

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

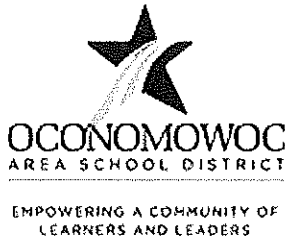
From: Sheridan, Beth <sheridab@oasd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 9:44 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Cc: Beth Sheridan
Subject: Oconomowoc Area School District 11/21 meeting written statement
Attachments: PEASD dissolution SDBAB written stmt 111919.pdf

Good evening,

I have attached the Oconomowoc Area School District's written statement regarding the Palmyra Eagle Area School District's dissolution, in lieu of appearing and speaking at the 11/21 SDBAB meeting. If you have any questions or if you need additional comments, please let me know.

Thank you.

--



Beth Sheridan, CPA
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

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November 19, 2019

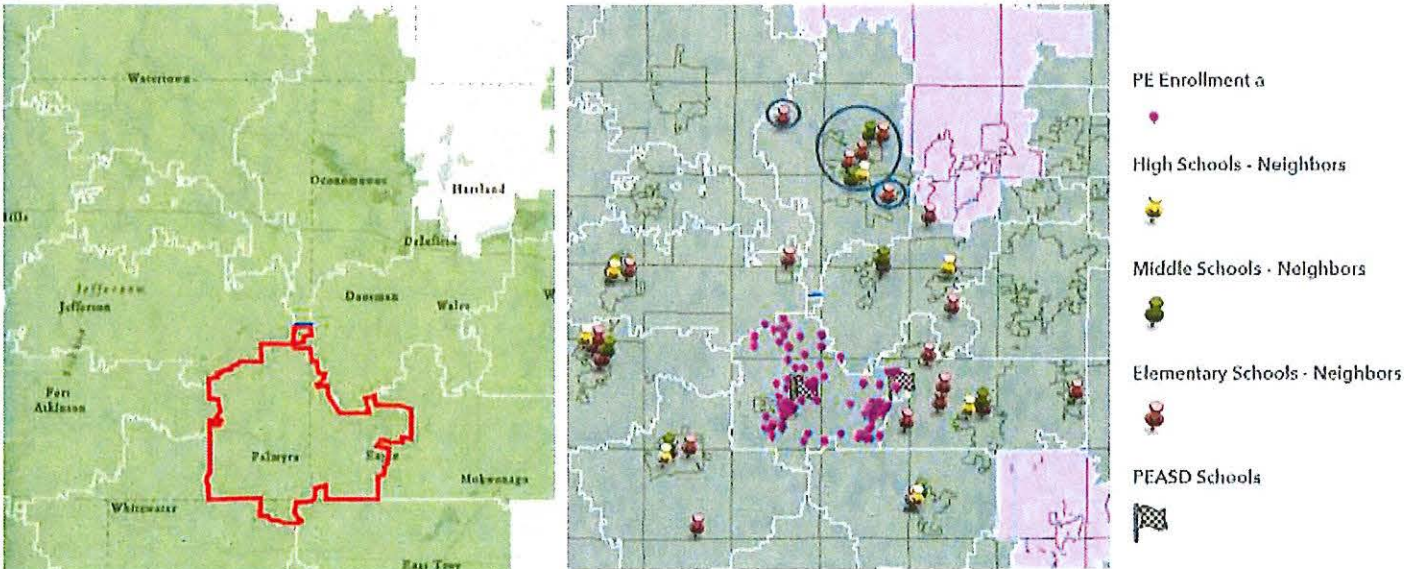
School District Boundary Appeal Board (SDBAB)

RE: Palmyra Eagle Area School District dissolution

The Oconomowoc Area School District (OASD) believes it is reasonable to not anticipate any new or additional revenues, assets, or enrollment changes as a result of the Palmyra Eagle Area School District dissolution. In turn, we also believe it is reasonable that OASD would not absorb any of Palmyra-Eagle's debt or obligations. Our beliefs are premised on the following:


- the geography of the Oconomowoc Area School District and location of schools within our district;
- limited commonality of borders with the Palmyra Eagle Area School District;
- limited number of residences near the common border; and
- the fact that OASD only has 2 students currently open enrolled-in from Palmyra Eagle.

As a reference to the above points, two maps are provided below to illustrate the District's positions. The blue line indicates the shared boundary and OASD's schools are circled in blue.



We'd be happy to provide further clarification, comments, or information if needed.

With regards,



Roger Rindo, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Oconomowoc Area School District

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Lisa Schulist <lschulist@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 8:41 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Dissolution Process

Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the SDBAB for your time and attention to this matter.

I am in favor of the dissolution of the Palmyra Eagle Area School District. My school district of choice as a resident of Eagle is and will continue to be the Mukwonago Area School District, and I am in favor of the East/West consolidation that has been proposed by the Mukwonago and Whitewater School Districts.

My family currently resides in the Village of Eagle, as we have for nearly 20 years. My extended family has lived in Eagle for over 60 years. Our primary reason to move to Eagle was to be close to my family and to raise our family in this small town that we love.

I have seen many accusations that those of us who live in Eagle and voted in favor of dissolution do not value community schools, and that is simply not true. When we made the difficult decision to open enroll out of PEASD (when our oldest son was in 4th grade at Eagle Elementary) it was primarily due to our concerns about the middle school and high school. We chose to pursue open enrollment into the Mukwonago Area School District and enrolled at Eagleville Charter Elementary School. This is an elementary school that is part of Mukwonago Area School District, located in Eagle. At the time, there was no Kindergarten classes at Eagleville, so my younger two children continued to attend 4K and Kindergarten at Eagle Elementary. My point being: my children have had and will continue to experience the same "community school" experience (Elementary school in Eagle, Middle & High School in a neighboring community) that they would have had they remained in PEASD. I believe MASD intends to continue to operate Eagle Elementary School, so the result for students attending there will remain the same as it is now (Elementary school in Eagle, Middle & High School in a neighboring community).

As a parent and Eagle resident and taxpayer, I simply want the children in our community to have access to the best schools possible and for our community to have reasonable property taxes.

I am not going to criticize the staff at PEASD. I am certain that, like any school district, there are passionate and skilled educators and students who are thriving. However, in order to blame Open Enrollment as the largest contributor to the PEASD financial woes, then one must ask themselves WHY is the percentage of students who leave PEASD through open enrollment so much higher than that of all the surrounding communities? What I can tell you that when my son left Eagle Elementary, not one staff member from the district asked what concerns we had or what opportunities we were seeking. There were continued opportunities to have that conversation while my daughter and younger son were at Eagle Elementary, but again nobody bothered to ask. To be honest, it very much felt like nobody really cared one way or the other.

I voted against the most recent funding referendum because it would not have resolved what was going to be an ongoing funding problem for the district. At best, it was a band-aid. We were told repeatedly that all possible cuts had been made and the funding requested was simply to maintain the bare minimum status quo. The funding problems would not be resolved any time in the near future, open enrollment numbers were not

expected to improve, there would be no upgrades or improvements to facilities or programming and all we could expect for the foreseeable future was continued increases to our property taxes. We were being asked to bear what would've been one of the highest property tax rates in our state to support a school district that is unable to offer the types of opportunities that our neighboring districts do.

The last thing our communities needs is more turmoil and uncertainty. I ask you to allow the district to proceed with dissolution, as recommended by the PEASD school board, so that our communities can move forward and attempt to heal. I ask that the consolidation plan proposed by Mukwonago and Whitewater be considered as a valid solution so that our students can continue to receive a quality education with minimal disruption.

Thank you for your diligence in considering this matter.

Kind Regards,

Lisa Schulist
320 S Sherman St
Eagle, WI 53119
Tel: 262.366.8465

November 19th, 2019

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as a high school student at PEHS in my [REDACTED] year. Along with that, I am writing as a sister and a friend of many other students in this district. Because of that, and the following reasons, I am registering against dissolution.

My name is [REDACTED]. I am in my [REDACTED] year at PEHS. I've been going to school in PEASD since [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED] years old. I believe that makes me very knowledgeable about our school district, and that knowledge has compelled me to write this email. I know that our school district is the best district in this area. We have an amazing atmosphere here that includes excellent opportunities for every student, a superior special ed program, and a fantastic student body. I can say with confidence that all of these things are proof that our school should stay open.

To start, in our district, I have always been presented with many opportunities to succeed and do my best. In elementary school, I was allowed to work above my grade level for math and reading, which also followed into middle and high school. Once in middle school, all the students were allowed to try different high school classes, so we could find what we liked to learn. Plus, in high school, we're all offered many honors and AP classes to help challenge us. In addition to all of that, this year I have been given the opportunity to take two extra classes to catch me up on missed credits. I know that many, if not all, of these, are offered at other schools, however, I also know that I wouldn't thrive in those schools the way I do here. Since our school is so small, it gives us many unique opportunities to learn that we couldn't get anywhere else. One of those is individual work with teachers. In a big school, a teacher may not have time to help every single student separately, so some students may not be able to get the help they need. However, here we all get the chance to have independent work time with teachers, and that really helps us all reach our full potential. I know that many of us who took the AP History exam last year wouldn't have passed without the extra time that our teacher used to help us. This example is one of many, and I'm sure every single student at this school appreciates the one on one time they can have with teachers because it helps us all to succeed. Taking away that opportunity could have extremely detrimental effects that cause our grades, and our lives, to suffer.

Another great part of our school is the special education program. I'm not in special ed, but my younger sister is. Her name is [REDACTED], and she is [REDACTED]. My sister has [REDACTED]. Not many people have heard of it, and when [REDACTED] started school her teachers and aids certainly hadn't. However, they all took time out of their schedules to learn about it so she could get the most out of school. It was a difficult transition for her, but her teachers were able to make it easier because of their research. Plus, she also gets individual care from aids and teachers since the school is so small. This helps to ensure that [REDACTED] gets the attention she needs to succeed, and it also means they've worked with her enough to know when to back off. Additionally, no one treats the special ed kids any worse than they'd treat other students. For instance, my little sister has lots of friends in and out of the special ed room. All of the kids in her class have taken the time to get to know her past her disorder, so they all treat her with

kindness and respect. It really makes my day to come home and hear about how much fun she had with all her friends. I worry that if our district dissolves, she'll have a really hard time transitioning to a big school. A school that's bigger may have more special ed students to manage, which could mean less individual time. I worry that new special ed students could fall through the cracks, especially if they have little known disorders like my sister. This could mean that they will no longer receive the kind of help they need. I also worry that with more kids, there will be more of a chance of special ed students getting picked on. [REDACTED] can be very sensitive, and I don't want to see her hurt by others just because they can't take the time to understand her, I only want what's best for her, and I don't think that having to go to a new school will be very beneficial for her or any of the special ed kids.

