love everything about it. It would kill me to say good-bye to the teachers /staff, my friends, and the district. This should have never happened. Good-bye for now.

Proud student of Palmyra-Eagle High School,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

November 7, 2019

Dear SDBAB,

My name is [REDACTED], and I have been a student in the Palmyra-Eagle school district since I moved here in the 5th grade. Starting at a new school wasn't a foreign concept to me. I had moved to the Jefferson school district shortly after my parents divorce. I repeated kindergarten and stayed until the 4th grade. While at Jefferson I witnessed, and was subject to, bullying and the poor management of children with behavioural issues. Once I moved to Palmyra in the third grade I was given the choice to open enroll back to Jefferson, which I did. As the year continued, I began to naturally make friends with kids on my street and they told me all about their school. That's when I realized that the elementary school I was attending acted more as a breeding ground for bullies than as a safe learning environment. Once I finally made the switch in the 5th grade I was walking into the unknown once again, but once I arrived on the first day everyone welcomed me with open arms. I had never felt such a strong sense of belonging in my life, however this was also around the same time that my life as I knew it would change forever.

Half way through the 5th grade year I began to have issues focusing at school, at first I thought it was nothing until my teacher and my mom started to talk to me about all the missing work I had and my grades. As a 5th grader I didn't really take all of it in and just blew it off, until the principal, Steve Greenquest, got involved. From that point on, I was in the office almost every day so he could personally check to see if I got my homework done. This also carried over into my 6th grade year. At the time I thought it was ridiculous that he was doing this. I felt like it wasn't fair that I was the only one subjected to this, however looking back at it I see how much he truly cared about how I and every other student did regardless of what grade level they were at. It blows me away to see that level of care put out by a teacher, much less a principal, who will most likely be a faded memory in most kids minds by the time they're in high school or college. While going through this my dad was admitted into the hospital for unknown reasons and only after a few days was rushed to the ICU while I was visiting him. The school was notified of what I was going through and handled it in the best way possible, making me feel like I wasn't alone and could talk to anyone. The one person I confided in the most was my 5th grade teacher, John Knoot. He was the first person to welcome me to Palmyra and became one of the biggest role models I think I will ever have. Not only did he help me in the classroom, but he helped me with all of the issues I was having outside of school. We would sit and talk in his classroom after school often times for an hour to an hour and a half but sometimes it went ever longer. Even after going into 6th grade I would still visit him on the regular and talk about issues, I considered him to be more than a teacher but a friend by the time I entered middle school. 6th grade was the worst year of my life; I couldn't stay focused, I would butt heads with the teacher and the principal, and I had given up on school all together. But the one thing that made this school year the worst one I ever had, was my dad. At the start of the 6th grade year my dad had been in the hospital for about 8 months, having just received a transplant and being discharged from the hospital into a rehabilitation center. My entire family was hopeful. until the last week of September when my dad was admitted into the ICU for what would become the final time. On Saturday, October 4, 2014, at 5:10 p.m. my father passed away after 9 long months of battling his illness and almost beating it. When it came time for the funeral, my entire family was shocked to see that my principal, my 6th grade teacher, Tammy Anderson, and Mr.Knoot, were

all in attendance at a funeral that took place in the middle of the day during the week. The next week I returned to school once again feeling that warm welcoming feeling I received when I was a new student except it was different, when I came into class and opened up my desk I saw at least a dozen or so cards from all the kids in my class and even kids not in my class, and it was an emotional experience for everyone to witness. Later on that year my family set up a fundraiser for the high school golf team in memory of my dad, we raised of 300 dollars for the high school golf team which at the time didn't have team golf bags. I was also invited to come practice with the high school team as a 6th grader and this happened on more than one occasion.

The start of the 7th grade year was more of the same regarding focusing issues, fortunately this issue was solved at the beginning of the 3rd quarter I was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder as well as Depression, and PTSD and was swiftly medicated for them, this saw a massive jump in grades that shocked the middle school staff and school administrators. After that problem was solved I was able to go from an F and D student to an A and B student within about a week or two, and after that I haven't looked back.

My freshman year saw tragedy strike again, my mother was admitted to the hospital and eventually diagnosed with stage 4 renal failure and the first to come and support me and my mom was the school. My sophomore y I joined the football team and I've never felt more at home than I did playing for the Palmyra-Eagle Panther football team, even though it was my first year ever playing football the coaches were patient and supportive of me playing and pushed me to be the best that I could be and taught me lots of life lessons.

I feel like I know more about the referendum and the school than most students at this point in time and I think I have a high enough intelligence to speak about how this will affect the state and the town. First of all the most if not all the businesses in town rely on the school as a means of business weather it be the students or the families that reside in the town, without a school people will leave slowing killing local businesses hurting the local economy on a larger scale, most of the people in town work for two of the large companies in the area, Generac and Standard process, these two companies would most likely take a hit due to the amount of people leaving and having to find new jobs for convenience sake. This combined with the hit that land value would take in the area many homes won't sell and will go abandon or sell for dirt cheap due to there not being a school nearby. I understand that groups have talked with the governor and have protested in the capital about our situation and I personally don't think it would look good if governor Evers let the only school in state history close especially when he has been fairly quiet in regards to doing anything politics wise.

Now as a junior with an unknown fate in front of me all I can do is think back to the days where I was just a number in a tactile system of big city education, and I fear for my classmates who may have to go and endure that system, a system where they won't play varsity or play at all, a system where you won't always get the help you need due to the class size, a system that is often times too big or too ignorant to notice when bullying is going on and believe if your the kid whose school closed your going to be bullied. I know what it's like in the bigger schools and I don't think most of these kids will be able to handle how that system of education works much less being separated from everyone you know and grew up with. The one thing I want you to take away from this unorganized, rambling mess of an email is that big doesn't always mean better and please don't forget about the little guys and that breaking apart such a cohesive group of staff and students would do more than kill the town it will leave an everlasting scar on the Wisconsin state government and psychological damage to those who were forcefully ripped away from what love the most.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Trudy Rupp <trudyr@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 10:52 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Dissolve

I am a senior citizen requesting you to dissolve the Palmyra Eagle School district.

I would like my property moved to the Mukwonago School district

Thank you

Trudy Rupp  
S71W34995 State Road 59  
Eagle, WI 53119  
262-470-5020

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Karen Milligan <kmilligan@peasd.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 12:32 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** PEASD Dissolution Situation

Dear School District Boundary Appeal Board,

I am writing to you as an employee of Palmyra-Eagle Area School District. This is my 13th school year working in the PEMS/HS Main Office as an Administrative Assistant. When I was first hired at PEASD, I was unfamiliar with PEASD. I had three children attending Mukwonago Area School District, where my husband was a graduate as well, and I attended West Allis Central High School and Holy Assumption Catholic Grade School. Therefore, a district the size of PEASD was completely unfamiliar to me.

