

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Roscizewski, Alexa <roscizew@msu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 10:45 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Opposition to Palmyra-Eagle Area School District Dissolution
Attachments: To the Wisconsin School District Boundary Appeal Board.pdf

To the Wisconsin School District Boundary Appeal Board,

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the dissolution of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District (PEASD). After reviewing the criteria for evaluating school district reorganization requests (Wis. Stats. Ch. 117.15), it is in my critical evaluation that dissolution of PEASD would be detrimental to the immediate school district, surrounding areas, and state of Wisconsin. As a graduate of Palmyra-Eagle Area Schools who attended the school district throughout my kindergarten to twelve grade career, it is also my personal opinion the dissolution of PEASD would result in harmful and unexpected consequences that outweigh the benefits of reorganizing the neighborhoods and communities into separate school districts. First, I will critically evaluate the speculative consequences of proceeding with dissolution. This will be done briefly, consolidating my thoughts out of respect for your time. Following the explication of negative impacts, I will also present a personal testimony. It is with critical thought and much cognitive effort I present to you the underlying contentions of what closing the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District would entail.

As an academic scholar, I am continually exposed to new knowledge and discoveries. It is through this quest for the objective truth I have stumbled upon the importance of schools in rural communities. In fact, much scholarly work is committed to understanding the vital role rural schools play in communities such as Palmyra and Eagle. As of December 5th, if you were to enter “importance of rural school districts in community development” into the Google Scholar search engine, 1,820,000 results would pop up in 0.18 seconds. Given the history of education in the United States, this should be of no surprise. Rural school districts have a place in our lifetime as research emphasizes the necessity of keeping school districts in these areas open. The reasonings include both social and economic aspects. As Thomas Lyson, a scholar at Cornell University, has found, small villages that house schools have higher housing values and more developed municipal infrastructure. It is also notable that Lyson also discovered that income inequality and welfare dependence are lower in small villages that have schools. Thus, economic realities tend to rely on the operation of rural schools as they tend to be one of the largest employers within the district. School districts provide employment for a wide variety of skills and education levels. Furthermore, transportation to areas outside of school districts tends to drive the need for resources closer to students and families. Considering the zoning laws and surrounding communities, PEASD is no exception to the economic and community development that allows both Palmyra and Eagle to thrive together. Families in the area rely on schools to connect them to resources. City planning depends on the success of rural schools, building community and bringing groceries, social services, and people for social support together. By taking away a main source of community development, dissolution would likely result in economic losses in an area already facing economic hardship given the large involvement in the agricultural industry by many residents. Moreover, this would lead to less communal involvement and interaction, causing a lack of ability to receive social support in the face of stress or adversity. This lack of social support from residents of rural areas, who are empirically shown to value one another and rely on community members to become resilient, is likely to have adverse mental health costs. In other words, people would not have others to turn to in a time of need, as places of belonging and identity would be taken away. This piggybacks with the idea that economic hardships already occurring would only become worse as students need to travel further distances for their right to education.

Considering the geographical area, students who are already economically disadvantaged would need to commute a considerable distance to a surrounding school. Upon considering the distance, pupils would likely be unable to participate in any extracurricular activities. By including the economic dimension of an already low-income area (based on ratio of free and reduced lunch recipients), children who have the lowest socio-economic status (SES) would be forced to travel further distances they may not privately be able to afford. In the chance they would be able to participate, families who work within or outside of the community they chose to live in would now be forced to expend more time, money, and resources to attend and support their children in extracurricular activities. This is also not considering families who rely on pupils as a source of income. Students who work after school would now be limited on hours and time given the further distance to drive to their job. In addition, pupil education would likely suffer, further impacting the future of students, families, employers, and the advancement of the state of Wisconsin. This is particularly troublesome as many students in PEASD are disadvantaged on the basis of SES and race.