Finally, I think our student body has the best character around. Having a small community may not seem like much, but it's actually really great to be a part of. The best part of a small school is that everyone knows everyone. This may sound bad, but it's actually really beneficial for almost everyone. It means that when you're feeling down, there's a lot of people to pick you back up. It means that when someone is bothering you, there's always someone there to defend you. It means everyone tries to get along, even if sometimes it can be a struggle. Plus, being in a small district allows me to be a part of everything with no judgment, and that also gives me more opportunities to make friends. For example, I have friends in all my different activities including softball, band, theatre, and also across all my classes. All these different friends give me the chance to explore different parts of myself with others. I don't know if I'd be able to make friendships as easily across activities in a bigger school. All the activities would be so full, it would be difficult to make any long-lasting friendships. I'd have so many new people to learn about that I wouldn't be able to give any of the relationships proper time to develop. Our school district is also very intolerant of any sort of bullying, which is really great for all students. I have only ever had one major issue with bullying in our district, but as soon as the principal found it, she did everything in her power to fix it. There was a boy who was bullying me, but he stopped once the principal and my teachers got involved. Additionally, my friends were also there to help me get through it, and I think their support was very pivotal in my well being. The help from the teachers and my friends helped me to feel secure and safe at school. Other than that, I don't think I've ever had any other major issues with other students. Since everyone knows everyone, it gives us all the chance to really get to know each other. It's really hard to be mean or stereotype someone when you know and understand the struggles they've gone through. Overall, our district's student body helps to give our school a very welcoming atmosphere. It's really great to be able to feel comfortable at school every day since everyone is so kind and helpful.

All in all, our district is fantastic. It gives off a really warm, kind atmosphere, and I think it would be really awful to lose a school like ours. It would be very difficult for everyone to adjust, especially those of us who are old. Many of us have been going here our whole lives, and this is the place we were used to. I can say with utmost certainty, that if all of us going to school in PEASD could vote, the district would stay open. I know because this is where we all belong. Everyone's school spirit is unmatched, and we love this school with all our hearts, I know I certainly do. This district is our home, and it would be a real tragedy to take that away from us.

Thank you for your time.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Cindy Belan <cynthiabelan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 11:32 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolution of a School District

Cynthia Belan
111 E. Eagle St.
Eagle, WI 53119

I believe it is in the best interest to the taxpayers that the Palmyra-Eagle School District be dissolved and that all children residing in Waukesha County be added to the Mukwonago School District and all children residing in Jefferson County be added to Whitewater School District.

Cynthia Belan

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Michael Kokan <kokanut4949@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 12:35 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Dissolution

Michael Kokan
715 Old Prospectors Trail
Eagle, WI 53119
(262) 594-2705

I would like to state that I am for the dissolution of the Palmyra-Eagle school district.

I would like to see the kids from Eagle go to school in the Mukwonago school district, and the kids from Palmyra go to the Whitewater school district.

I believe there is nothing to be saved in PEASD. There is so much hatred and division, that I do not think there can ever be a harmonious school experience going forward. In addition, I do not believe the district can pull itself out of the financial mess it is in. The taxpayers have had enough with the mismanagement and I doubt if they could pass a referendum to buy a pencil.

There are those that cannot let go of PEASD and move on. They have told their children that their lives will be ruined if they cannot continue going to PEASD. They have keyed cars, slashed tires, vandalized homes of their "opponents", stolen signs, name called and make obscene gestures (the finger) in public (and in front of children) to those who are for the dissolution. It is to the point where people for the dissolution are afraid to speak up or be public with their opinion.

I know you have seen a group of students that gave a presentation of why they love their school, that they are one big happy family, they know everyone, etc., etc. This is far from the truth of the matter. Not all kids have been included in this "happy family" and have been more than unkind to younger kids in the school, specifically those kids that are economically disadvantaged and/or mixed race. The bullying culture that has gone on for years and years in this school district is alive and well. Although the school has anti-bullying signs up all over the school, the teachers, principals, and administrators do nothing to stop it.

And then there is the financial mess the district is in. The amount of money they need to continue operating is more than most of the members of the communities can afford. It will put great hardship on those economically disadvantaged families (which, I am told, is about 31% of the district), as well as the elderly and disabled people living on fixed incomes. Many of those people will be forced from their homes and/or will lose their homes due to failure to afford the high taxes. The district is already \$12 million in debt, it will only dig a deeper hole if allowed to continue. The parents that are so desperately trying to hang onto the school district think that by some miracle, Governor Evers is going to come in and hand over a large sum of money to keep things running. We all know this won't happen. It would set a dangerous precedent. Schools from all over the state would then try to get their "cut of the pie." It would be a disaster.

And, let's talk about the thing that is most important: The education of the children of this district. Palmyra-Eagle has a pretty low rating compared to either Mukwonago and Whitewater districts according to the DPI. It will be to the benefit of all students academically to go where there is higher standards and more opportunities.

We cannot just be satisfied with just holding the doors open to this district. The district needs to be responsive to the low number of students remaining in the district and the large amount of children that are open enrolled out to other districts. The parents of those children open enrolled out report that their kids love those districts and are thriving, unlike when they attended Palmyra-Eagle.

I know this is an arduous task, but please rule in favor of dissolution of the school.

Thank you!

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Patricia Kokan <patticakes1020@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 12:41 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Dissolution

Patricia M. Kokan
715 Old Prospectors Trail
Eagle, WI 53119
(262) 594-2705

I would like to thank all of the members of the Boundary Appeal Board for being here today, giving up time out of your busy schedules to take on this arduous task of deciding what is the best for the Palmyra-Eagle school district.

I have lived in the Palmyra-Eagle school district almost 37 years and have witnessed the financial and educational downfall of the school district over this time. In addition, there is a culture of bullying that has existed from the time our children began attending school in Palmyra in the early 1980s that continues today.

With the student enrollment down to 604 students remaining at desks, 409 students open enrolled out of the district, the school district already \$12M in debt, and not enough dollar reserves to fund another school year, it makes it impossible for residents to continue to support and afford the kind of tax increases needed to keep the school district up and running and thriving. I believe if the school district does not dissolve at this time, it will only be a matter of time, and a very short period of time, before we are at this same point again. Had the April 2019 referendum passed, in four years time, the tax dollars requested would have increased our tax bill by over 30 percent. As a retired couple with some serious health issues, my husband and I would be forced to choose between medical care and medications or paying our exorbitant taxes. We are not the only people who would be affected by this huge tax increase. Approximately one-third (31.5%) of the students in the school district are economically disadvantaged. A tax increase of the magnitude needed to sustain PEASD would be devastating to those families, as well as the elderly and disabled who live on fixed incomes. The longer the district remains open, the further in debt it will become, the more students will be open enrolled to other school districts, and the more the education of the children remaining will deteriorate.

The large number of students open enrolled out is often blamed for the financial decline of the school district. However, one would have to ask, what is the reason for 409 students being open enrolled out? Here are some of the reasons. First, the Palmyra-Eagle school district has fallen very, very short of addressing the needs of children with learning disabilities, going so far as cutting special education in an attempt to save money. Second, both Mukwonago and Whitewater school districts rank higher in their overall scores and their math and English language arts scores than Palmyra-Eagle, and parents want a better education for their children. But it also goes way beyond that. The Palmyra-Eagle school district has been plagued with a bullying culture for many, many years. Most, but not all, of the children open enrolled out have been bullied and the district has done little or nothing to STOP this behavior. And last, but not least, the district has demonstrated its unwillingness to reign in its spending. With a \$10M budget and 604 kids to educate, that translates to \$16,556 per child. That is almost double of what most school districts spend. The district has 138 staff for its 604 students, a ratio of 4:1. While some will say, "we like the small class sizes," it is unsustainable to continue operating at this level. While the taxpayers were told that every measure that could be taken to save the school district was taken, it has been revealed through open records requests, that there were other measures that could have been implemented at one time, before this huge financial hole was dug, but the majority of the board voted not to implement those measures, because, "we like it the way it is." Instead, things like special education and summer school were cut.

I am in favor of the dissolution of the Palmyra-Eagle School District and I am in favor of students from Waukesha County being educated in the Mukwonago School District, and students from Jefferson and Walworth Counties being educated in the Whitewater School District. The Mukwonago Area School District has a 5-Star rating and is one of only 40 school districts to be recognized by the Department of Public Instruction as "Significantly Exceeds Expectations" on the district report cards. It has an On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness score of 93.1, which exceeds the state score of 84.8. Whitewater school district has a 4-star rating of "Exceeds Expectations," with an On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness score of 86.0. In comparison, Palmyra-Eagle has a 3-star rating of "Meets Expectations," and an On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness score of 85.4.

I am asking this seven-member board to dissolve the district and let Mukwonago and Whitewater school districts give our kids the great education they deserve, and restore financial stability to our communities. We have had enough with the poor academics,

the bullying, and the high taxes. The majority of our community voted to dissolve the school district, and I respectfully ask that you do the same so that there can be some stability restored in the lives of our students and their families.

Thank You!

Greetings Board Members,

Full disclosure, I have 4 students in Palmyra-Eagle school district and a wife that works for the district. I voted for the tax increase and against dissolution. People might think that I voted for the tax increase because of my wife's employment. That would be incorrect. See, I grew up in a family that dealt with financial hardships. My family was on and off food stamps. I personally got Pell grants and subsidized student loans for college. If it wasn't for the government CRP program the family farm would have been lost. So, I don't complain about paying taxes because I believe that I am paying it forward for other families that are in financial hardship.

I have been to two evening meetings and heard people say their perspectives about what is good and bad about the school district. But I have not heard anyone suggesting a compromise to the situation. My suggestion is that we have **two high schools and one school district** and give that a 15 year trial period. The concept is that current students that go to Palmyra-Eagle will still go to the same schools. The 2 high schools would still have their own separate sports, bands, clubs and other extra-curricular activities. Palmyra-Eagle would stay in the current athletic conferences. Thus, for the students it will be just like another new school year. I have seen this work for the school I attended in rural North Dakota. After the two schools merged, they still competed against each other in sports and have separate graduations. While the merger would keep the school and community together it does have one unfortunate side effect. The Palmyra-Eagle school district staff could become unemployed. It would be a decision on the merging school district if employment would be offered to any of the existing staff. Palmyra-Eagle could merge with a district with a larger tax base, thus having the side effect of lowering the overall taxes of the current community.

Now the question I ask myself is what district makes logical sense joining with. Looking at net pupil transfers of the surrounding districts. I think a person should exclude any district with negative net pupil transfers, because merging with them would just add to their open enrollment problems. So, looking at the open enrollment numbers I would say Kettle Moraine or Mukwonago. Given those 2 districts I compared current enrollment numbers, tax levy numbers, mill rates, and knowledge that Mukwonago is already considering taking part of the district. Mukwonago make the most sense.