Upon being hired, I had friends in the Mukwonago district ask me why I would want to work for such a poor district. Many said they had heard negative things about PEASD, and they would never send their kids there. When I asked them for details, they could never give me any. They just would say that "they heard." The people that said those things were open enrolled into Mukwonago from PEASD and admittedly never even stepped foot into a PEASD school. Most moved into their homes with the intention of never sending their kids to PEASD and just open enrolled right from the beginning without ever checking out the PEASD school district.

As my time working for PEASD began, I was completely blown away by how wrong all of those people were about PEASD school district. I could not believe the differences I was learning between the large schools that I was accustomed to and the small school that I was now spending every day observing.

The main differences that I observed right from the get go were the closeness of the students, staff, and parents. Everyone really does know everyone. I, myself, very quickly learned each student's name, knew their parents by the sound of their voices, and learned of each student's family dynamics. This makes for a very nurturing learning environment for each and every student, much like the parochial elementary school I attended while growing up.

Next, I had heard a rumor of bullying at PEASD, but the difference was bullying was not near as much of a problem as PEASD as it is at larger schools. Bullying is handled promptly, simply because you hear of issues as soon as they happen at a small school, and the administrators know each student personally, so nothing gets by in a small school. At Mukwonago, I was personally involved in a very serious bullying situation with my own son that went on for three years. I had to jump through major hoops to get someone to listen to us and get involved. At PEASD, I have personally observed any mention of bullying being promptly handled immediately, without question. Bullying is everywhere, the difference is how it is dealt with, and from my experience, I believe smaller schools deal with it more promptly and efficiently.

Sure, Mukwonago offers more AP classes, more sports, more clubs, etc., but they CAN. They have more students and more money to do so. PEASD offers as much as they possibly can with the resources they have. If all of the open enrollment money stayed in the PEASD district, they could offer more as well. However, PEASD offers enough. Enough to educate their students to get accepted at major universities such as UW-Madison and succeed just as much as any student from a larger district. Just as in any other school, students get out of education what they put into it.

Yes, their test scores may be a little lower than some neighboring districts, but there again, it is the money. From personal experience, I know that the larger districts are preparing students better to do well on the standardized tests, preparing them better for ACT tests, and providing better preparation needed to perform well on those tests. I believe PEASD could do that as well if they had more money for the resources

to do so. However, I have seen the success of PEASD graduates when they meet up with the other students in college. It sometimes may take them a semester to catch up, but the majority catch up very quickly, so how important are those tests to the future success of their students, not very. The ones who complete all of the AP courses offered at PEHS also have the option to take more college courses at UW-Whitewater, which is very close.

I believe Mukwonago does not need anymore students from outside of their district. The high school finally has the room it needs. My two older children went there with over-crowded hallways, and my youngest was able to attend one year with the new larger building. The middle school is already bursting at the seams. There are new subdivisions and apartment buildings being built in Mukwonago district currently that are going to add even more students very soon. I have many friends in Mukwonago district, and they do not want to take on students from outside the district. They feel their school is big enough. They would be upset to learn that their school district is attempting to take over half of PEASD students. The majority of MASD parents have no idea that this is even in the works. MASD parents were not given a chance to vote for if they wanted to take on students from outside of their district. I believe that if MASD is given the Waukesha County half of PEASD, there will be future problems with overcrowding at MASD. I can foresee the parents there being very upset if their children have to be shifted from one elementary to another or whatever changes would come with acquiring half of PEASD.

The sports are a major reason that some students open enroll to larger schools as well. They falsely believe that they will have better recognition on a sport at a larger school. However, that is not usually the case. Unless your student is a stand-out athlete, your student will see less actual participation on a sport in a larger school, and they will be lucky to make the team at the varsity level. At a school the size of PEASD, all students can be on the team, and most get a good amount of participation time. Actually, they have more recognition than they would in a large school as it is easier to make it to State, and talented athletes stand out more in a pool of fewer athletes. And participation is what sports should all be about any way, not sitting on the bench watching.

It has been difficult for me to hear the group of people who are open enrolled out of PEASD bad mouth PEASD district and turn Mukwonago into a dirty word. Mukwonago is an excellent large district and my children did very well there. But the actual families of Mukwonago district (not the open enrolled ones) do not view PEASD as competition. They understand that there is a major size difference between the two, and they are not on the same playing field. The people who bad mouth PEASD are people who open enroll out of PEASD and do not actually live in MASD. Those people most likely paid less for their houses than they would have if they had been in the MASD district, and it is an easy way to raise their property values by becoming MASD residents. Many are seeing this as an opportunity to raise their property value and also decrease their taxes. However, they do not understand that if all of their tax dollars went to PEASD, PEASD would also be a stronger district. And many just believe bigger is better, and they want free busing for their students. But, then they should have purchased a home in MASD in the first place. This is a situation where open enrollment has gotten out of control. It is a group of parents who want what they don't have and their bullying and bad mouthing of PEASD has gotten way out of hand. They constantly make up false rumors about PEASD and put it on social media and spread false information, which are slowly ruining the way people (who do not know any better) see PEASD. For instance, the one that PEASD never cut any staff when they started to endure financial troubles, which I can tell you first hand, is untrue. When I was hired, there was another full-time secretary working alongside me in the main office, and that position was cut approximately five years ago, along with many others.

PEASD is a diamond in the rough, so to speak. They are an excellent district that could be so much more if they had the financial resources. However, they do very well with what they have, but unfortunately, it is not enough to keep their head above water these days with state funding being the way it is. I believe that there should be a line drawn through Eagle, and MASD should be given students who are closer to Mukwonago so that it helps to alleviate the open enrollment issues that PEASD faces, since unfortunately, I do not see the open enrollment option going away any time soon. I also believe that one of the two elementary buildings needs to close and the sixth grade needs to be moved into the MS/HS building as there is room for them there. I feel like PEASD could stay afloat with fewer students and less expenses. If we cut loose the children that

school choice out on the one end of Eagle, I believe it will actually make PEASD stronger, because less space will be needed to educate students, and the bad mouthing/false rumor spreading will stop by those people. The area is growing, and I believe there will soon be more of a need for PEASD schools as Mukwonago grows bigger and more people move west. It will happen, and PEASD will be needed even more when it does, but if PEASD dissolves, it will be too late.