As previously stated, SES is a concern for students in PEASD. By dissolving the school district, students of color with low SES would be subjected to much more disadvantage. This is taking students of color away from allies and placing them in an environment in which they are now a larger minority in comparison to classmates and likely to be victims of bullying. It is also important to note that this would include forcing pupils and families who identify as indigenous people to be in a community in which the mascot of a school is a racial slur (Mukwonago Indians). Furthermore, race becomes even more of a factor when we consider the institutionalized racism already driving the dissolution of the school district. For example, students who need to travel the furthest distance in the face of dissolution are likely students of color. This goes hand in hand with SES. When comparing the economic states of both Jefferson and Waukesha Counties, the push to separate the county border appears to be classist and racist. Empirically, students who are already facing SES issues, in addition to race, face educational disadvantages as housing instability, changing schools, absenteeism, poor nutrition, and food in-security have all been associated with a lack of educational achievement. This brings the attention to the education needs of pupils in PEASD and the loss of opportunity that would arise from dissolution.

Coming back to the idea of PEASD being a rural school district, the educational needs of a community must be understood to assess whether removing the central piece of a community would impact the education of pupils under consideration. Specifically, empirical research has demonstrated again and again that changing schools results in negative impacts for the individual entering a new environment. Notably, pupils who change schools between kindergarten and 12th grade are less likely to complete high school on time, complete fewer years of school, are more likely to suffer depression, and are more likely to become arrested as adults. There are many other consequences such as social problems and behavioral problems I do not have room to list. Furthermore, the programs that have a positive influence in Palmyra and Eagle would be lost. Specifically, classes such as woodshop and metals would likely no longer be available to students beginning to learn trades. Extracurricular leadership that is vital to the success of one of the largest industries in Wisconsin, the Palmyra-Eagle FFA, would also be lost. In other words, place-based education that is necessary for the success of rural communities would be lost and further hurt Palmyra and Eagle. There is much evidence linking the emphasis of place-based education in rural areas to the success of students in those areas. There is also a place to note that changing laws surrounding monetary assets and debt would likely result in a loss of all rural schools in the state of Wisconsin and move towards only a handful of large districts. By dissolving PEASD, students, families, communities, and the state as a whole would lose.

Although the argument stands that negative consequences would outweigh any positive consequences as described above, I now turn to my personal experience as to why I am opposed to dissolution. The Palmyra-Eagle School District is one that is more than just a school, it is the center of community which gives all living in Palmyra and Eagle a sense of belonging. Both graduates of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, my parents chose to build their home in a community that reflected my mother's rural roots and my father's desire

to be close to family. As an educator, my mother ensured she would build a house where her children would receive a quality education, opening up doors to a world of new knowledge and growth. For this reason, my parents built their first and second homes in Eagle, WI. Following in the steps of my older sister, I attended Eagle Elementary from kindergarten through sixth grade. At this school was where teachers and staff would foster an environment for all children to follow their passions and develop their skills. Throughout my years at Eagle Elementary I was able to participate in extracurricular activities such as interpretive reading, book club, forensics, and even Math 24. No matter who you were at Eagle Elementary you mattered, and all were welcome to participate in clubs and events such as the sock hop or talent show. The academic experience was also one that could not be taken advantage of elsewhere, as professional educators employed lessons from John Dewey when I learned science and other things about life from raising a meal worm in third grade and vowed to spend extra time with struggling students. Looking back, Eagle Elementary was where a lot of my skills that I put into practice today were learned.

As I moved from elementary school to middle school, all of the Eagle Elementary kids were so excited because middle school meant joining with the Palmyra kids at Palmyra-Eagle Middle School. Going to Palmyra for class was an excitement I can remember to this day. This was the time I finally would be able to go to school with my Palmyra friends I had played recreational soccer, basketball, and softball with since a young age. Not only was I excited to be with my friends, but new learning opportunities were coming my way. Since the middle school was a few hallways in the high school, I was able to take algebra as a seventh grader and go to the high school for geometry in eighth grade. I was also able to take partake in classes that I had never had experience in, such as family and consumer education courses and technological education programs. Throughout my time at Palmyra-Eagle Middle School I was able to develop a sense of team with the girls I played basketball with, I was able to serve on the student council, and I was able to have a small school in which I excelled.