2018-19 OPEN ENROLLMENT PUPIL AND AID TRANSFERS IN AND OUT - JULY FINAL									
43756									
Year	DIST NO	DISTRICT NAME	PUPIL			AID		AID	
			TRANSFERS IN	TRANSFERS OUT	NET PUPIL TRANSFERS	TRANSFERS IN	TRANSFERS OUT	NET AID TRANSFERS	
2019	1540	East Troy Community	110	241	-131	775,423	1,783,512	-1,008,089	
2019	1883	Fort Atkinson	189	126	63	1,383,528	909,104	474,424	
2019	2702	Jefferson	177	168	9	1,347,532	1,211,092	136,440	
2019	1376	Kettle Moraine	569	196	373	4,172,107	1,413,982	2,758,125	
2019	3822	Mukwonago	487	277	210	3,700,843	1,918,717	1,782,126	
2019	4221	Palmyra-Eagle Area	41	338	-297	280,467	2,517,749	-2,237,282	
2019	6461	Whitewater Unified	62	150	-88	418,960	1,054,150	-635,190	

Above data from <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/data/aid-adjustments>

				2019-2020	2019	2019-2020
School District	Enrollment Count	Economic Disadvantaged	ELL	Total Levy	TIFOUT EQ Value	Mill Rate
Mukwonago	5040	615	18	28,336,635.00	3,674,103,892.00	7.7
Kettle Moraine	3868	504	29	37,633,114.00	3,907,754,886.00	9.63
Fort Atkinson	2843	1130	164	17,193,843.00	1,612,443,974.00	10.66
Whitewater	1940	829	303	16,864,595.00	1,466,486,323.00	11.5
Jefferson	1874	767	158	11,281,360.00	1,077,167,864.00	10.47
East Troy	1646	361	15	15,244,680.00	1,660,589,254.00	9.18
Palmyra-Eagle	769	242	22	8,747,423.00	884,638,307.00	9.89

Data from

- <https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/portalHome.jsp>
- <https://apps5.dpi.wi.gov/safr ro/all mill rate.asp?year=2020>

I would like to give my overall thoughts on the proposed East-West split. I think the East-West split is not an ethical solution. First, if you drive around the communities of Palmyra versus Eagle, it is easy to see Eagle has a greater tax basis based upon the properties in the community. If you take that analysis one step further, you will probably conclude that Palmyra has more Economic Disadvantaged students. Thus, placing more Economic Disadvantage students from Palmyra into Whitewater at 42.7% versus Mukwonago 12.2% just doesn't seem appropriate. I wonder if Mukwonago is just wanting students that are similar demographically to their current enrollment.

I hope you consider the proposed compromise of a **two high schools one school district solution**. Compromise is not about winners or losers, but just about doing what is the most appropriate for the given situation.

Thank you for your time,

Matthew Stroh

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Aranda, Miguel <ArandaM18@uww.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Miguel Aranda - Brief Statement

Dear Seven Member School District Boundary Appeal Board,

My name is Miguel Aranda, and I am a lifelong resident of Whitewater, WI. I also work at the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater.

One of the University's initiatives, and many other higher Ed institutions nationally, the equity gap is a much discussed topic. Some spillover impacts of decreasing the equity gap includes improving the lives of those less fortunate and hopefully causing economic boosts.

A couple of months ago, it was brought to my attention that Whitewater was ranked as the "poorest" municipality in Wisconsin. I was skeptical at first, but a quick Google search provided me with intriguing facts.

Here is a brief ranking from a national USA Today

article: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/05/07/poorest-cities-in-every-state-in-the-us/39431283/>

During your discussions, I hope you factor in the theme of the equity gap and the resources/leverages available from the surrounding districts.

If you already do, this is only a reminder to reinforce the continuation of the equity gap conversation.

As a Whitewater resident, my personal statement is supporting all students towards success where possible. My belief is that education is a key component towards successful citizens.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,
Miguel Aranda
Cell Phone: 262.751.1223
243 N Park St
Whitewater, WI 53190

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Tamara Towns-Pozorski <tetowns@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolution

I am NOT for dissolving the Palmyra-Eagle School District, but if the district has to be dissolved for financial reasons, then I REALLY DON'T want to go to Whitewater school district. I would want to go to Kettle Moraine School District or Mukwonago School District as my son has friends at both of those schools and those schools are academically much better than Whitewater.

Thank you,

Tamara & John Pozorski Jr.
N1571 County Road H
Palmyra, WI. 53156

262-470-2300 cell/text

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: mnierenberger@wi.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 9:58 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle School District

Hello,

I am writing to you to tell you why Palmyra Eagle School District should be closed. I have lived in Eagle my whole life. And the entire time, the school district has mismanaged their funding. Eagle Elementary School was supposed to be a beautiful brick building. Tax payers voted to fund the building of a beautiful school. The metal shack you see today is a far cry from what was supposed to be built. The funds for that were squandered on other things. I was a student of Palmyra Eagle. I attended Eagle Elementary school from kindergarten through 6th grade. I also attended PE middle school for 7th and 8th grade. I attended Eagle Elementary from the 1989-90 school year to 1995-96 school year, and the middle school for 1996-97 and 1997-98 school years. I was the FIRST student to open enroll from PE School district to Mukwonago. I entered Mukwonago School District as a High School Freshman. In my time at PE, I was an above average student. I got As and Bs, with the occasional C. It took me 2 years to catch up to my peers in Mukwonago. I had to see special teachers to get back on track. It was frustrating as a student, thinking I was getting a good education. I was not. The gap in education between the districts is huge. Besides the sub par education provided by PE, is the tax payers of the school district. In 2015, a portion of Eagle tried to remove its self from PF school district. I was involved in that movement. There were signatures collected and turned in. A small issue in the date they were turned in, prevented the move from happening. There were more than enough valid signatures, to move the portion of Eagle to Mukwonago. PE fought it. PE supporters fought it. Why? The majority of the people want to be in Mukwonago School District. Now, the majority has spoken again in the referendum. The majority of the voters do not want to fund PE anymore. They voted NO to fund PE. NO means NO. Then another vote was held to see if we really wanted to close the district. A majority voted to close the district. Supporters of PE have threatened members of the community for speaking out against the district. Children of parents who supported moving Eagle to Mukwonago were bullied not only by other students, but by teachers. I have 2 daughters that attended Eagle Elementary School during the 2014-15 school year. They were in 4K and Kindergarten. My daughter who was in Kindergarten was advanced in Math for her age. She already knew everything that was being taught in her class. When I asked the teacher if she could be challenged in some way, the teacher said no, they teach to the lowest student't math level to get all the kids on the same level of math. My daughter was bored, so I asked if she could go to a different room or something to learn math. I was told that is not something that could be done. Later, i found out that other students were allowed to do that, but my daughter wasn't. What was the difference? I was petitioning to move Eagle to Mukwonago. My daughter was being denied education because of my dislike for the school district. Since she already knew the math, instead of finding a way to teach her math at her level, she was put in charge of keeping, Hazel, the special needs student, from leaving the classroom. My daughter would come home with bite marks and bruises from this student. She was made to babysit her not only in the class room but in gym class also. When I found out about it, I confronted the teacher and was told there wasnt funding for an aid, and since my daughter knew what was being taught already, she was the "helper" who kept an eye on the special needs student. After the school year ended, I open enrolled my daughters to Rolling Hills Elementary in Mukwonago School District. My daughter who was denied to be educated by her teachers and her school is now in the advanced math classes at Mukwonago and testing at the 99th percentile for her grade level. She is challenged every day and learning at her level from teachers who want to teach her. I continued to voice my dislike of the PE schol district in the community and my home and cars were vandalized. It was reported to the police and they said they knew who was doing it, but couldnt do anything without proof. It happened quite often in the Village of Eagle, and only to people who spoke out against PE school district. Enough is enough. The people of Eagle have spoken loud and clear, over and over. They do not want to be apart of the district. They do not want to fund the district. Close it!

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: mnierenberger@wi.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 9:58 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle School District

Hello,

I am writing to you to tell you why Palmyra Eagle School District should be closed. I have lived in Eagle my whole life. And the entire time, the school district has mismanaged their funding. Eagle Elementary School was supposed to be a beautiful brick building. Tax payers voted to fund the building of a beautiful school. The metal shack you see today is a far cry from what was supposed to be built. The funds for that were squandered on other things. I was a student of Palmyra Eagle. I attended Eagle Elementary school from kindergarten through 6th grade. I also attended PE middle school for 7th and 8th grade. I attended Eagle Elementary from the 1989-90 school year to 1995-96 school year, and the middle school for 1996-97 and 1997-98 school years. I was the FIRST student to open enroll from PE School district to Mukwonago. I entered Mukwonago School District as a High School Freshman. In my time at PE, I was an above average student. I got As and Bs, with the occasional C. It took me 2 years to catch up to my peers in Mukwonago. I had to see special teachers to get back on track. It was frustrating as a student, thinking I was getting a good education. I was not. The gap in education between the districts is huge. Besides the sub par education provided by PE, is the tax payers of the school district. In 2015, a portion of Eagle tried to remove its self from PF school district. I was involved in that movement. There were signatures collected and turned in. A small issue in the date they were turned in, prevented the move from happening. There were more than enough valid signatures, to move the portion of Eagle to Mukwonago. PE fought it. PE supporters fought it. Why? The majority of the people want to be in Mukwonago School District. Now, the majority has spoken again in the referendum. The majority of the voters do not want to fund PE anymore. They voted NO to fund PE. NO means NO. Then another vote was held to see if we really wanted to close the district. A majority voted to close the district. Supporters of PE have threatened members of the community for speaking out against the district. Children of parents who supported moving Eagle to Mukwonago were bullied not only by other students, but by teachers. I have 2 daughters that attended Eagle Elementary School during the 2014-15 school year. They were in 4K and Kindergarten. My daughter who was in Kindergarten was advanced in Math for her age. She already knew everything that was being taught in her class. When I asked the teacher if she could be challenged in some way, the teacher said no, they teach to the lowest student't math level to get all the kids on the same level of math. My daughter was bored, so I asked if she could go to a different room or something to learn math. I was told that is not something that could be done. Later, i found out that other students were allowed to do that, but my daughter wasn't. What was the difference? I was petitioning to move Eagle to Mukwonago. My daughter was being denied education because of my dislike for the school district. Since she already knew the math, instead of finding a way to teach her math at her level, she was put in charge of keeping, Hazel, the special needs student, from leaving the classroom. My daughter would come home with bite marks and bruises from this student. She was made to babysit her not only in the class room but in gym class also. When I found out about it, I confronted the teacher and was told there wasnt funding for an aid, and since my daughter knew what was being taught already, she was the "helper" who kept an eye on the special needs student. After the school year ended, I open enrolled my daughters to Rolling Hills Elementary in Mukwonago School District. My daughter who was denied to be educated by her teachers and her school is now in the advanced math classes at Mukwonago and testing at the 99th percentile for her grade level. She is challenged every day and learning at her level from teachers who want to teach her. I continued to voice my dislike of the PE schol district in the community and my home and cars were vandalized. It was reported to the police and they said they knew who was doing it, but couldnt do anything without proof. It happened quite often in the Village of Eagle, and only to people who spoke out against PE school district. Enough is enough. The people of Eagle have spoken loud and clear, over and over. They do not want to be apart of the district. They do not want to fund the district. Close it!