Sincerely,

***Karen Milligan***  
***Main Office Administrative Assistant***  
***Palmyra-Eagle Middle/High School***  
***262-495-7101, Ext. 2200***  
***[kmilligan@peasd.org](mailto:kmilligan@peasd.org)***

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** r.hunter67@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 12:23 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** PALMYRA EAGLE DISSOLUTION

Good Afternoon,

I voted NO to this back in April and I voted YES to dissolve the district in November.

I moved here from Chicago hoping to get away from raising taxes for everything that is not the taxpayers fault. Tired of paying for politicians inability to properly handle funds. Seems same thing is happening here in Eagle.

The results below should be enough to see most of us do not want to see our taxes go up.

**Voters on Tuesday rejected a four-year, \$11.5 million dollar operational referendum — a financial lifeline district officials have said was needed to keep the cash-strapped district from dissolving.**

**The measure was defeated 2,276 to 1,473. That's 61% of the electorate saying no.**

Sincerely,

Rhonda Molitor

W369S10500 Shearer Rd.

Eagle, WI 53119

630-965-8954

r.hunter67@yahoo.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Kim Jahn <kimjahn96@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 12:19 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** PEASD School District

This takes two minutes. Everyone should do this!

These E-mails should be very clear on a few points:

- 1) Are you for/against the school district dissolving? We are for the dissolution of the district
- 2) If you are for dissolution, what school district do you want to be moved to? Mukwonago
- 3) What is your name? Kim Jahn
- 4) What is your address? 312 Appletree Ct
- 5). What is your phone number? 262-894-3245

Thank you,

Kim Jahn

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** J <ashparksc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 17, 2019 10:53 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Palmyra eagle school district

Good evening,

We wanted to express our opinions on the dissolving of PE schools. We are FOR the dissolving of the school district. We have 3 children who currently attend or have graduated from East Troy Community Schools. Although we are districted for PE schools, we left 10 years ago and chose ET schools.

When looking at the possible redistricting of PE homes, we are requesting that our area be districted for East Troy schools. The buses already go down our road, and the district line is only approx. a 1/2 mile down the road.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Randy and Jenny Schroepfer

W360S10541 Nature Rd

Eagle, WI 53119

Sent from my iPad

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Antonia Bartolotta <albartolotta@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 17, 2019 2:15 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** DISSOLVE PEASD

**Name:** Antonia Bartolotta

**Address:** 824 Leeds Drive, Eagle WI

**For or against dissolution:** For dissolution

**Reassigned district preference:** Mukwonago

My name is Antonia Bartolotta and I am a PEASD alum, class of 2018. I have lived in this district and attended the schools my whole life. I graduated Valedictorian and was involved in NHS, basketball, track, cross country, volleyball, and soccer. Despite my involvement and success, I believe this district should dissolve. PEASD should offer students much more than what it did for me and currently does.

### **Reasons for dissolution:**

#### **Education:**

- As a valedictorian, I felt I did not have to work very hard to achieve this status. I am not super smart by any means, as I did not achieve a stellar score on my ACT. There were also 6 valedictorians, and one of them took only the very basic classes/ no AP classes/ only gym classes senior year and still achieved the “valedictorian” status.
- I took every AP class, besides AP calculus, that my school offered. I only benefited from my AP psychology class because the other classes I did not do well enough on the AP exams. I think this was partially to blame on my teachers. We were not prepared to take the AP exams. When I started college, many of my friends received many credits from their AP classes, and passing their AP exams was a common thing. However, at Palmyra Eagle, it was not a common thing to pass these exams.
- There was a lack of class options. There were only a handful of AP classes and not many elective classes offered. I would have liked more class options to prepare for my future better and take classes I actually enjoyed. As someone who wanted to go into more of the medical field, I felt there were no classes to expose me to this. Other schools like Mukwonago are able to offer these opportunities to students.

#### **Athletics**

- Sports teams were not very competitive
- There were no cuts to any sports.
- So many of our high school sports teams were coached by a player’s dad contributing to favoritism. Everyone knows how that usually goes.... In life, your mom and dad are not always going to be there to give you everything you want.
- You also can’t get rid of every coach you don’t like. So many of our coaches had been “run out” of the town by parents that did not like the coaching style or the playing time their child received. This teaches kids absolutely nothing except when you don’t like your coach, just get rid of them. I feel that at a bigger school, this would not be tolerated. Unless there are legitimate reasons for a coach to be fired, kids need to learn that they might not always like who is in charge of them and learn to adapt.

**“Just small school things...”**



- When I was in 8th grade, the high school basketball coach was known to be doing inappropriate things with his players and students. The high school athletic director was fully aware of this, as the basketball coach lived in his basement, and did nothing about it.
- I felt I had a close relationship with my teachers and had very small class sizes, however I sometimes felt like teachers were not the most professional in the way they interacted with students.

### **Social Life**

- Growing up with the same group of friends my entire life felt like the only option. Diversity is not something PEASD offers to students.
- Everyone is up in each other's business.

In conclusion, I believe the best thing for students of the PEASD district is for it to dissolve. I now see how much more is available in other districts and PEASD just cannot compete.

Thank you for your time,

Antonia Bartolotta

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Carol Nain <mrsnain4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 17, 2019 9:33 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Affirm Dissolution

I have never spoken on this topic publically because I never felt like I wanted to get involved. However, I am seeing a disturbing trend of uncivilized behavior.

For what it's worth, here is my story.

I homeschooled my children and enrolled them in PEASD Elementary school. I had to take care of my hospiced Father mid fourth grade. My daughter was in the elementary school from 4th - 6th grade. When I sent her to the middle school in Mukwonago, they tested her and she tested at a grade level of, you guessed it, mid-fourth grade.

This basically means that she hadn't learned a single thing in two years at that elementary school.

I was literally the most involved parent you will ever meet. I even became PTO President. I wanted to ensure my daughter had the best education possible.

I was so frustrated by what I saw from the administration, that I actually quit and walked away. All they ever talked about was money and how they could get more money. They acted like they cared, they said all the right things, but unless you could look underneath the charade, you couldn't see the farce beneath the fake smiles.

The corruption went all the way up the to the top of the food chain. It was a larger, money sucking fiasco than I could even imagine.

I am thrilled with MASD and appreciate their dedication to the children. MASD is outstanding. There has never been a moment or a shred of doubt that I didn't do the right thing for my children.

I have my reasons for not wanting to fork over my hard-earned money to an endless money-sucking vacuum of a defunct school system. You have your reasons for whatever you chose to do as well.

That is why Americans vote. So that the majority rules. The people of Eagle have spoken. We have said No to PEASD and that is the bottom line.

This constant bickering and speaking ill of others should really stop. Just look in the mirror and ask if you are the grown-up in the room. Be civil to one another as we are all neighbors. I chose to live in a small town because of its warmth and welcoming nature. Let's all keep Eagle honorable.