The academic base I had developed at Palmyra-Eagle allowed me to succeed in college where I became a member of the meat animal evaluation team, president of Saddle and Sirloin, representative of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Association, and frequent Dean's List member. In fact, I was awarded a large scholarship that covered my tuition from the admissions office at UW-Madison on top of the many other scholarships I received. I became decorated in undergrad and that was due to the academic and community experience I had growing up in the Palmyra-Eagle School District. I also have held many prestigious internships, such as serving as the Animal Science Educator for UW-Madison Cooperative Extension. I know I am one of many that have followed on similar paths. My older sister also attended UW-Madison to study chemistry before trading her Badger pride to study pharmacy at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She is currently a pharmacist where she practices in the VA and teaches at a university. My brother is currently a senior at UW-Madison where he is studying mathematics and economics. He has already been in a contract to work for a Fortune 500 company upon graduating in December. I have fellow classmates that have gone through the UW system and are continuing to pursue their education at professional schools and graduate schools. I also have classmates that were taught the necessary life skills and critical thinking to help them follow their work after high school graduation to be successful in their trade and on the farm. For example, one of my best friends who I was able to play softball with throughout high school is now a successful florist in the Palmyra-Eagle community.

Currently I am a graduate student at Michigan State University studying communication. After earning a B.S. and an Education and Educational Certificate from UW-Madison, I decided to pursue studying ways in which health behaviors can be impacted through messages we receive and social influence. I have worked as an employee for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), collaborated in writing many scholarly articles, presented research findings at national conferences, worked to find ways to communicate risk in the Flint Water Crisis, and am working on a project to protect the Great Lakes. Although many people and experiences have helped me get where I am, I am certain that I could not have done it without my career in the Palmyra-Eagle School District. From all that I have done so far in life, I can say that losing this school district is

one would be a grave mistake. Palmyra-Eagle School District serves as more than a just a school, it serves as a place where community is built.

I have presented a brief explanation of the consequences of dissolving PEASD based on scholarly research and shared my own personal experiences of how PEASD has had a positive influence in my life. To state explicitly, I am against the dissolution of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School Districts. Dissolving PEASD would only exacerbate the already hard economic challenges faced in the community. While I apologize for the length of this email, I do hope you will consider what has been said and the power you hold in the decision you make. You have the power to choose to support the state of Wisconsin and families in the Palmyra-Eagle School District. I urge you to continue to do research to draw conclusions as to what would happen if PEASD were to close. With that, I leave you with a quote by Wayne Fuller (The Old Country School, 1982, pp. 234-235), "To close a country school was to destroy an institution that held the little rural community together. It was to wipe out the one building the people of the district had in common and, in fact, to destroy the community."

Sincerely,

Alexa Roscizewski
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Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Kami Kluss <tkkluss@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 10:41 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI; Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: DISSOLVE PEASD - SUPPORT EAST WEST SOLUTION

As Eagle residents of 25 years and parents of two we have two very simple needs. We want the very best education and opportunities a school district can provide and reasonable taxes. Unfortunately, PEASD did not support either of these things!

By now you are aware of the financial mismanagement of PEASD and ongoing funding issues. The district has not come up with one sustainable plan or solution and the debt has only gotten deeper. People have open enrolled in droves because their children's needs do not get met at PEASD. People are tired of the financial poor management, the financial favoritism toward any alumni family proposal, and the downright absolute neglect in listening, asking or even caring what the community wants or thinks. As the school board continued to tell us throughout this process we like it just the way it is and we are not interested in exploring anything else.

We left PEASD and Open Enrolled Out when our children were in 3rd and 6th grades. Special Ed was a very big issue in our decision to leave PEASD. Both of our children have severe writing output disorders. I was told in confidence at the time by the PEASD school psychologist they will likely not approve any recommendations because the accommodations my children needed were assistive technology and that meant money. This was a very hopeless and unsupported time for our family as we were being given any support or direction from PEASD. I reached out to everyone I could to try to help my children get the tools they needed to be successful as we were being offered no solutions or support from PEASD at all. I had private neuro psych evals completed, I got an advocate from the county, I hired an outside agency to access my children's needs, I took all financial obligation from PEASD and provided laptops and all software and every supply that could possibly be necessary. We would have team meetings the special ed staff and teachers would make wonderful lists of accommodations and ideas.... the problem is that is where it ended!!! The teachers did not follow through and the majority were never followed through on or brought up again. When I continued to fight for the needs of my children all we got were smiles and nods and no one made anyone accountable to follow through or provide for these children's needs. My children were failing, self esteems were being destroyed and we felt absolutely hopeless. Even with formal neuro psych evals in hand, advocates from Disability Resource Center of Waukesha County getting involved, Outside Assistive Tech Specialists Evaluations, me calling and filing complaints with DPI we continued to get nowhere in getting PEASD to cooperate or even attempt to meet my children's needs. We continued to be pushed off and avoided. The gap in education also became more evident when I began to talk to others and compare the education being provided to my nieces and friend's children of the same age from neighboring school districts like MASD, KMSD and others. The PEASD learning gap became alarming. I felt like the things other districts were exposing to children that were the same age as mine were light years ahead. It was clear and disheartening to realized we had wasted too many years fighting PEASD and begging for them to provide things they just did not have the means or qualified staff to offer us. We were wasting out breath asking for things they just did not have to offer. As they say hind sight is 20/20. We met with several districts to discuss our children's needs and finally decided on MASD. The staff worked with my children before and after school to bring them up to grade level as they were both 2 and 3 years behind in math and reading. And once they were finally offered the tools and allowed to use the tools to go around their disabilities they thrived and have both stayed on honor roll. My daughter graduated with high honors and continues to do well in college.