Monica Nierenberger

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Dawn Pieper <dawnalex1234@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 11:02 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: SDBAB

I am FOR the School district dissolving.

No children in school

Dawn Pieper
203 Woodfield Dr.
Eagle
414-828-4900

Sent from Outlook

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Jissela <zamora@wi.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 1:51 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI

Hilda Jissela Fohey
W363S11011 Burr Oak trail, Eagle WI. 53119
1-262-347-6958

I SUPPORT DISSOLUTIONMENT. VOTE TO DISSOLVE.

THANKS.

Jissela Fohey.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: brian taylor <btaylor3501@wi.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 2:35 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolution of PEASD
Attachments: To whom it may concern.docx

To Whom it may Concern,

Please find my viewpoint on the Dissolution of PEASD attached to this email.

Brian Taylor
btaylor3501@wi.rr.com
262-470-6631

To whom it may concern,

I am in favor of Dissolving the PEASD.

I live in the Village of Eagle, Waukesha County, WI. I'm a 52 years and do not have a child in this system. That said, I also have great interest in our future generations of children. I have been made aware of the mismanagement of PEASD over the past several years, both financially, and academically.

I see the performance of PEASD lagging behind that of 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 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.

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 referendums now. Outcomes were not favorable to the district. Why was this past referendum needed? 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,

Brian Taylor
502 Eastwood Ct.
262-470-6631

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Courtney Wethal <courtney.wethal@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 11:55 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: On behalf of Dissolution

I would like to remain anonymous to avoid harassment from those who are against the dissolution of the district.

I am emailing in regards to the Palmyra Eagle dissolution hearing. I am for the school dissolving, let me explain why.

I am a 2013 graduate from the district. My time at palmyra was nothing short of horrendous. Students would get bullied and teachers would turn their cheek. We had a pedophile working as a math teacher and basketball coach. This man was fired two years after I graduated with zero charges on him for contacting minors in sexual manners. It wasn't until his next teaching endeavor that he was caught and charged. This is a concern because how many other teachers are engaging in unprofessional and predatory manners at this district?

Bullying is a major issue. The school states they have zero tolerance, yet, students get bullied and teachers either join in or ignore it. My time at Palmyra Eagle I was being harassed, bullied and attacked by a group of girls. It wasn't until I had enough and fought back that the issue was then handled and in favor of the group bullying me. This was months of emotional and physical abuse while enrolled at PE.

The education at this school may seem statistically ok, however, that is due to teachers holding students hands offering extensions on late assignments, handing out test and exam answers and at times just grading assignments without looking to see if the assignment was completed or not. How does this teach accountability or responsibility?

I graduated high honors at PE, but my college experience was a difficult road. PE did not prepare me for college. I had no idea how to prioritize or study, no clue how to retain information. No thanks to palmyra staff focusing on sports and being friends with the students.

In my eyes, PE is about social status between students and staff. This district takes zero pride or seriousness in academics and quite frankly their finances.

The money this school spent on post prom activities or post graduation activities could have gone towards better books, better resources or for bettering the school all together.

But, instead it was spent on ensuring staff and students could have fun after prom and graduation together.

I hope you can take this into consideration and do a little more digging on the history of this district and the unethical way this school likes to run.

Thank you.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Maribeth Monty <dmcmnty@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 4:20 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI; dmcmnty@rocketmail.com
Subject: Dissolution

To Whom it may concern,

My family lives in the Village of Eagle. We have been here for 17 years. We were the third family to build in the Fox Chase subdivision.

Ours is a family that has OE for many years. Our son has attended Catholic school, and then The Kettle Moraine School District from 5th grade up until our son's Sophomore year. Kettle Moraine school district is a great district. We have not one bad thing to say about the district, it's teachers, and the families that attend there. Our son has also left KM on very good terms.

When our son asked to tour Palmyra-Eagle Highschool, I will admit that I was a little apprehensive about a "Country" school. I was worried about the small district size. But that ALL went out the window the minute I stepped into the Highschool. I found the grounds to be a beautiful school and campus. Ms. Timm was very welcoming and friendly. She gave us a tour, was very knowledgeable, and straight forward with answering our questions. At the end of our tour, we didn't even have to think about it. We enrolled our son right away. I must say, I am a little embarrassed that I have had those initial prejudices of the school. Other than the Highschool being a smaller school with less electives available, our family finds the school to be the same great education that our son would have gotten elsewhere. When our son came home the first day of school and was asked how it went, he replied to us, "It feels like Home." He told us he was welcomed by students of all ages, and the staff was all very welcoming as well.

Also, on a personal note, I have not had teachers communicate to us about the progress of our son from any other school as the teachers from Palmyra Highschool have. I have received emails of recognition of a good job, and I have also received emails of needs for improvement. Last year our son struggled in Advanced Algebra 2. The teacher went out of her way to help our son with the subject matter giving her own time during study halls to help with our son's understanding. She personally kept up communication with us on our son's progress throughout the year. This year in Physics, The teacher has also communicated to us concerns he has of our son in his class. He has also offered his personal time to help our son with whatever our son needs help on so he can keep his grade up. I feel at Palmyra-Eagle, our son is not just a number. With the smaller class size, teachers can also take an individual approach with the students and give them the help they need while keeping communication open with the parents. To me, as a parent, this is invaluable.

Because we OE for many years, we have not gotten the chance to meet many families from Eagle schools. While we have attended these hearings recently, and have listened to other parents who have OE out of Palmyra-Eagle to Mukwonago, we have a hard time believing their stories seeing that we have had nothing but a positive experience with this school district. We also realize that there are two sides to every story, and what we were hearing from the families who chose to OE out of the district were only half of the truth. We also do not know the circumstances for the negativity that happened years ago.

This will be a very hard decision that must be made on all counts. Because the majority of the vote to dissolve the district actually comes from Eagle, My wish is there to be some way for Palmyra and its buildings to operate as a district separately from Eagle. I feel those in Eagle have already spoken and have already OE to other districts. Let them go and keep Palmyra in tact and find a way and a plan to make it work. My family, and I

know probably quite a few families who reside in Eagle, would then OE back to Palmyra; the district that they choose.

Every district has its shortcomings, and Mukwonago is no exception. I can strongly speak for my family, that if Eagle goes to Mukwonago, my family WILL NOT be choosing Mukwonago. We will be again OE to another district. I feel badly for Mukwonago because now they will be taking on the burden of all the families from Eagle who will be OE if this change occurs. They will then be paying out monies to other districts like Palmyra-Eagle had to do.

Really, in the end of all of this, there will be no winning side. I foresee downfalls with the decision either way. For those citizens in Eagle who are worried about the taxes going up, I'm afraid that once Mukwonago were to take Eagle as part of the Mukwonago district, our taxes will most likely go up anyway. Mukwonago will eventually be having to take the measures necessary to keep up with the addition of Eagle and be able to remain at the level of quality education they are offering.

Thanks for your consideration of this email. We are saddened that a decision must be made to dissolve a school district we are most happy with. We are hoping that a resolution can be made to save Palmyra and its buildings as a district in some form of operation.

Sincerely,
Maribeth Monty
814 Sutton Drive
Eagle, WI 53119

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Barb <teeber@wi.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 8:59 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: WE choose to Dissolve!!

Hello

I really don't know why I'm writing to you today. The community voted to dissolve PEASD, not once but twice. Not sure what the issue is here? DISSOLVE MEANS DISSOLVE. The public taxpayers have spoken. This is an ongoing problem with Palmyra. We are tired of them wasting the school's money on lawyers and nonsense elections. WE CHOOSE TO DISSOLVE PEASD! WE THE VOTERS/TAXPAYERS VOTE TO DISSOLVE!!!!

In the 1970's Eagle decided to leave Mukwonago and help out Palmyra. The kids that left Mukwonago and graduated from Palmyra seemed to turn out ok, from the few I know. Yes it was hard, just like it will be hard for Palmyra kids to go elsewhere. I don't recall any parents back then having their kids come to a meeting and cry because the bus ride will be too long, or because they won't see their best friend.

What I do remember is that since Eagle went to help Palmyra, Palmyra has mismanaged their money. In the late 80's Eagle Elementary was built. If you do some research, you will find that was supposed to be a nice brick school building. What they ended up with was a pole barn with windows that didn't open and no air conditioning because the money "disappeared". I remember teachers telling kids to stay an arms distance from the person in front of them in case someone would fall on the slippery floor due to condensation. PEASD has always asked for money on one occasion or another. If it went to the polls and was voted down, they spent more money on lawyers to reword the referendum and bring it back. Not once, not twice but MANY times until families got sick of it and just let it pass. Why do they waste time and money with referendum after referendum? Again, Taxpayers spoke and NO MEANS NO. What don't they understand?

My daughter had a great education at Eagle Elementary under the direction of Donna Kalnes. When she started middle school in Palmyra, we were invited to an open house at the school. It was FILTHY DIRTY!! Remind you, they invited parents to attend. We went in room that had bare walls. We went in science room that had a fish tank on the desk that was so green you couldn't see the dead fish floating in the tank. How does that make science interesting for kids? My daughter came home telling us she asked for help and was told by one teacher couldn't she see he was reading the paper... I did contact the school, but nothing was done. Several teachers taught in Palmyra, but lived in the Mukwonago school district. What does that tell you?

When school choice came to be, I was the first mom standing on the door step at the Mukwonago district office. At that time they only took a few students for school choice. My daughter started at Mukwonago High School as a freshman. Daily she came home and thanked me for sending her there. Yes, she was scared. Yes, she had to meet new friends. Yes, she was so far behind academically that she spent her first semester playing catch up so she would be where the rest of the school freshman were. To this day she thanks me for school choosing her out.

The enrollment is constantly declining. The taxpayers are done with PEASD. We don't need any more referendums. What we need is for this school to dissolve. Please vote to dissolve. I don't want to be taxed out of my home to pay for some school that's rated the bottom of the list by the state. If for some reason this does not happen, then when parents choose to annex their property to Mukwonago school district, they better not be stopped!!!!

Thank you for your time,
Terry and Barb Rupp
571 W34985 State Road 59
Eagle, WI 53119

262-751-0991

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Lorie Stasik <loriestasik@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 7:34 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Dissolution Consideration - Testimony

Hello!

I am a Town of Eagle resident and have lived in the general area all of my 43 years. I am very familiar with the schools (good and bad). I would like to present my testimony to be considered by the representing DPI board.