Thank you for your time and have a nice day.

I am reminded of another incident anchor when my young son, (I'm thinking third grade), came home from school one day. His winter coat was dirty, so I decided that I would give it a work in the washing machine. I noticed something dangling from his zipper. The closet I looked, my jaw stopped in disbelief, as I saw a round cardboard placard that read, "Personal Space." I was dumbfounded as to what it could be and asked my son what it was. He said his teacher put it on his jacket for everyone to see. It was too remind him not to get too close to his classmates.

"Are you kidding me?" I thought to myself. The teacher had branded my son and that was not going to fly with me. I saw this for exactly what it was. This was bullying, passion asks simple. The teacher was ostrisizing my son!

I ripped it off his zipper and asked him how this had made him feel. He lowered his head and with a whimper, he proclaimed that it had made him very sad and that the other kids had made fun of him during recess. I was so furious that I wanted to cry. My dear, little boy was only worried because he knew his teacher would get mad at him because she would yell at him for taking it off his coat.

Now, all me why I voted to dissolve PEASD.

Mrs. Carol Nain

209 N. Park View Drive

Eagle, WI. 53119

414-378-0748

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Doris Parsons <dorisparsons85@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 17, 2019 9:28 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Against Dissolution  
**Attachments:** Nov. 7 talk.pdf

Attached please find the written version of my oral testimony at the November 7th public dissolution hearing.

Thank you,

Doris Parsons

262.470.1279

Excerpts from my November 7th verbal testimony to the SDBAB against dissolution:

Twenty three years ago, my husband and I moved our family from Northern Illinois to Southeastern Wisconsin because of a job offer. Having a 3 year old and a 6 year old at the time, our first and foremost priority was schools. We researched which school districts were located within a reasonable driving distance from where my husband would be working. We toured schools, talked to teachers, administrators, and other parents that had students in those districts. We chose Palmyra-Eagle. Soon after that decision we searched for a home within district boundaries, found one in the town of Eagle, and moved in the day before our 6 year old started first grade. We've been here since, our children are 29 and 26 respectively, and we have never regretted the decision to raise them going to P-E.

Did we choose this district because we thought it was perfect? Absolutely not. All districts have their strengths and their weaknesses, but we believed then and still do now that the strengths of Palmyra-Eagle are core to what we were looking for. A small, rural district with unique opportunities and offerings because of those two factors.

The weaknesses we saw, we worked to change. Be the change you want to see happen. That, I believe, is a great lesson to teach your kids, as well as other adults. Volunteering in the classrooms, serving in the PTO, participating in fundraisers all help to create positive change within schools. Wanting to take the opportunity for change even further I ran for the school board. I was elected and had the privilege to serve this community in that capacity for seven years, three as board president, and saw firsthand some really awesome things that were accomplished by positive people working together to better the educational experience for all of our students.

I know, because of that experience, that proposing change in schools can be difficult. It takes hard work, tough choices and decisions that aren't always popular. I am not asking that the Palmyra Eagle Area School District remain the same, or go back to how it operated when I was on the board. I recognize and understand the major financial challenges here and that things will need to look much differently in our future. Looking differently is better than dissolving and not having a future. Things happen, good and bad in all aspects of life. Challenges arise, you don't quit, you work to fix things. Perhaps we'll need to close a building or two, or revisit the request to allow a large portion of Eagle, including the Eagle Elementary building, to detach from our district and become a part of the Mukwonago district.

School districts are not the buildings they use to operate within. School districts provide the heart for what takes place inside those buildings. The structures within our district don't matter, our students do. Whatever the new look of P-E needs to be, please allow us to remain and to continue to provide the small rural option that many families seek, and that many children need.

My final point is this; there was no community input solicited, that I am aware of, before our voters were presented with the plan to remain status quo for four years, or dissolve.

Referendum informational meetings were set up, yes, but informational meetings are not an opportunity for collaborative efforts to hear and actually consider ideas outside the box that may indeed have merit. Myself and many other community members would like the opportunity to propose a strategic plan that may require major changes, but changes that could be positive, unique and make Palmyra-Eagle a district that families choose to come into, rather than opt out of. Please give us the chance to try.

I want to close with something shared with me by a co-worker who saw it posted on social media. He told me it was from a long time educator in the Fort Atkinson district that is recently retired. She now subs in other districts, including Palmyra-Eagle. She saw the video that our PE students made and shared it on her page, along with this comment: "I've had a chance to meet some of these (Palmyra-Eagle) kiddos when I subbed there. I have to say the thing that really impressed me was how kind they were to each other in the halls. Do you know how rare that is? I really hope they can keep their school. They love it!"

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris Parsons  
W372 S9948 Hwy 67  
Eagle, WI  
53119  
dorisparsons85@gmail.com

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Katie Tucker <katietucker@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 16, 2019 11:13 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** PEASD Dissolution comments

November 16, 2019

Dear members of the SDBAB,

My name is Katie Tucker and I am a village of Eagle resident. I have three children who currently attend Eagle Elementary, with my oldest being in 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year. I am in favor of finding a solution to keeping a school in my community.

When my oldest started school in Eagle in 2012, each grade section had two classes. As she progressed through the grades, I saw enrollment decline to the point that there was just one class per grade level. I was perplexed as to what was happening, as I had no problems whatsoever with the school or my daughter's education. She is exceptionally smart, and the teachers did a wonderful job educating her. One of the things I love about Eagle is the smaller class sizes and the one-on-one attention they get. Everyone knows each other, and the principal knows all the students and parents by name. We really feel like we are part of something unique and special.

My daughter was looking forward to being in middle school at PEASD next year, and eventually joining the dance team in high school. She saw these opportunities as possibilities in a smaller school, but is concerned what her experience will look like in high school if she is forced to attend Mukwonago – where there are upwards of 400 kids in a class and each student is merely a number.

We have come to really appreciate a small, rural school district, and see the many positives of attending a smaller school. I always assumed my children would attend the school in the community where we live, and I never considered any other district. It saddens me that people choose to build a home or move to Eagle because the cost of homes here is less than in Mukwonago (as are the taxes) – yet they never step a foot in our schools, and decide that they will just open enroll out because the Mukwonago schools were always their first choice and Eagle is close enough to the district they wanted. This has killed PEASD financially!

It devastates me to think that the PEASD buildings may close and become empty or bulldozed. What kind of community will Eagle or Palmyra become, with no schools? Will families want to even live here if there are no local schools? (especially Palmyra?) I find it ironic that there are “active adult condos” being built less than a half mile from Eagle Elementary. This village will become a senior living community without any open or operating schools here.