When we left PEASD there was no exit interview, no calls... nothing... no one cared!

The hate and division of community that this school board has caused because of their egos and bullheadedness getting in the way throughout the entire process is so sad! This has felt like a hostage situation the way they have talked about wanting to put an end to or limit open enrollment so that they can force us to stay in the district to keep more of our

school tax money! Or the other popular thing... As the PEASD alumni like to say "Just Move!" Well, If taxpayers are forced to have to continue to face tax referendums or if PEASD had been successful in passing this last tax referendum making us one of the highest school taxed districts in the state that is exactly what people would be forced to have to do! To tax people out of a community they love is wrong! To pay that kind of money for a subpar school district just to keep the lights on is wrong!

Other districts are able offer this community the stability that we need. Other districts can offer our children a strong education and far more opportunities that will allow them to thrive. It seems obvious to me that the East West consolidation plan is the way to go. Finally someone is offering solutions! Please support Mukwonago and Whitewater in the transfer solution they are offering. Please transfer our communities to districts that will be able to give our kids what they need and offer all of this to the community with reasonable taxes and school districts we can be proud to be a part of! These districts are at least offering to try to keep our elementary schools in open in our communities.

The people of Eagle have had enough for quite some time now and are tired of not being heard! Eagle is done financing the PEASD district. In 2015, Eagle had enough signatures TWICE to Annex 5 large parcels of Eagle into Mukwonago School District before PEASD hired lawyers to block it in Madison. In 2019, the people of Eagle have spoken again voting TWICE again for the dissolution of PEASD. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH WE DO NOT WANT ANY PART OF PEASD! PLEASE AFFIRM DISSOLUTION!

Thank You!

Tim and Kami Kluss
405 Markham Road
Eagle, WI 53119
262-470-1872

~ Kami "Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being." Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Lauren Schneidewent <lmschne3@asu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 10:40 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Written Testimony in Opposition of PEASD Dissolution

My name is Lauren Schneidewent. My address is 914 E Lemon St. Tempe, AZ 85281. I can be reached at (262) 813-9250.

My written testimony for the public hearing:

“Hello everyone, my name is Lauren Schneidewent and I am a 2016 graduate from Palmyra-Eagle High School. Unfortunately I couldn’t make it to the public hearing tonight because I am currently attending school in Arizona. I just wanted to take a moment to share with you the things I took away from my experience at PEASD, and why I think our district should be here to stay. If you asked 17-year-old me, Palmyra-Eagle was a small district in a small town that I couldn’t wait to get out of. But if you asked me now, I’d say that it wasn’t until I found myself at a university with roughly 90,000 students that I realized all of the amazing things that our little district had to offer.

To start, I miss the strong sense of community that our school district helped provide. Through many successes and several tragedies, one could always count on many members of our community to rise to the occasion in support. That’s something that can not be guaranteed for yourself or your child in a larger district. In that sense, the idea that “everybody knows everybody” doesn’t seem so bad, after all.