I am in favor of dissolution due to the mismanagement of the school board and district as a whole. It's been steadily declining and no amount of money is going to help keep them going at this point. We were facing a point of being taxed out of our homes if they are left asking for more money. There are several surrounding districts capable of handling the students that are left.

I am NOT in favor of moving all of Eagle (Town and Village) over to the Mukwonago School District. There is a group that is delusional in thought that we should ALL be moved to the Mukwonago School district. The decision would be better made to look at how far Eagle is spread out and move those closest to other respective districts willing to help. For instance, I am 6 homes from the East Troy School District border. 12 minutes to East Troy but 18 minutes to Mukwonago. It would make perfect sense those who live South of Highway LO between Hwy 67/12 and Nature Road to be brought into the East Troy School district. It is much closer for these Eagle Residents living there to drive 12 minutes to school versus driving 15-18 minutes to Mukwonago. Also, consider how far kids would be bussed by putting all of Eagle into Mukwonago's hands. There are some of us who like a small-town school and it makes sense to look at a big picture rather than just give one school the whole thing. Other schools are willing to help!

Also please consider who has open enrolled already, how many and where they are located when you split the district up. There may be many reasons why those south of Eagle just north of LO and south of LO and why they are going to East Troy now. I am HIGHLY ENCOURAGING you to please give A LOT of consideration to moving those districted homes South Highway LO (between Hwy 67 and Nature Rd) into East Troy School District. Those children who are open enrolling from this area to East Troy will once again open enroll if placed in Mukwonago. So why not draw the lines accordingly.

In conclusion, I advocate for Dissolution and East Troy to take over part of the south boundaries of Eagle including what is south of Highway LO between Hwy 67 and Nature Rd. More if East Troy so chooses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration! Could you please let me know you received this note? Thank you!

Respectfully,
Lorie Stasik
W369S10660 Shearer Rd.

Eagle WI

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Chad Kraemer <chadkraemer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 1:21 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI; Chad Kraemer
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle School District Hearing

11/14/19
Reorg No: 2020-02

Chadwick Kraemer
s80w36101 Oak Ridge Dr
Eagle, WI 53119

Resident of the Palmyra-Eagle School District

Registering in Favor of dissolution

Would choose to attend the Mukwonago School district.

To whom it may concern:

After attending the Thursday meetings I feel it is important to give you some additional information that I had previously left out. I also wanted to note that we have friends on both sides of this issue and are able to conduct ourselves like adults. There are GREAT kids coming out of both school districts and I don't agree with saying attending one vs. another may ruin their lives.

I have 3 children that initially attended Eagle Elementary (4K, 5K and 1st grade). My wife and I were meeting with one of the child's teacher and school principle on a weekly basis to address some concerns with his academics. After the school tested him for learning disabilities 2 or 3 times and the result being negative, we were told that the Palmyra-Eagle school district did not have the resources to assist our child. We were encouraged by the Eagle Elementary Principle to look outside the district for to obtain the help we were looking for. We went on to open enroll at Eagleville elementary school (also in the town of Eagle but part of the Mukwonago district) where all 3 of my son's performed above average academically (including my son that struggled previously). I now have 2 boys in the Mukwonago high school and 1 in Parkview middle school where they continue to grow academically, socially and athletically.

*** After the mass exodus 8 years ago, I heard from a family that remained, he stated once so many kids left the class room, the reduced class sizes really helped his child get the extra attention to get back on the right track. He semi jokingly said "Thank You" and I semi jokingly said "You're welcome, glad we could help".

Fast forward a few years, some of the other parents that had made the same decision were looking into the annex process for their neighborhoods. The idea of having bus service again was very appealing so we were onboard. This did not sit well with some of the others that did not agree with the action. They went as far as having my 8 & 9 year olds removed for the "community baseball team". I was an assistant coach of the team at the time and was relieved of my role and I asked that my kids finish the season with their friends. I was informed the other parents do not want my kids on the team and would pull their kids if we stayed. This was the point where I was told "they should play

where they go to school". The recreational league is community based, not school based, but after the rec department offered to setup a team for NON Palmyra-Eagle district kids, our family decided we didn't want to be a part of it anymore. Please remember that a portion of the Town of Eagle is Mukwonago school district, as a whole our community is already split.

*** During the annex process a baird report had been released. We were told that based off the review and the district numbers, the proposed Palmyra-Eagle budget was not sustainable. We had no idea at the time if this was fact or more rumor, but given our current situation...

For the last few years we have been totally involved with the Mukwonago district and leaving Palmyra-Eagle to themselves. I heard on Thursday the financial situation is everyone's fault and I agree to a point, but again, we are following the Mukwonago district, not PEASD. I believe voting to keep Palmyra-Eagle district vs. allowing the schools to be absorbed by neighboring districts would be fiscally irresponsible of me. Thus, I have voted against the referendum and voted (Non-Binding) for the dissolution (Along with the majority of other Eagle residents).

Here is what I know, understanding that regardless of the outcome, my kids will continue at Mukwonago for as long as it is in my control.

1. We asked the Eagle School for help with our son who was struggling academically
 - a. We were told they didn't have the resources and we should go outside the district
2. We were told our kids were no longer welcome to play on the community athletic teams
 - a. We were told we were not wanted and we should go outside the district
3. We are told that the Palmyra-Eagle school district is in desperate need of money or they will have to dissolve
 - a. We (majority) voted NO to the referendum then voted YES to dissolve.
 - b. Maybe it's time they need to look outside the district!

Thank you in advance
Chad Kraemer
608.513.8852

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Rebecca Timmerman <wpcheermom@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 4:16 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEAD dissolution

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this email as our families request for the PEASD to be dissolved. Both of our children are recent graduates of PEASD (2016 & 2018) We have been in the district since they were in kindergarten. Both of our kids were good students earning A's and B's and being on the honor roll and graduated with academic cords. Our son did earn an academic letter and pin as well. They both earned community service awards and were on various sports teams. Our daughter was a captain for Cheerleading, Dance and Track.

There is an argument that the school need to stay because they have a "no cut" sports program and if students attended another school they may not be able to play sports. Even though PEASD has no cut team, it does not mean you are ever going to play. My son sat for 3 years on the bench for JV and Varsity Baseball. (This also happened in football) We sat at every game like many parents and watched our son not play. We paid sports fees, uniforms and all the extras just for him to say he was on a team. Also, if the school didn't have winning teams, instead of working to get better, they just change conferences. The amount of sports programs, at PEASD, does not even come close to what Mukwonago has to offer.

Both of our children were accepted to college. Our son even earned a full scholarship (including room & board) to his "dream" school. While this may sound impressive or what a great education they must have received, nothing couldn't be further from the truth. The whole 13 year they each attended PEASD they NEVER had any homework or studied for a test. (No they are not exceptionally brilliant) They were never challenged and had very limited options for class offerings. They basically floated through the system. Reality hit hard when they attended college and both struggled academically and both ended up leaving. They are far behind their peers that attended other high schools. Our son breezed through every math class PEASD had to offer, and still could not complete the first years college math. After our students returned home from a fail attempts at college, we found out this has happened to many students/families from PEASD. A 4.0 from PEASD does not have the same Merritt as a 4.0 from other high school. Both our children believe they were not academically prepared at all to attend college.

PEASD has many issues, but their sole purpose is to educate children. In our opinion they are falling very far on that job.

Our communities have voted twice on this matter with the same outcome to dissolve the school district. It appears that both Mukwonago and Whitewater have options for taking in the PEASD students. For PEASD to ask for multi millions in tax increase to just keep the doors open for the small amount of children who attend, it is just not financially responsible. They don't plan on upgrades to facilities or equipment. No new classes or opportunities, just the status quo. (And once that money runs out they will need more) Our current school property taxes are some of the highest. Now again PEASD wants/needs to raise taxes for a school that is just getting by. We are afraid we will have a hard time selling our house in the future. If you can go just a few blocks down and purchase a house for the same price, but lower taxes and a better school system, why would you want ours in the village and attached to PEASD?

We ask that you listen to the voting public.

Thank you,

Rob and Rebecca Timmerman

813 Leeds Dr.

Eagle, WI 53119

262-594-3863

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Emily Wagner <emilywagner8@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 7:50 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra Eagle SD

Good evenig,

Here is my input at a resident of the Town of Palmyra, Wi. We currently send our son; in 4th grade, to Eagle Elementary as this is where he started school. Please see the below answers to questions asked at the meetings:

Are you for/against the school district dissolving? Strongly Against

If you are for dissolution, what school district do you want to be moved to?

What is your name? Emily Wagner

What is your address? W1606 Lowland Dr Palmyra Wi 53156

What is your phone number? 920/723-0158

Thank you for your time,

Emily Wagner

Greetings Board Members,

After hearing all the testimony over the past 3 meetings, I would like to amend my plan. One is that the district should remain as is, for tax reasons. As Palmyra-Eagle still gets 25% (ish) of the state money per child that OE's.

I also realize that the (East/West connection; Eagle/Mukwonago Families; Yes to Dissolution) etc. will never let any future referendum pass if the school district remains intact. I presume they will also continue to fight to have Eagle annexed by Mukwonago schools.

I would like to see Palmyra-Eagle as a district yet, but not as it is now. We in no way can afford to be our own district, footing the entire bill anymore and should never have. First off, we need to cut off the head, so to speak, and remove the district office. A lot of school services can and should be shared with neighboring districts. I'm sure Whitewater would think about sharing food service and some other personnel. It would save their budget too, sharing some FTE. Unfortunately, my plan also includes closing down one or both of the elementary schools as there just aren't enough students anymore, not because of OE, people are just not having kids like they used to. They may even want to share some sports, football in particular, but definitely look into sharing services.

Also as a member of the Palmyra-Eagle FFA Alumni, I would like to point out that I have not seen an FFA program sponsored at Mukwonago and that would be unfair to the kids involved in it in our district should things go the East/West Connection way. Being a rural district has much to offer and if restructured correctly, it could flourish again. It also makes me wonder how many of the 350+ kids that OE, actually ever stepped foot in a Palmyra-Eagle classroom, since that is the law, just saying.

As I said, I do believe it is possible to have a district in Palmyra-Eagle, and that is what the majority of children want also. 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 to move within the Palmyra-Eagle district in order 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

From: Michael Jacobson <stilpony@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 2:02 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Should PEASD be dissolved

To Whom It May Concern;

I'm for the school district of Palmyra/Eagle to be dissolved.

I've been attending the Thursday night meetings and have listened to hours of testimony from both sides, and it seems that we have one side that argues all the emotional reasons for keeping the district, and the other side arguing the fiscal responsibility of the matter. As a property owner and taxpayer in the district, I no longer see any other course of action than to dissolve the district.

For the residents of Eagle, I feel that the children here should be moved to the Mukwonago school district.

If you have further questions for me, I would be happy to address them.