This issue has torn apart a community. The people I once thought were my friends and neighbors are being nasty to each other on social media. Adults are acting like children. No one wants to come to an agreement, and each side is equally emotional about the topic. I am not sure why enrollment has decreased so much at PEASD. Those that have not had good experiences go around bad-mouthing the school district, spreading opinions claiming to be facts, and will stop at nothing until the school district goes away. For my family and my kids, this is just extremely sad, because we love the school district, and Eagle Elementary holds a special place in our hearts.

I am not ignorant to the fact that PEASD has financial issues. Open enrollment is one thing that has severely hurt PEASD, but I also believe that more cuts can be made to make the district operate with a sounder budget, especially if one or more buildings or jobs/positions are consolidated. A committee can be started to see what families in this area want out of a school district and education, and steps can be taken to make that happen. The school can be even better than it was before (which is already pretty great by the opinion of so many!)

It does seem that the majority of Eagle wants out of PEASD. If that's the case, let them go. But *please* keep Eagle Elementary open and operating, even if it's with another school district. So many great teachers are there, and it is in a great location, next to the Eagle Nature Trail. The school is kept up very well with many nice updates. It's a wonderful asset to the community, and what an absolute shame it would be to see it go away. Another big concern of mine is that Mukwonago schools are already over-crowded as they are. Does Mukwonago even have room for all the kids that would come from Eagle? How long would it be before they would have to expand their schools and go to referendum to pay for it?

I would love to see Palmyra keep a school district going. I feel worse for them in this considering Whitewater schools (or any school district for that matter) are so much further away. What a detriment to Palmyra to not have any schools in the community, and I can't imagine the effect it would have on the businesses there. We may even choose to move to Palmyra and attend the school district there if it remains open.

I hope the SDBAB will be reasonable in finding a solution that will benefit the communities and our children. **Bigger does not mean better!** Our kids and families should have a choice to attend the small, rural schools vs. the massive school districts. I fear for all the small school districts in Wisconsin eventually being swallowed up by the big ones. No school district is perfect, and there is room for improvement at all schools. There are enough people who support PEASD and believe in it – this should not be ignored.

Thank you for your participation on this board and hearing all the facts before making your decision. I know you are considering what is in the best interest of the children. I hope that what will come out of this will make our community schools even better than before and will make the fight amongst neighbors come to an end.

Katie Tucker

610 Old Prospectors Trail

Eagle, WI 53119

(262) 370-2252



**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Teri Sayles <terijsayles@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 16, 2019 5:07 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Mukwonago marketing

Good afternoon,  
Just wanted to let you know I received a beautiful and impressive piece of literature in the mail today.  
It was VERY informative about the Mukwonago school district.  
I live in Eagle. The Palmyra-Eagle school district.

The Mukwonago district is obviously interested in serving our community.

I recommend you take that in consideration when making your decision.  
Thank you,

Teri

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Tammy Urban <urhantam69@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 16, 2019 3:52 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI

Good day,

I am writing to you again as I am appalled at comments that were made at the Thursday night meeting in Eagle. I have heard rumors about Eagle residents spreading lies. Rumors of how mean and nasty they are. I had no clue if these rumors were true, or just how bad they were.

Wow, I must admit how shocked I was to hear some of the things that I heard that night. There were so many blatant lies made by those who oppose keeping OUR district open. Apparently they don't have enough factual evidence that they feel it okay to make up stories or stretch the truth so far beyond being warped.

My family has been a part of PEASD for over 43 years. My husband completed kindergarten through Senior year and graduated in 1990. I have two sons that graduated from Palmyra-Eagle High School. One in 2014 the other in 2017. I have a daughter who currently is a Sophomore at the high school. If the district had an issue with bullying I am sure that I would have heard about such incidents. Stories like that spread like wild fire.

In the 43 years of being a part of the PEASD family I have not heard of rampant stories of bullying in our schools. Yes, there have been a few isolated cases. These cases were far and few between. They were immediately addressed and taken care of appropriately. I do know that there was a girl in my daughters class who had behavioral/mental health issues. She was actually asked to leave the school in 5th grade. She came back during middle school. She is doing super now and does not pose a threat to anyone. It is quite amazing.

Our schools have a very good anti bullying program in place. In the high school/middle school library there is an anti bullying contract that the students have signed. We have programs throughout the year that promote a zero tolerance towards bullying. I think the school does an amazing job in educating our students regarding bullying and the consequences if bullying is to occur.

Thursday night I heard comments regarding the special education department at PEASD. Those who are for the dissolution of our district had nothing good to say about the Special Education Department, the teachers, or aides. I have no idea where they are getting this information from or what they are basing it on. The Palmyra-Eagle Special Education Department is amazing. Literally no child gets left behind.

My daughter has been a part of the special Education Department since she was in 4th grade. She struggled terribly in math. Life at my home was terrible. She suffered from low self esteem. We tried to help her with her homework. It usually ended up in a major argument. Life was miserable for all of us. It was draining and depressing.

Once she got tested and began getting help from the Special Education Department our world changed. Our household was happy and light again. We did not have to walk around on egg shells. She walks the halls with pride and self confidence now. She has made the honor roll every semester since middle school. Now as a Sophomore she is excelling in all of her classes and has great relationships with her teachers.

The special education department has a group of outstanding people working for them. EVERY single class, all day long has an special education aide or teacher sitting in on it. They are learning what is being taught and are available to be hands on right there in the moment. They are also able to help out students during their 9th hour

study hall or their 4th hour resource class. I really don't know what more the Special Education Department could do to improve their program. They are doing fantastic work. My daughters grades are proof of that.

Quite possibly the most absurd thing that I heard that night was people accusing PEASD supporters of criminal activity. Slashing of tires and felony acts committed against them. It is one thing to challenge how our school system runs or how we have used past referendum money. To down right lie about physical "attacks" shows lack of good character in my view. I would love to see the police reports regarding these incidents. You cannot just go around accusing people of committing crimes. Unless there is 100% proof of a crime being committed and who the perpetrator is, these are just "alleged stories."

I was so impressed with my daughters classmates who stood and spoke Thursday night. Some of them were treated disrespectfully as they cried when they shared their stories. Let's be real, this is THEIR story. They deserve to be heard. Not have a box of kleenex tossed at them in disgust and disrespect. Not to have people rolling their eyes at them. Be whispered at while they are pouring their hearts out. This just proved to me how cold and uncaring some of the non supporters are. These are just children. For most this is the only school system that they have ever known. They have the right to be upset.