Furthermore, despite contrary belief, having a small school meant having large opportunities. As a student, I was someone who wanted to try every club and activity. And luckily for me, PEASD allowed me the chance to do so. I got the opportunity to be a part of many teams and committees, from sports to theatre, choir, band, art club, NHS, and student council. I know that, had I gone to another school, I would’ve been put in a position where I had to choose only 1-2, as the competition runs high. Of course I value putting your all into the activities you’re involved in, but the takeaway should be that, instead of being rejected from activities, I was welcomed in and inspired to learn. This made me much more well-rounded and able to work with a variety of different

teams, which is essential for a successful college career and successful occupation.

Lastly, I always felt heard and assisted within our school district. With less students, teachers could put in more effort to making sure the students who cared to learn, did. Many teachers were willing to meet before and after school to help you, as long as you put in the effort. That taught me that, ultimately, I am responsible for my own academic success. We had the resources we needed, we just had to learn the importance of holding ourselves accountable. I'm sure those teachers know who they are and, if you're here, I just want to say thank you for everything you have done to ensure your students' success. Your hard work did not go unrecognized. Same applies to the coaches, faculty and other staff.

Despite others' negative comments about our district, I am so grateful to had been able to attend PEASD growing up. I has provided me many opportunities, a deep sense of community and bonds that will last a lifetime. I will say it now and always- I'm proud to be a Panther. Thank you.“

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Shannon Koss <shannonkoss@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 10:38 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Against dissolution

Hi My name is Shannon Koss,

I would like to thank you for taking on the daunting task of determining the fate of not just my children's educational future but so many other students and their families. My husband and I both graduated from Palmyra-Eagle along with siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins and many other extended family members. When we bought our 1st house we chose to live in Palmyra so that our kids could attend the same schools we did and grow up with the same small town values that we grew up with and appreciate more than anything now. We have 2 daughters one 16 who is a sophomore and the other 12 in 7th grade. Both of our girls are doing exceptionally well in school they are both very involved with everything the school has to offer my oldest plays volleyball, basketball, and softball, and is on student council. My youngest plays volleyball, basketball, softball, is going to try track this year is in the band and FFA. One of the nice things about our school is that everyone can participate in anything they want to we have students that play multiple sports, some at the same time, can be in the band or the play or any of the other clubs outside of the classroom. You don't have that at larger schools yes they have all of those things but you have to be part of an elite percentage to stand out from the thousands of other kids. The relationships that are formed between our students and the teachers I truly believe is something special that you won't find anywhere else. Everyone knows who you are, upper class-men are friends and mentors to the younger grades, the younger students have some exceptional role models to look up to here because everyone knows everything about you. Both of my daughters had the same 4th grade teacher who still takes time out of his busy schedule to make it to some of the kids sporting events even though he hasn't been their teacher for 3 plus years! Some of the teachers there are the same teachers that my husband and I had when we went to school and now my kids get to form bonds with them. It's things like that will make a memory that lasts a lifetime. I could literally go on and on about all the reasons why we love our school but I'll try to touch a little bit on a few of the criteria that you will be taking into account when making your decision.

Criteria 1: Geographical characteristics

Since we live in the village of Palmyra, 2 blocks and within walking distance to our schools, I will assume that we would be assigned to Whitewater school district. It is 18 minutes from our house to their High-school and middle school. No longer within walking distance if needed. The major road to get from Palmyra to whitewater is atrocious in the winter with the blowing and drifting snow over the vast farm fields in between, I would be extremely worried about my teen drivers safety making it back and forth between school and extra circular activities probably multiple times a day depending on practice schedules or late hours in the evening returning from games. Whitewater is not a community we frequent often, I work in Elkhorn and my husband in the Milwaukee area so getting to and from whitewater for after school activities would be extremely hard for us having to take extra time off work and extra gas money because it is in the opposite

direction. I feel like our level school involvement would decrease substantially due to those factors.

Criteria 2: educational

My kids are thriving in school my oldest has always been on high honors even with taking a heavier work load like accelerated math classes and honors English classes. My youngest struggles a little bit more, school doesn't come as easy to her like her sister. She has always gotten extra help in reading and this year being her 1st year in middle school she's doing really well her reading has improved and I'm impressed at how well she's doing in her classes. Palmyra may not have some of the course offerings that bigger schools have but in the grand scheme of things are they courses that are really needed or wanted. We have things like agriculture and an equestrian team that other schools don't have. And if there are AP classes not offered here there are resources available to get those credits that are desired, partnerships with UW Whitewater or WCTC. I truly believe you get out of your education what you put in, if you seek more there are options available. Sometimes you have to be proactive for yourself.