Name: Michael Jacobson
240 Field Drive
Eagle, WI 53119
PH: 414-531-0665

Thank you for your time,
Michael Jacobson

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: ANGIE MERRYFIELD <angielemcke@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 8:53 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: dissolution

Hello,

My son goes to Palmyra-Eagle High School and likes to participate in many after school activities including sports. If the school relocates I could end up driving over 60 miles a day if he wants or needs to stay after school for help with his studies. I do not know if he will still be able to continue to do any after school activities because I am a single working mom. We all know how important these activities are especially for children in small communities. I am definitely for the school staying in our community! He has gone to this small school district since 4-K, so going to a high school three or four times would be overwhelming.

Please consider these points as you make your decision:

- travel time for students and parents
- second bus for after school activities
- the new school size

I really hope this is true because I am trying my best to keep my son on this track with the very challenging situation we have been suddenly put into.

Thanks,

Angie Merryfield
angielemcke@msn.com
603 N First St
Palmyra, WI 53156

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Debra West <debwest894@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra Eagle School Dist

DPI -

I realize this district has some faults, but overall both of my boys (grad of 2013 and 2016) received a great education here. I'm obviously for KEEPING this school alive.

One of my sons has a slight learning disability and received so much help - - I couldn't have asked for anything more. I don't think a larger school system would've been able to provide this one on one type of help. I feel he never would've survived HS in a large environment.

I feel that a smaller school system in the area provides so much more than the big schools. The teachers know each student as an individual and are in constant contact with parents. This is something a larger system cannot provide.

Sadly some things are reality - - as more urban types build and move out to the "country" they want what the city provided. So now we have a majority here that "want - want - want".

Sincerely and Respectfully,
Deb West

S82 W35200 Mailman Rd
Eagle WI 53119

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Ray and meghan K <rmkoscak22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2019 1:54 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolution Opinion
Attachments: peasd dissolution.docx

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached information regarding our opinion on the PEASD and the dissolution of it. While we feel that it is an unfortunate situation and are sad to see the district in this position, we do not feel it is fiscally irresponsible to continue on with the district without the full support of both communities. The support from Eagle was lost at one point without any return to be had.

Regards,

Ray and Meghan Koscak
104 Mill Rd
Palmyra, WI 53156

Refinery Eagle Area School Dist... X Online Presentation - January 20... X

pears.org/district/frequently-asked-questions.cfm

DEPARTMENTS WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

- Why this type of referendum?
- Why have we not heard about the financial issues before?
- Is the district's current financial situation the result of poor fiscal management?
- Will current programming stay the same with a passed referendum?
- Why did the Board of Education change from a recurring referendum to a non-recurring referendum at its January meeting?
- Why are some of the tax impacts different for the new non-recurring question than they were for the recurring question?
- Why not just cut administration?

Education is a constantly changing profession, and our administrative team works to make sure the District maintains proper legal and professional standards to ensure the safe education of each of our students. Currently the District employs a District Administrator, Comptroller, Special Education Director, Pupil Services Coordinator, 3 Principals (one at each building), 1 Assistant Principal (PEHS/AS), and 2 half-time Curriculum Directors. Our Curriculum Directors also serve as the English Language Learners Director and the Media Specialist, respectively. Much like the teaching staff question above, we could add many students to our district without adding any additional administration, but each position comes with tasks that must be completed for even small numbers of students. The Board will continue to assess each administrative position on a year by year basis to minimize District expenses. Similar to our other potential cuts, cutting every administrator we have would not be enough to account for the upcoming deficits.

• Why not just consolidate the elementary buildings?

Closing an elementary building has been a longstanding discussion of the board. We have to weigh out the pros and cons of closing either of our buildings.

Did You Know?

Did You Know? Great Things are Happening in the Peoria Area School District

1. The District is currently in the process of reviewing the current financial situation and the impact of the referendum on the district's budget.

2. The District is currently in the process of reviewing the current financial situation and the impact of the referendum on the district's budget.

3. The District is currently in the process of reviewing the current financial situation and the impact of the referendum on the district's budget.

4. The District is currently in the process of reviewing the current financial situation and the impact of the referendum on the district's budget.

WISCONSIN SCHOOL REFERENDUM ON THE GO!

pears.org/district/frequently-asked-questions.cfm

DEPARTMENTS WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

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WISCONSIN SCHOOL REFERENDUM ON THE GO!

I attended an HR meeting last year and the discussion revolved around the difficulty in replacing the retiring employees because we have less young people to fill those jobs. It was noted in that presentation that in the state of Wisconsin, our incoming kindergarten classes have not replaced our graduating senior classes since 1997. So since 1997 the state has seen continual declining enrollment in general because of a lower number of kids to educate. It seems as though schools and the state have had plenty of time to plan ahead for declining enrollment as a statewide issue, regardless of open enrollment availability.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is resident enrollment declining in other places?

Yes. Currently over 1/3 of the districts statewide report declining resident enrollment.

2. A huge cost savings for the district could have come from consolidating elementary schools. For the 2019-2020 school year, the Eagle Elementary school has the following enrollment, per a slide from the Mukwonago Area School District Board Meeting has 100 students.

Page 63 / 44

2019-20 Enrollment of Town and Village of Eagle Residents

2019-20 Status	Prek	4K	5k	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total
Residents, Attend PEASD	1	13	16	16	7	10	12	12	13	9	15	17	17	27	34	219
Residents, Attend MASD	0	10	22	16	11	14	15	19	9	17	16	19	17	21	13	217
Residents, Attend East Troy*																32
Residents, Attend Kettle Moraine*																30
	1	23	38	32	18	24	27	31	22	26	31	36	34	48	45	498
Do not know the grade level distribution of these students.																

Open with

10/21/2019 12:38 PM

S:\mdo\business-services\Eagle Dissolution - 2018\2019-20 PEASD Students by Address v2.xlsx

Instead of polling or asking residents how they would feel about consolidating an elementary school, the board took the stance that if they did that, we would have higher open enrollment and it wouldn't save enough money. Again, 4 years ago they could see that this was an issue and never thought it would be a good idea to put the idea out and see how it would go over? I sat in multiple meetings where we were told "we are residents of the school district, we will do anything we can to save the tax payers a dollar". This is clearly a lie coming out of each board member. They saw an opportunity to save over \$600,000 at some point in the past few years and never brought it up to the public. It was brushed under the table with the idea that no one would go for it. Based on the facts that Palmyra has supported the district in the referendum and the advisory referendum at a much higher percentage than Eagle has, it would seem that if it meant saving money and helping the district, Palmyra residents would have supported consolidating and using the Eagle Elementary Building.

Overall Budget

So what does that mean...

Assuming the open enrollment of 50 students:

Starting Deficit	-\$1,750,000
+ Savings	+\$ 630,000
+ Spending	-\$ 475,000
Total Deficit	-\$1,695,000

Additionally, the district still owns and must maintain the buildings and property until they could be sold.



Even if 50 students would have open enrolled out, it would have netted a savings of \$155,000 per year. If the elementary buildings had been consolidated 4 years ago (4 years is used as a frame of reference for the districts ability to project out for budgeting purposes. It is understood that if they knew an issue was at hand 4 years ago, they wouldn't have been able to enact this measure immediately), it would have saved the district \$620,000. It isn't enough to make the full difference; however it would have landed the district in a better position to pay down debts or make necessary repairs to the buildings that need to be done.

Overall Budget

So what does that mean...

Assuming no additional open enrollment

Starting Deficit	-\$1,750,000
+ Savings	+\$ 630,000
+ Spending	-\$ 100,000
Total Deficit	-\$1,220,000

Additionally, the district still owns and must maintain the buildings and property until they could be sold.



In the scenario above they would have saved \$530,000 per year, had this been done 4 years ago, the district would have saved \$2,120,000.00. Enough to cover a lot of expenses, debts, even a year of funds they were asking for in the referendum.

While we cannot say for sure the amount of students who would have possibly open enrolled out of the district, it is not likely that 50 of the students would have left. It seems this is being used as a crutch for the lack of action open enrollment and accountability by the school board. It also demonstrates the lie that they would do anything to save a dollar for the tax payers of the district. Somewhere between \$620,000-\$2,120,000 has been wasted by the school board in the last 4 years! In no business that I have been a part of would it have been acceptable to leave that amount of money, even one years worth of savings on the table. Especially if it was backed with the reasoning of "we like our district the way it is, we don't want to change it".

3. The next issue that made it difficult to support the referendum and additional funds they have been asking for is the lack of preparedness and planning. When I saw the article below from the Jefferson County Daily Union, I was appalled.

PEASD Dissolution Stance

Initially we were supporters of keeping our schools open and operational as PEASD. During further research and as more unfolded we have changed our stance. My husband and I are both 2002 graduates of PEASD. We love the idea of a small school for our kids and do not want them to attend a large district such as Mukwonago, Kettle Moraine or Arrowhead.

We would love to have another district operate one of the buildings in Palmyra. Unfortunately due to issues that we believe have stemmed from the school board, we do not want it to remain in the hands of PEASD's school board. Please see below for our concerns on how the school district has been handled:

1. Delay in information regarding the state of the school district, which lends itself to appear as a lack of transparency. We believe that the delay in notice of the issues that the school board was dealing with has created a negative outcome for the district. By withholding the information and not going public with the details the school board has stripped the community of its ability to proactively assist in keeping the district together. If the community had known about the financial situation the district was in, they could have offered input, ideas and suggestions on ways to keep the district viable. That wasn't the case and has now created panic amongst those who want to keep the district together, but simply do not have enough time to put into motion a successful and sustainable plan. It is amazing the amount of people who want to help keep the district alive, but it is now too late. Communities that were once slightly divided on the school district are now irreparably divided.

We have been told that the district can project out 4 years and that is the reason they had 4 years of increases included in the referendum. If they can project out 4 years ago, that leads the public to believe that 4 years ago, they should have seen the writing on the wall. Even if it is true that open enrollment/declining enrollment has progressed more rapidly, 4 years ago they still knew they had a problem. 4 years would have been plenty of time to organize a community group to look at options that would have sustained the district, including time to poll residents to gauge interest in consolidating elementary school buildings. The list of ideas sent out below are great ideas, but it seems they are all items that the school board has already deemed unworthy or impossible to do.