One student spoke eloquently about the fact that she is not an adult. She does not have the right to vote. She does not get to choose or decide what happens to HER school. I have known this girl since she was in 4K. It brought me to tears to listen to her speak. How a 15 year old girl could speak with such grace, class, and maturity. Many of the adults in that room could have learned from her that night.

Please think of the students when making your decision to dissolve the Palmyra-Eagle School District. Think outside of the box for possible solutions to the problems that loom over us. I am here to tell you that the students, teachers, and families of PEASD are worth it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Tammy Urban

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** John Schultz <schultzjw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 16, 2019 2:06 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Palmyra - Eagle dissolution

To whom it may concern

My name is John Schultz and I live on 103 woodfield dr, eagle, wi in the village of Eagle.

I have lived here for 5 years with my wife, our daughter and in the last few years our new baby.

My oldest is a SR at mukwonago high school and has been in the district since she was in Kindergarten when we lived in North Prairie.

We are in favor dissolution and would like to be a part of the mukwonago school district, not for our oldest but for our youngest who is turning 3.

Based on DPI report cards and my older daughters first hand experience Mukwonago has the staff and extra after school activities for kids to thrive and succeed.

My oldest has had some issues in Math and had to take summer school two times in her 4 years at mukwonago high. Without summer school she would not be on the path to graduating and attending college next year which she is.

One of my biggest issues with Palmyra - Eagle Highschool is that they do not have summer school so if you fail a class you cannot make up that class at the end of summer and obtain the credit.

I feel without summer school a lot of the struggling kids(wether is' one class / semester or all year long with multiple classes) would cause some students to fail / not graduate or pushing them to retake the classes and causing issues with other classes.

I cannot remember the lat time I have heard of a high school and middle school not offering summer school wether it's mandatory classes or just extra summer fun / non required classes.

Every teacher , principal or staff member I have dealt with in Prairie View elementary, Park View Middle School and Mukwonago Highschool has been very accommodating and very helpful for my daughter wether she was doing well in the class or struggling.

When we moved to Eagle 5 years ago I contact Palmyra - Eagle Middle / Highschool to get explanations on various programs, activities that were cut(or never existed) as well as tours and the response was not welcoming and the answers were short and dismissive.

I think it was clear on the two votes that Eagle (as well as others in surrounding areas) do not want to fund a school with faltering attendance and lack of educational and after school programs with a large tax hike that could cause many financial issues and some of the older population that does not work to have to sell there houses.

I am hoping at the end of this we move to dissolving and having Eagle become a part of Mukwonago school district and not have any tax hikes because of the referendum.

John Schultz  
103 woodfield dr, eagle wi  
53119  
262-592-3276

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** boopsroost@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 16, 2019 8:30 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments@dpi.wi.gov|  
**Subject:** dissolution

To the school district dissolution  
committee,

November 16th, 2019

I am a long-time citizen of Eagle, WI, and am writing today to tell you we strongly desire to KEEP our Palmyra/Eagle Area School District.

As a now retired teacher in this district and the parent of two children who went through K - 12 here, I can say this is a caring, talented district that deserves to continue. I can name hundreds of kids who have gone through this district and gone on to have further success in college and careers and life.

It would be such a shame if we lost this little gem in the Kettle Moraine.

Sincerely,  
Beth Kutka

W.374 S.8210 Co. Rd. N  
Eagle, WI 53119

(262) 594-3186

[Boopsroost@aol.com](mailto:Boopsroost@aol.com)

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** boopsroost@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 16, 2019 8:30 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments@dpi.wi.gov|  
**Subject:** dissolution

To the school district dissolution  
committee,

November 16th, 2019

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Sincerely,  
Beth Kutka

W.374 S.8210 Co. Rd. N  
Eagle, WI 53119

(262) 594-3186

[Boopsroost@aol.com](mailto:Boopsroost@aol.com)

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Daniel Anderson <dbanderson83@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 15, 2019 6:36 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Resident/Parent concerns

Dear DPI,

Our family moved into the town of Eagle, WI in 2016 for two reasons. We love the area number one, we can open enroll our children into the great school district of Mukwonago number two. Over the past three years we have become beyond frustrated with the operation and proposed ideas of the PEASD. We want nothing to do with it and would not ever send our children there. We have considered relocating again due to the disastrous school district but have not due to our love for the Eagle/Mukwonago area.

Please consider us a very definite vote to dissolve this dumpster fire ASAP. The great people of Eagle have organized and will not rest until the right thing is done.

Thank you,

Daniel Anderson  
Town of Eagle, WI resident and parent

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Mike Stasik <mstasik6840@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 15, 2019 12:38 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** PEASD Letter

November 15, 2019

To whom it may concern,

I am in favor of registering in favor of dissolving the Palmyra-Eagle School District.

I live in the Town of Eagle, Waukesha County, WI. I'm a middle-aged citizen and have two high school students that we chose to school-choice to East Troy. That said, I also have a great interest in our future generations of children in this community. I have seen the mismanagement of PEASD over the past several years, both financially, and academically.

I see the performance of PEASD lagging behind that of both East Troy (ETASD) and Mukwonago (MASD) area School Districts. My choice is for the Eagle children south of Hwy LO to attend the ETASD. The division of the rest of PEASD would benefit from some of the neighboring districts.

Now examine the financial side of it, especially for those of us struggling to make ends meet. ETASD taxes are lower than what PEASD has stated they need to survive, yet their academic numbers are better. It simply isn't feasible, reasonable, or sustainable.

Over 40% of Eagle parents have Open Enrolled their children to other districts. You MUST ask yourselves why? As a parent who chose to open enroll out it was twofold. We had raised our kids in the ETASD and moved to Eagle. We chose to keep the kids with their friends for the duration of their education. The second reason for open enrolling was due to the mismanagement of the budget in the last several years.

I've spoken to many people in both the Town and Village of Eagle. In the Eagle community, we seem to identify with either East Troy or Mukwonago as a community rather than Palmyra. As a matter of fact, we don't even travel to Palmyra because our jobs take us through Mukwonago. All of our shopping and social issues are based around East Troy and Mukwonago, not Palmyra. Why would we want to continue to have a School District that has no other community ties to us except the School itself? This District was only established in 1974, not a very long time in the big scale of things.

Now through mismanagement PEASD is in terrible debt, with no end in sight to stop the hemorrhaging of money. There have been multiple referendums in recent years and the communities have answered the call time and time again to stop with the tax increases. Had the school district properly budgeted and addressed the problems at hand, we likely would have a different conversation at hand. Even with massive tax increases, there is no guarantee the problem will be solved.