Criteria 3: adverse effects

I don't know that there would be adverse effects to programming should we be required to join another district but I certainly think there would be adverse effects to the students. These kids will have a stigma attached to them being the kids that weren't wanted or weren't good enough to make their own school work. How do the student athletes fit into teams that are already formed of kids that have been playing together for years, coaches that have been watching and coaching their kids for years. I fear what kind of impact that will have on my children who are at ages where it's hard enough to fit in socially.

I also feel like dissolving our district would be detrimental to the town of Palmyra. If there was no longer a High school or middle school here which are the schools my kids are in we would probably consider moving as we don't really have much interest in being in the whitewater school district. I am sure we are not alone in this thought process, imagine all of the homes going up for sale in our town. All of the home owners that are stuck with homes that won't sell because there is no schools here but empty abandoned buildings that could potentially be anything in the future. All of the loss to local businesses because the flow of traffic has decreased significantly, no longer Friday night football games that everyone goes out for fish fry before or after games. Students no longer stopping at subway before practice or after band concerts. Or stopping for last minute items from our local grocery store on the way home from picking the kids up, people will do those things in the communities where the school is or where they work. Schools are the heartbeat of a community What will this community look like 10/15 years down the road will our children return here to raise their families now that the schools are gone....

Criteria 5: Testimony

You will hear testimony from both sides, students including both of my own who have enough courage to get up in a room full of supporters and haters pleading to find a way to keep their beloved schools open. Going through a situation no child should have to go through not knowing what their future holds. You will hear testimony from the other side stating that they don't want to pay the extra taxes and whining about our test scores. It deeply saddens me that our school

was good enough when their kids attended but now that they don't have children in the district any longer they just want to throw it all away in hopes that their taxes will go down. It also saddens me that realtors are selling homes to families and pushing for open enrollment into a certain neighboring district some have never even stepped foot in our schools. We pay higher taxes here, we have a small tax base due to the vast amount of farms and beautiful state forest I don't boycott our local small town grocery store and drive to the big box stores because the price of milk is cheaper there. Weather we pay more in school taxes or county taxes our taxes are still as a whole less than some surrounding communities. Isn't that something that should be looked at and thought about before purchasing a home taxes are going to go up one way or another it's inevitable shouldn't that be planned on.

I don't doubt that the district has problems and there are things that need to be worked on but I don't think dissolving an entire district is the answer. There are some community members out there that have grouped together and come up with some good plans and really good ideas moving forward on how we can make things work and save our beloved school district. After a consolidation of buildings and some other cuts I think we could certainly be thinking outside of the box on ways to gain some financial support from the outside wether it could be asking for a percentage of county sales tax, a couple cents per gallon from the local gas stations, there has to be something we can do about the state land generating some sort of income to local schools. There so many other school districts smaller than ours that are still viable I believe if the community really pulls together great things could happen. If everyone put half as much energy into saving our schools rather than trying to destroy an entire district we wouldn't be in this situation. I think we need a fresh start with some new leadership and we could be great again.

Please give those of us who want this district to remain a chance, please choose not to dissolve.
Thank you

Sent from my iPad

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: molly mishler <mollymishler1979@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 10:16 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Re: School should not close.

On Thu, Dec 5, 2019, 10:06 PM molly mishler <mollymishler1979@gmail.com> wrote:

When the referendum first came out. I selfishly voted for no tax hike. And as time went on I realized this is about our children not my checkbook. This school is the kids home they feel safe here. Just this week their were 3 shootings. Yes Palmyra is small school. But the kids feel safe and feel this is where they belong. As time went on and I have 3 that go to that school. I realized the emotional toll of them being placed somewhere else or separated from people they care about . The fear of others schools not wanting them or accepting them for where they came from. I think the most important thing to think about is the emotional well being of these children. If this school closes I can see depression setting in their minds. And the kids who take the bus, will they now have to get up at 5 am to get on the bus. That's just not healthy for them. Or how about the families that have multiple kids in sports and dance . I go back and forth many times a week. Or what if they get sick. It will take me longer to pick them up. Set my own opinions aside and just hearing the children speak. It's not in their emotional best interest for the school to close. This will destroy them emotionally and mentally. And I say keep it open as this is what the kids need. And these kids are our future.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Cyrus Thompson <crthompson360@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 10:09 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Against Dissolution - 2011 PEHS Graduate

Dear DPI,

I am writing to voice my opposition against the dissolution of Palmyra-Eagle High School. As a graduate of PEHS - 2011 I want to advocate for the school system that guided me to where I am today. It is PEHS that I have to thank for my admission into the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the career and life opportunities that have followed as a result.