Yes **No** **S.O.S Save Our School District!** **Yes**

Please consider the following information regarding the vote on the November 5th advisory referendum

Possible ways to reduce spending and continue operating as the PEASD without a large tax increase:	What dissolving the district may do:	What dissolving the district will not do:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Eliminate one elementary school thus decreasing costs across the board in staff and operating expenses.2. Eliminate both elementary schools and operate a K-12 building in the current HISDHS building. This could greatly reduce operating costs.3. Share District Office responsibilities (District Administrator, Business Manager) with other small districts similar to ourselves.4. Further reduce administrative costs by having a "Lead Teacher" at each level of learning - elementary, middle and high school - that would have a dual role as principal and educator.5. Shared or combined district wide positions such as Librarian, School Psychologist, Curriculum Coordinator and Pupil Services.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Negatively impact local businesses that rely on student and parent traffic and support such as gas stations, restaurants, florists, health services, child care services, realtors, etc.2. Negatively impact local organizations such as food pantries, churches, scouting groups, libraries, 4H, etc.3. Decrease home values as realtors have stated that having no local school district is not appealing to families seeking to move in.4. Increase taxes for Palmyra-Eagle residents as districts we may be relocated to may need to go to referendum to cover the costs of taking on the PEASD debt, and increase building capacity to house the new increase in students.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Guarantee that your property taxes will be staying the same or decreasing.2. Guarantee that your property will be relocated into the district you are hoping for.3. Provide the students and families that are currently served by the PEASD the same opportunity to a quality, rural, small school educational experience.4. Allow our students to be involved in multiple co-curricular activities5. Provide our current students \$80,000 in local scholarship opportunities6. Provide our senior community the opportunities to interact with our student body, volunteer and utilize our facilities.7. Provide the entire community easy access to cultural events i.e.; plays, musicals, choral/band performances and art exhibits.

*This flyer was developed and paid for by community members who support the Fall 2012 referendum to merge Area School Districts as part of our community.

Eagle and Palmyra, Together Forever, ***
Palmyra-Eagle
Created 06/06/12

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dailyondion.com/news/politics/eagle-referendum-a-do-or-die/article_9d938f42-0522-51ed-baf2-c1393ab52c26.html

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gentleman, we are going to referendum because we don't want to increase the deductibles for the teachers or we want to continue to teach seventh grade tech ed, it probably wouldn't have played well," he said.

Hoff said he and the board very much are aware of the ramifications of Tuesday's vote.

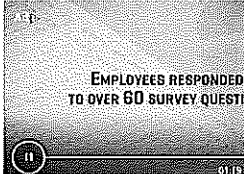
"We understand the seriousness and this is an opportunity for the community to speak its voice," he said. "I'm looking forward to at least having an answer in front of us," he said. "It has been four or five months of just having this cloud in front of us. At least we know what direction we can head. The average person can be at work everyday and not know if tomorrow is going to be their last day, but they don't really think about it. For each one our faculty and staff, they are watching it coming."

Should the referendum pass, he said, there has been minimal discussion of the next step.

"We'll deal with it in four years," the board president said.

If the referendum fails, the total impact for taxpayers is unknown due to the uncertainty to which school district each residence will be reassigned. Current Palmyra-Eagle Area School District taxpayers will be responsible for taxes of any newly assigned district, including any previously passed referenda and potential unknown costs of

- Cricket Wireless opens in Fort Atkinson
- Fort Community Foundation announces grant recipients from its inaugural 2019 Classroom Teacher Wish grant program
- Badger Land Disposal signs Southern Wisconsin municipal waste, recycling contracts with City of Waterloo, Town of Waterloo



How can a school board ask for \$11.5 Million and not have a plan on how to make it work? To keep it sustainable? In no business will someone give you that much money to play with and not expect you to have some accountability and a plan. In an email I received from Scott Hoff, he says:

The board understands that if the referendum passes, the work is not done. We will have to continue to look for creative ways to control costs, and all options will continue to be considered. I agree that there are more potential positives to combining the elementary buildings than just financial, and this discussion has come up in the past. We have tried to be as proactive as possible with our process, and still are at the position that we are.

The Baird projection goes out 4 years. It is difficult to project enrollment beyond that point. We chose to go with a recurring referendum beyond that 4 year span because it is not difficult to project that our funding issue will extend. However, the

I am not sure what to believe? Will they wait and figure it out in 4 years or are they actually working on a plan? I don't believe that the board seems to have been very proactive, and they haven't seemed to work on consolidating elementary schools, other than telling us that it doesn't save enough money.

It is obvious that Eagle wants out of the district. They tried to leave awhile back and be annexed into the Mukwonago district. It is currently proven by the results of the last two referendums. They will continue to open enroll out of the district. It is their choice. It has been our choice to stay in the district as it currently is. Again, I like the school my son attends. It is our fear though, that if the school is deemed by the DPI to stay open, it will not be the best interest for the kids. With the constant open enrollment out of the district, a school board who at this point in my perception is not acting in the best interest of the district and a declining population that our children's future isn't best served in the PEASD. At what point will it end? How many cuts will have to be made to the school and programming and staffing to make the future gaps whole? If the school is required to stay open by the DPI and more enroll out of the district, the gaps in funding will continue to get larger. How will those gaps be filled? It will have to be cuts to make the numbers work. This will have a negative impact on our kids because it will require them to give up classes, teachers and programs that they love. How is that fair? Everyone is asking how is it fair to close the kids schools? We are asking how is it fair to keep them open? To continue on a path that isn't

sustainable? That isn't fair. In 3 years from now or whatever time frame it might be, to make everyone, especially the kids, go through this again? That's not fair.

We have reviewed the information from the Whitewater and Mukwonago School Districts and believe that consolidation would be the best option for the district. It would be nice to see both of those districts keep buildings open in Eagle and Palmyra. It would be nice to part ways and move on for both of these communities and the children involved.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Karen J, <kjpatrick@centurylink.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2019 12:37 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolution

To the Board Members and Gov. Tony Evers

I am a school bus driver for this school district and have been for well over 10 years. This is broken into two different time frames. First driving in 1981 to 1984 and now driving from 2011 to present. The first time I was in my twenties and knew the families and kids I had on my bus because of community interactions and going to the same school together, Palmyra-Eagle. Presently I know almost every parent because they were passengers on my bus route some 20 years prior. This is an amazing happening in any school district.

I loved and cared for the students I transported to and from school each day many years ago. Discipline was easier then but really wasn't an issue on my route due to the fact that I attended school with these students parents or one of 4 of my brothers had. They knew me well, we attended many community and school functions together and we liked and respected each other. I was sure these were the reasons I had very few issues on my route. When something did come up, I could talk directly to the parents and we could agree on how to deal with the issue. It was fast, it was easy for all and most of all fair and agreed to by all.

Now I have those previous students children on my bus route. The discipline issues are different but need to be dealt with in more or less the same manner. I am able to contact the parents if needed and talk about the issue and agree to a resolution in the same manner as 20 years prior. These new parents KNOW ME. They KNOW who I am, what kind of values I have, they know me to be an honest and caring person and they totally trust me with their children because they knew me as a child. They don't worry about someone molesting their children or whether their school bus driver can be trusted with their loved ones. They know if their child left something on my bus it WILL be returned to them, not stolen. They know if their child has a nose bleed, a scratch or their shoes are untied I will handle it much as they would. I'm saying you don't get this even in a district the size of Whitewater. I know this because I have friends that drive school bus their and this is not happening there.

I love and care for the students I presently have on my bus also. I still carry Kleenex, paper towels, hand sanitizer with me and paid for by me because I care. I want to add here that 20 years ago as well as today my student riders love and care for me also. Each morning everyone of them are greeted with a smile, a Good Morning and each is spoken to on a first name basis. When they arrive at each school every morning I wish each of them to Have A Good Day and I'll See You Later. Most tell me to Have A Good Day before I can get it out of MY mouth. That's heart-warming and very special to me. They know I truly care and I know they care about me. Each afternoon when leaving my bus I address them by name and tell them to have a Good Night and I'll See You in the Morning. They wish me the same and then they're off to their families.

I am proud to drive these kids every day to and from school. I worry about them if they miss a day and I smile when I see each of them. Again, this is NOT the norm in many districts around the state. We are a small, rural community with old fashion values and we strive to preserve these values. Please let these kids have all the caring and love needed as they grow by keeping this district open. All of us will be better for it in the future when these kids become caring, responsible adults. They have had caring by people in this district and learned to care. They have been loved by these same people and learned to love, they have been respected and learned to respect. All of this happens because of our district where we know each other personally and each of us cares about the other. This district IS SPECIAL and needs to be seen as such and be allowed to stay open.

I sincerely thank you for taking the time to read my heartfelt thoughts.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Edward Bergin <streethogger@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 2:04 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Dissolution

Members of the SDBAB,

My name is Edward Bergin. I am a resident of the village of Eagle and have been for over 4 years. I moved here from Dousman where my children attended school in the Kettle Moraine School District. I chose to move there in 2000 because of the good reputation of that district. My children have since graduated. I moved to Eagle in 2015 to be near the Kettle Moraine State Forest area. Being a Waukesha County resident for over 30 years, I was aware of the PEASD reputation as a less than desirable school district. This reputation was based on word of mouth during that time.

When it came to my attention this summer of the upcoming referendum to raise property taxes significantly I took notice. I am retired and have a fixed income. Based on the information provided by the school district and school board, my school property taxes would have gone up an average of 28% per year for 4 years, increasing my taxes over \$1000 per year. This was not affordable to me.

I attended the informational meetings about the referendum and school board meetings. I also did research about the PEASD using data I found on the Wisconsin DPI website. I learned some alarming things about the school board and school administrator. At the informational meetings, many people including myself asked the board and administrator many questions. Several questions were answered by the board and administrator as "I don't know". I already knew the answers to many of the questions as the answers were already available on the DPI website. During one of the meetings, I actually was able to answer questions from the audience when the board members could not.

It was very apparent that the board decided that if the referendum for a tax increase did not pass, they would dissolve. They said in the meetings that all other options were looked at and nothing else was possible. It was obvious that they did not want to put in the time and effort to look at other options. Their lack of knowledge of facts and data for the PEASD that were easily obtainable on the DPI website showed they did not care to put in any effort to inform themselves or the public. They could not even answer what the declining enrollment numbers for the district were. At a school board meeting, one of the board members pointed out that all of the board members have been on the board for a short period of time, alluding to a high turnover rate in board members. Not a good prospect for a district in trouble.

If the board and administrator were not able to provide information at informational meetings, I question their competence as being able to run a school district. My observations from the meetings I attended show that the board did not want to put in the hard work needed, not only to save the district but to run the district. It was as if the referendum did not pass, they were washing their hands of it.

I now know why the PEASD had a bad reputation. This time not based on rumor, but by my own interactions and observations of the school board and administrator. Allowing the PEASD to remain intact does not seem feasible with the past and current mismanagement by the school board and administrator. Raising taxes and making cuts benefits no one.

I am in favor of dissolving the PEASD. As a Village of Eagle resident, it would better serve the students and citizens if the affected students went to schools in the Mukwonago School District.

Thank you for your time,

Edward Bergin
200 Woodfield Drive
Eagle, WI 53119
262-470-2389

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Amy Wilde <kadbwilde@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 1:30 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Written testimony
Attachments: Anti-Dissolution speech and pictures.pdf

Thank you for allowing me to speak last night. I am attaching a written copy of my testimony/speech. I included some pictures of events that I referenced in my speech.