We have had 2 public advisory referendums now, with a third on the drawing board for January 2020, why? Why was this past referendum needed? The dissolution referendum passed by a huge majority last Spring. Why would PEASD



hold another one, on a non-election day, with nothing else on the ballot? I'm very suspicious of their motives and you should be too. The overwhelming majority of voters have spoken, and they shouted loud and clear, DISSOLVE PEASD!

Thank you for the consideration,

Michael Stasik  
W369 S10660 Shearer Rd  
Eagle, WI 53119

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Erika Schwane <eschwane@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 15, 2019 10:21 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Dissolution of PEASD

Hello,

My name is Erika Schwane. I live in the Village of Eagle and I am in favor of dissolving the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District (PEASD).

Thank you for your time evaluating PEASD.

I want to provide some background prior to providing my opinion and testimony. I moved to Eagle 2 years ago. I have 2 children (4 & 5 years) and 2 step children (9 & 15). My children have or will be open-enrolled into Mukwonago Area School District (MASD) and my step-children who reside primarily with their mother in Palmyra, are in PEASD. The father of all 4 children who happens to be a graduate of PEASD and resides with me in Eagle is in favor of dissolving the district and supports the decision to open-enroll our children together out of the district. Obviously, this situation has caused tension in our family.

When we moved to Eagle, despite having children in the district, we had NO IDEA that there were financial difficulties in the district nor that we would be blind-sighted by dissolution. The district does however have a reputation of being one of the worst in the area and the DPI report cards and my experience seem to match the reputation. This gave me concern, but I thought I would give it a try and enrolled my son in 4K at Eagle Elementary last year.

Prior to moving here, I had observed the 9 & 15 year old in attending PEASD for several years. One of my step-daughters is special needs requiring an IEP and was not provided the resources she needs to thrive in the school. What I learned very quickly is that the school simply does not have enough teachers or special ed programming to enrich a student needing more support - that child ends up being labeled as a nuisance, pushed aside and to the parent to correct, and then bullied. I experienced this again when my son attended 4K at Eagle Elementary last year. He is a normal, active boy with a love for school. He has been in a daycare center environment since infancy and is well-versed in following schedules in a school-like setting. However, throughout the year last year I received communications from the teacher that he was disruptive, having difficulties learning, and unable to follow directions. This was perplexing considering I had never received the feedback before. I offered to help in the classroom to observe and what I saw was a teacher who was overwhelmed and having difficulty maintaining a classroom of young learners.

When the referendum information came out last year, it started to beg the question, what kind of talent are they attracting? Is this why my son is struggling? In addition, my 2 step-daughters have been victims of constant bullying that the school has done nothing to resolve. Several cases so bad that the police were involved and the eldest child switched elementary schools from Eagle to Palmyra in hopes of a fresh start. Why is this happening in a school that has such low class sizes and is described as a welcoming rural district??

When it came time to decide on the referendum, the decision was clear, especially after some research. PEASD has had financial problems for years, they have an awful reputation in the area that proved true in my experience, and the factors working against them (funding, open-enrollment, population decline, and their reputation) are insurmountable. In addition, why would I as a parent want to increase my tax money to send my children to a school where DPI report cards are seriously lacking compared to the neighboring districts? With this referendum, they could only pay to maintain the buildings (which are in a sad state), and they've already

made so many cuts that the school is operating a bare minimum with hardly any after school or enrichment programs. Plus, it feels they hid all of this from the community. I strongly believe that PEASD is in a position where they do not have enough resources for the kids they have despite the small class sizes they tote, especially those that are special needs or troubled. I've seen it first hand - kids are suffering.

This year my son has had zero issues. He left 4K at Eagle Elementary behind on his letters and numbers, with no plan put in place all year to help him resolve it. Now he is 5K at Prairie View in MASD and thriving. At his most recent conference, the teacher told me he is a model student with a passion for school and that he is right where she would expect after some specialized learning identified when he entered 5K after his time in Eagle. This was a complete 180 from his conferences at Eagle Elementary where he was a distracted troublemaker. I couldn't believe it. In that moment, I knew my decision to open-enroll was the best decision I could have made for my son. And next year, when my daughter starts 4K, she will attend MASD as well, whether through open-enrollment or dissolution. Our kids deserve to love school, have the support they need to thrive, opportunities to explore clubs, and attend school in buildings that are in good working order in a district that is transparent and fiscally responsible ensuring their success. They deserve more than the bare minimum. The world is a competitive place and learning needs to be top-notch and agile in order for our kids to survive in life and work in the future.

I am not willing to let my kids be a guinea pig to PEASD while they try to correct the problems they have either caused, ignored, or fell victim to. At this point, it is beyond repair. It is sad to see a district dissolve but the realities in this situation make it the best option for the community, it is inevitable.

Thank you for your time,

Erika Schwane

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Thompson, Mathew - DCF <Mathew.Thompson@wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 15, 2019 10:13 AM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** SDBAB

1. I am for the dissolving of the school district
2. Mukwonago school District
3. Mathew Thompson
4. 802 Melbourne Rd. Eagle, WI 53119
5. 414.313.8373

*Mathew Thompson*

Initial Assessment Specialist  
Department of Child and Families

635 N 26<sup>th</sup> St  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
T: 414.343.5586  
E: Mathew.thompson@wisconsin.gov

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Palmyra Eagle <palmyraeaglereferendum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 11:25 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Fwd: Dissolving the PEASD

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Palmyra Eagle** <palmyraeaglereferendum@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 13, 2019, 9:24 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Dissolving the PEASD  
**To:** Olson, Kathy A (GE Healthcare) <Kathy.Olson@med.ge.com>

Thank you so much for the email and the great suggestion on the video!! I think that would be great!!! Many people felt the same way last week about going to Palmyra for the meeting. It sounds like there will be many more people willing to speak tomorrow evening in Eagle because of the location. We will just keep moving forward!!

On Wed, Nov 13, 2019, 11:58 AM Olson, Kathy A (GE Healthcare) <Kathy.Olson@med.ge.com> wrote:  
First I would like to thank you and the other groups that have kept us informed of what is going on. If not for the flyers and signs my husband and I wouldn't have known to get out to vote...even though it doesn't seem to matter what the majority wants!!! When we picked this region to build our dream house one of the deciding factors was it had the lowest taxes in the area. We have no children so the schools didn't matter to us...taxes did!!!  
I went to the first meeting last Thursday at 3:30pm. It was not what I expected! It's not held in a neutral location and I felt very out numbered and wasn't comfortable to speak for our side. May I make a suggestion to your group? After watching the school kids "5" minute video (15 minutes or more was the reality) that you make a video of interviews with the elderly who would be severely impacted on increased taxes. Two can play at this game!!! Kids get through school and get on with life but taxes are here to stay and have a huge impact on people with fixed income and not to mention our property values that will go down if they are allowed to force us to keep this failing school district going!!!