In my case, Palmyra-Eagle High provided me with constructive outlets in band, track & field, STEM subjects and local community outreach. Through these I grew an appreciation for education, personal growth, and giving back to others. While I no longer live there I have a sibling who returned to build a family in Palmyra because of these same values. My niece and nephews are currently enrolled in PEHS and I can see the same positive impact. If PEHS dissolves I fear this will irrevocable hurt two communities that are still alive and greatly benefiting from their local school system.

For those that voted for dissolution I ask how keeping PEHS open puts their livelihood at risk? What's the risk for those students and families when PEHS closes?

Thank you for your consideration,
Cyrus Thompson

Madison, WI
(608) 421-9871

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Don Clemons <dclemons@wi.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 9:51 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: In Favor of Dissolution

Hello:

We are in favor of dissolution. We have been to many of the meetings discussing the matter, and feel that this is in the best interest of the community, due to the financial burden of keeping the district going. Given that there are several options available that would meet the needs of the parents with children, we believe there is no compelling reason to continue funding a district that has declining enrollment, and no clear funding path forward.

The voters have twice indicated in the public referendums that dissolution is the clear preference. It's time to act on that message, and make the appropriate plans so that the parents with children know what their options are. We personally have no preference on where the children should go. We believe that choice must be left up to the parents, since it involves so many variables like programming, location, convenience, travel-time, etc.

Respectfully,

Don & Laura Clemons
S107W36991 Annice Ln.
Eagle, WI 53119
414-305-8300

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Sara Rivers <thxjc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 9:46 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Against Dissolution

Hello,

I spoke the first night, but forgot to turn this in, so here it is.

I'm a special education teacher. That's all I have ever wanted to do. This is my 20 year teaching. I have taught in 3 other districts (Waterford, Kenosha and MPS) and at 1 college for developmentally disabled adults. One other thing to know about me is that I am the biggest advocate for my kids - next to the parents, I fight more for the kids than anyone else.

I **chose** to come to Palmyra-Eagle Area School District. I **chose** to take a lower salary than I could have gotten elsewhere for the privilege to work in a small district. My passion is working with students who are the most significantly disabled students. It's where I truly come alive. This is the class I have now - 7th grade to 21 year old (I have middle school students, high school students and a transition student).

I was hired in August of 2018, 2 weeks before school was to start. Within the first month, I remember a conversation with my Mom, letting her know that I had finally found the place I would retire. Within the next 4 months, I had my world shaken when we were told that we may need to dissolve. Then the vote. The division of the communities became very evident. Everyone has a voice and there is no need to be mean about it - the kids are the ones who

suffer. My kids ask often where they will be next year - this is their home and they feel safe here.

What made PEASD different?

1. As I stated, I am a huge advocate for my kids. I've irritated most of my past principals by asking for basic things for my students - a private changing room, a para that doesn't sleep 4 hours a day, eating in the cafeteria with the rest of the kids. Here at PEASD, the administration has advocated for my kids as much as I do. Example - I got a call from my principal this past summer asking about something she wanted to start and wanted to know how it would affect my kids - NEVER in 19 years had any administrator called to ask how something would impact my kids.
2. I have 2 middle school boys who are in wheelchairs and need to get out and walk and socialize. When we walk around the school, high school students and middle school students will say hello as we walk by. They talk to my boys, asking how they are and where they are off to. Other teachers welcome us into their classrooms when they have time and talk with us having actual conversations with them and noticing the improvements they continue to make. Other staff in the building stop to talk to us also - and the encouragement from all is mind blowing. We had a halloween costume contest. The entire school voted and one of my 7th graders won! And it wasn't a - hey look, he's special ed, it was that he had the most creative costume and he deserves it.
3. I walked into a job with a coffee shop and last year we started a balloon delivery service. During the interview, one of their questions was if I was hired, would I continue it because the student body loves it. The staff, community (families have stopped in, the police and we relieved the thirst of the blood drive workers when they were here) and student body support us. If you are here on a Friday around 10, stop in and get some