Thank you again for taking the time to listen to all of us students. This has been a very stressful time. I cannot even imagine what graduation will be like, and what I will talk about in my graduation speech if the school district closes. It will make what should be a happy time, a very sad one.

I beg you to please look at every option and consider everything that can be done to not dissolve the district.

Thank you,
Brandon Wilde
PEHS Class of 2020

My name is Brandon Wilde, and I am a second-generation Palmyra-Eagle Panther. My mom and dad and all of my aunts and uncles graduated from PEHS in the '80s and '90s; my brother is a 2017 graduate and I will graduate this year. I felt that I needed to get up here and speak to all of you on behalf of my friends who want the same opportunity to graduate from here and for my cousins JJ and Jack who go to Palmyra Elementary and are 3rd generation Panthers on the Thomas side and 2nd generation on the Wilde side. There are so many students like us who are 2nd and 3rd generation, the Peardon's, Webbers, Koopmans, Patricks, Isaacsens, Garlocks, Lurveys, Holcombs, Leroy's, and I could go on and on. Our parents moved back here or stayed here for a reason, they believe in a small school, rural education, and so do I. While I do not wish to have this speech be all about me, I feel the examples I can provide through my experiences here at PEHS will show you why this school district is so important to all of us and why it should not dissolve.

My grandpa Duey started teaching math here in 1970. My dad grew up in the trailer park right across the railroad tracks and walked across the football field to school every day. When I was in 3rd grade, my mom and dad left their jobs in Milwaukee to move us back out here so we could go to school at Palmyra-Eagle. We didn't look for a way out - we wanted in. I left a class of 36 students in Milwaukee and came out here to a class of 18. There are no number of AP classes or electives at a large school that could make up for the education I received here because of the individualized attention I was able to receive from my teachers, and because my teachers knew me and I knew I could go to them for anything.

I may not have had some of the opportunities that are available in larger schools, but I had opportunities at PEHS that they don't have, and not only do I know everyone in my class, I know everyone in the high school. I played 5 sports throughout high school and will graduate with 18 varsity letters. I have been on at least 4 championship teams on 3 different sports. I have been a part of the student council all 4 years and am a member of the National Honor Society. I am also a four-year band student. I got to march in the homecoming halftime show in my football uniform, march in our community parades, got to visit New Orleans and New York and made it to state in Solo and Ensemble with the Brass Ensemble. So I don't want to hear the people who want our school to dissolve tell us we don't have opportunities because we do; they do not know what is best for us.

My grandpa is still the golf coach and now the basketball coach too, at Palmyra-Eagle and this will be his 50th year either teaching or coaching in the district. My grandma was a special education aid for 26 years, and still subs here several times a week, and my dad is currently a teacher and coach. My Grandpa Duey and Grandma Pat along with Mr. and Mrs. Frehner and a few others, started the Athletic Booster Club

in 1983 when budget cuts were forcing the district to consider cutting middle school athletics. That club still continues to provide us opportunities in athletics yet today because of the support of parents, teachers and the community. Probably one of the best moments of my life was winning a conference championship in golf my freshman year with my brother being a senior on the team, my grandpa being the head coach and my dad the assistant. I am sorry but you don't get that kind of thing in a large school, you just don't. At Palmyra-Eagle High School you have the opportunity to build your own legacy and be a part of anything you want to be.

I know what I want to do with my life, and I have been accepted at both of the colleges I applied to. I received a \$32000 scholarship and offer to play football at Ripon College and a \$19000 scholarship and offer to play football at Carroll University and was acceptance into the Physical Therapy Direct Admit program that only 90 students get accepted into each year. While I may not enter college with 12 AP credits like some of my peers at larger schools, I will enter college, well adjusted, well rounded, confident and happy - what more can you ask for? I can ask for this same opportunity for my friends and family.

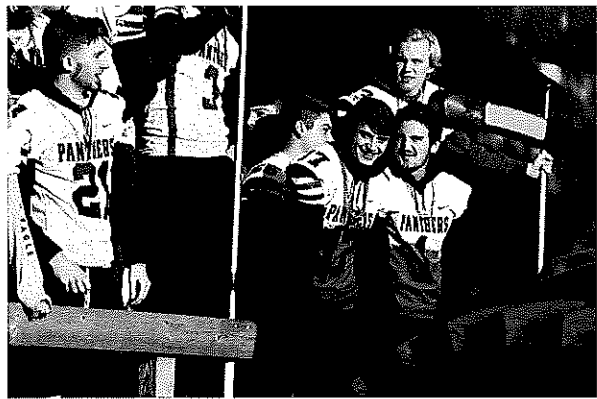
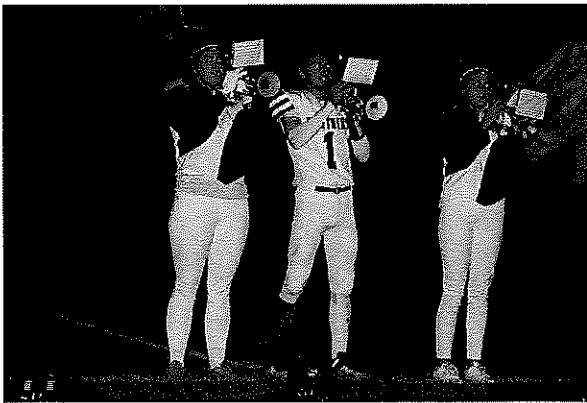
My uncle Tracy played quarterback for the Panthers back in 1988 and held many of the school's passing records that I was fortunate enough to break, with him here watching me. I want to be able to come back here in 6 years and watch my cousins break my records - this will never happen if we close the doors on this great district.

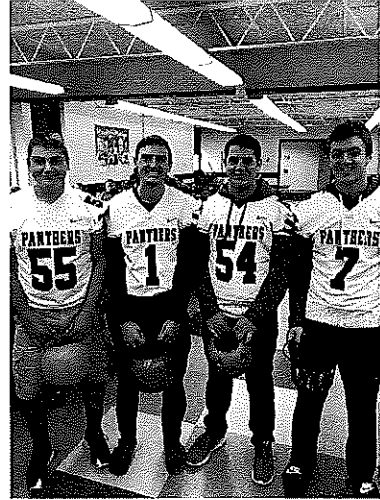
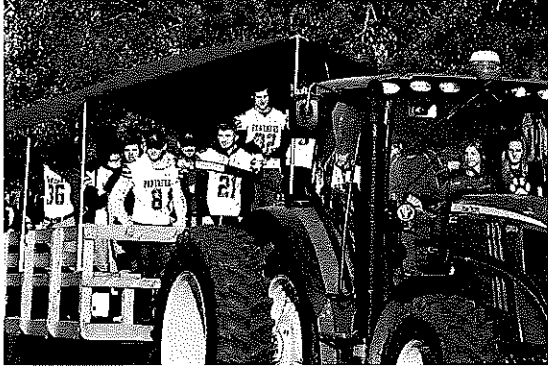
The people who want to see this district dissolve will never understand what it means to each and every one of us. To them, it is all about money, taxes and bussing. They can say what they want about bullying, but there is no more bullying here than in any other school - probably a lot less. We don't care about their comparisons of test scores, or the number of AP classes or sports offered - we have what we want right here.

My friends and family don't want to go to Mukwonago or Whitewater or anywhere else - they want to stay right here. We truly are a family, and this really is a place where everybody knows your name. If the state of Wisconsin, the DPI and all of you sitting here tonight are truly interested in the educational and emotional welfare of the children involved, I implore you to vote against dissolution and allow us more time to keep our school open and thriving, while we continue to work on solutions to overcome the inequity in school funding.

I am going to end with a quote I found, I don't know who said it, but I think it's appropriate to a situation that has become more about money than about children. "Do not educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy. So when they grow up they'll know the value of things, not the price."

PANTHER NATION!







Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: MASON PAUL ROSCIZEWSKI <mroscizewski@wisc.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 12:49 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle Area School District Written Testimony

DPI,

I don't envy your position in this situation and the precedent you are potentially setting. I have attached a letter of written testimony for your consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out. \

Best,
Mason Roscizewski
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Economics and Mathematics : Dec 2019
Incoming Altria Territory Sales Manager | Lincoln, NE

My name is Mason Roscizewski and I am a 2016 PEASD graduate who is in favor of not dissolving PEASD. I had the opportunity to attend the first part of the speakers on 11/21 but had to leave during the break to return back to Madison for school. While there, I had the opportunity to listen to the surrounding districts, excluding Whitewater, discuss their situation and present information. Also, I was able to learn about the criteria that the board follows.

I could tell you about my accomplishments at P-E or how PEASD prepared me for college and the workplace, but I'd like to talk about the criteria and the elephant in the room. Having been only to the one hearing, it's impossible to know this for sure but 12% of PEASD students are Hispanic according to state numbers and at the hearing on 11/21, I can be pretty positive 12% of the audience was not Hispanic. I really hope that you keep this population in mind.

Similarly, the people who are attending these hearings and speaking are the ones who are either already open enrolling and have the resources to continue this or those who if PEASD were to be dissolved, would choose to open enroll out of the district they get put into if they have the resources. Thus, I'd like you to also keep in your consideration the 30% of lesser off students in the PEASD district.

These populations are probably less likely to vote in the referendum or in general, come to these meetings, or be able to choose which school they'd like to go to either because of lack of information, little parent involvement due to multiple jobs, or other factors. Thus, your decision will most likely impact these populations the most.

Lastly, Mukwonago and Kettle Moraine both showed very similar statistics for their student population makeups and compared them to PEASD. KM claimed they were very different while Mukwonago claimed they were similar. 30% vs 12% socioeconomically

disadvantaged and 12% vs 5% Hispanic don't seem very similar to me at over twice the percentage, but that decision is ultimately up to the board for judgement.

My parents chose to live in PEASD and if I would have wanted, my parents would have let me open enroll out of the district. I don't fit any of the populations that I've described but I would like you to consider them in your ultimate decision. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to know more.

Best,

Mason Roscizewski

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Kami Kluss <tkluss@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2019 11:40 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASED TAX REFFERENDUM PITCH TO PALMYRA BOARD

<http://youtu.be/cJET64vkTRI>

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Kami Kluss <tkkluss@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2019 10:44 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD presents Tax Referendum to Palmyra Village Board

<https://youtu.be/KVIBCALxOY0>

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Kami Kluss <tkluss@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2019 10:35 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: 12/5/18 Palmyra Referendum Forum

Palmyra Referendum Forum 12/5/18

Pt. 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn6ySnrqvp0&feature=youtu.be>

pt.2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyyAv9Nw3pI>

pt.3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3TQcJtQEa4&feature=youtu.be>

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Kami Kluss <tkkluss@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2019 10:30 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Referendum Q&A Scott Hoff 12/12/18

https://youtu.be/4B1ildWqW_1

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Kami Kluss <tkkluss@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2019 10:24 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: YouTube link

<https://youtu.be/QtPYYyKIKVE>

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android