Keep up the good fight!

Kathy Olson

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Julie Sigwart <jsigwart@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 10:00 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Yes for dissolution

I've been a resident of the village of Eagle for 26 years. I've raised 3 children. 2 of my children have Cognitive disabilities. My husband and I tried to work with the schools with our first. The walls we hit and dealt with K-12 were many. No one wanted to be accountable to actually carry out an IEP Plan. If we had ideas they were shot down. We were told the district can't do that, can't afford that. Teachers stating they were unaware of the IEP. Bullying was another wall. A high level MS-HS official stated we let him fall through the cracks, we should have done better. At his Junior year IEP meeting the Director of Pupil Services opened the meeting stating the IEP would be closed out because he was cured, no longer needed any help. We fought that and won. Disabilities can't be cured. He was doing well because of the mandates of the IEP. You take those away and he wouldn't do well. He ended up in a GED program through Madison College. His last semester he was pulled out because the PEASD said they needed the space and money for others. They made an Austistic Learning disabled child finish his online course work in a small office next to the principal. A child who learns better with a teacher and much interaction. The other program was with 6-8 students and a moderator/teacher. He barely made it by to graduate. Due to the blatant disregard in their duty to educate any type of child we chose to OE our daughter to Mukwonago for HS. She did well there despite being Intellectually Disable (10-12year old level). She had options never mentioned or available for her brother. These two have overcome the poor educational system only because they have parents who questioned and advocated for them. They have faired far better with postHS programs that I found. Transition was nonexistent at PEASD.

Our 2nd child is a good student. He didn't want to leave PEASD for Mukwonago. He's doing well, but really could be doing much better. In elementary school I brought up to teachers that he was capable of completing his brothers homework. 2 grade levels above him. Asked to be tested and was told no. But other children were able too. Why not mine? One child who was able to test ahead was the son of a school board member. He's a good student because he works for it, what else could he have accomplished if he was given the opportunity. Mediocrity isn't all right.

I work in the community as an Emergency Department Nurse. I see so much wrong and troubling with the students from PEASD. Bullying issues not dealt with and leading to substance abuse and Suicidal behavior. I have worked with some recent graduates of PEASD and they're unhappy on multiple levels. The one that strikes the most is they feel that they were unprepared for post HS life. Critical thinking skills and study skills are lacking.

The School Board here at PEASD has not been truthful, has not been forthcoming with information and has not been proactive for the student population and the community. The mismanagement of funds and educational content needs to end. The votes are in, twice. The voters said no to more money. The voters said yes to dissolution. With the school board openly stating there are no other options.

The emotional blackmail by current students is appalling. No child is going to say YES to such a change.

Grant the dissolution of PEASD. Let the community do what they have already stated they want as evidenced by the votes. It seems like a no brainer for Eagle to join Mukwonago. Better education for less tax, and it's what the majority says they want.

Thank you  
Julie Sigwart  
Sent from my iPad

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Josie Kysely <jokysely21@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 9:01 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Fwd: Palmyra-Eagle Middle/High School Shutdown

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Lehocky, Jack" <jacklehocky21@eastroy.k12.wi.us>  
**Date:** November 7, 2019 at 11:55:26 AM CST  
**To:** jokysely21@gmail.com  
**Subject: Palmyra-Eagle Middle/High School Shutdown**

With the news about all the talks and the speculation about the school closing down, I want to give my personal opinion on the whole situation. I want to just start out with how I do not go to school there, but everytime I go to after school activities, I can say from experience that everybody is super welcoming and very kind to one another. And yes, I know that sometimes people mess around but we all do that in our lives. And with that being said there is no school like Palmyra Eagle. No other school I've been to is this passionate about their events, their community, and most importantly the amazing students that walk through those doors. To think that it might close down really makes me sad and even though times are tough, there is always hope. And if you close it all down and shut those doors, how are the students going to learn at their best when they can't go to a place they call home? How will the younger children that live in the community get to experience having caring teachers that help you when you need it and also the quality education that goes with that? The answer is simple; if the school closes down, then they will never have that opportunity again because like I stated earlier, no school is like Palmyra-Eagle.

Sincerely,  
Jack Lehocky

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** cmassen <cmassen@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 6:16 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Dissolution of Palmyra/Eagle schools

- 1) I am FOR dissolving the school district
- 2) I would like to see the school district merge with Mukwonago
- 3) Craig Massen
- 4) 902 Newbury Dr Eagle,Wi
- 5) 414-617-7786

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Angela Massen <angelamassen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 6:12 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Dissolution of Palmyra Eagle schools

1. I am FOR dissolving the school district.

We voted TWICE on this matter and I'm not sure why this is still being decided on.

2. I would like to see Eagle merge with Mukwonago school district. My children already go there and it is a well ranked school system.

3. My name is Angela Massen

4. I live at 902 Newbury Dr. Eagle

5. My phone number is 262-765-5260

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** laurel1@wi.rr.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 5:43 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** RE: School referendum questionnaire

Subject: School referendum questionnaire

- 1) Are you for/against the school district dissolving? For
- 2) If you are for dissolution, what school district do you want to be moved to? Mukwonago
- 3) What is your name? Laurel Rynes
- 4) What is your address? W350 S7929 Sprague Rd Eagle 53119
- 5) What is your phone number? 414 254 8011

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Joe Rynes <jrynes@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 5:41 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** School referendum questionnaire

- 1) Are you for/against the school district dissolving? For
- 2) If you are for dissolution, what school district do you want to be moved to? Mukwonago
- 3) What is your name? Joseph Rynes
- 4) What is your address? W350 S7929 Sprague Rd Eagle 53119
- 5) What is your phone number? 262 392 4118

**Sullivan, Diane M. DPI**

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**From:** Jacquelyn Taylor <jackie36335@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 2:35 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** School vote

My vote is to dissolve the district.  
Mukwonago  
Wilbur & Jacquelyn Taylor  
S100W36335 Lewin Lane, Eagle  
262-594-5877

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Jim Axt <lyfesafety@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 1:52 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Dissolve The Eagle Palmyra School District

Please dissolve the Eagle Palmyra School District.  
Send the Eagle students to the Mukwonago School District.  
I live at 413 S. Sherman St., Eagle, WI 53119  
Phone: 262-993-8409  
Thank you.

Jim Axt

## Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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**From:** Ron Molitor <molitorr@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 1:00 PM  
**To:** Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI  
**Subject:** Re: school district dissolution

1. I am for dissolution
2. I would want to move to the Mukwanago school district
3. Ron Molitor
4. W369S10500 Shearer Rd, Eagle, WI
5. 331.240.0572