coffee, a smoothie or try some dried fruit - all prepared and served by my students. My middle school boys deliver pre-orders to teachers around the school. Not only does the school body support us by purchasing items from us, but we have high school students who work alongside us to help my students learn valuable vocational skills as well as middle school students who have volunteered to help with the delivery and with social skills. We are starting to work with the business teacher and her students. They will do our books, help us with inventory, purchasing (or making the list for it), and marketing our balloon and coffee shop business.

4. During Homecoming, the students toilet paper the community. I guess it's a tradition and one they love. One of my middle school students made the comment that it was toilet paper day - I explained what happened and why. He smiled and said he wanted to toilet paper the library. There were high school students in there with another teacher and we toilet papered the library - the high school students encouraged, helped and had fun with us. It was a great opportunity for him to have fun with other kids, learn about consequences in a real world situation (he had to clean up after himself) and feel accepted.
5. My kids are always accepted in extra activities - baseball, volleyball, student council to name a few examples. When the students in my class won at state on their Special Olympics Basketball team, they participated in the "Walk of Honor". This is a walk around the school that is led by a drum cadence and everyone in the school stands in the hall to celebrate and cheer. It was amazing to see the looks of excitement that their school supported them in their state win!

I have never experienced the belonging for my kids in any other school I've been in. Staff, students, administration - everyone looks

at my kids like any other student. They belong. I too have found that I belong.

Scott Hoff talked about the butterfly effect. When I talk to people outside of school and they find out I work at PEASD - the first reaction is Ohhhh - that one - and then a bunch of questions. I have had 3 other job offers at bigger school with much more money since this all started. This is hands down the best I've ever worked - I tell everyone that you will have to push me out as the lock the door behind me, because I'm not leaving until they make me. I have at least 15 more years of teaching in front of me and I want to retire from here. I don't think I will find a better place to work.

I know your decision is a hard one and this is the first night. Know there are strong feelings on both sides. I simply know that my students have thrived in this small setting and their would be significantly impacted by the loss in skills while they "get up to speed" with the staff, new school/setting and new student body.

Thank you for your time, Sara Rivers

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Amanda Meade <amanda.m.peterson11@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 9:36 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Vote Against Dissolution of PEASD;

Vote FOR small and rural school districts. My name is Amanda Meade and I am the mother and step mother to five amazing kids in PEASD. About three years ago I moved my three kids into PEASD from the small school district of Belleville in southern Dane County. Having grow up it in Belleville School District is was important to me when making a significant life change for myself and my three school aged children, they be raised in a small district as well. They transitioned into PEASD very well and we received so much support and a true sense of community from PEASD. My children were provided with opportunities that were not options in our previous district. In the past three years I have been so impressed with this district. It breaks my heart, when I come home at night and my second grade son asks in tears if his school will close, and when my seventh grade daughter (who spoke tonight : Belle Peterson) cries after each event wondering if this will be her last with PEASD and she will have to transition again. I also have two step children who have attended PEASD their entire school career. PEASD has helped our blended family to become strong. My five kids are know in this district as brothers and sisters, no step involved. The dissolution of this school could change all of that. Due to boundary lines, it may be possible that my children could end up attending different districts, They wouldn't ride the bus together, be in class together, have events together. This dissolution could divide a family that has worked hard to successfully blend together. To top it off as a resident of Jefferson County .25 miles from the Waukesha County boarder, my children would ride a bus to whatever district we are assigned for more than 1 hour each way. Not to mention the transportation time getting back and forth to each activity our children may want to participate in consistently at least 13 miles from our home. Now I know we are just one family, but we are not alone in our plea. Those that Open enroll have laid the path for this dissolution, they are allowed a school choice. Please don't make our choice to be in a small rural district less valued then theirs. Please allow PEASD residents the ability to save our district, to determine other plans and options; give us the aide and opportunity to succeed. Thank you all for your time and patience as you listened to hours of emotionally heated testimonies. I do not envy you. I do however place my faith and trust in you that you will make the best decision you can for my family and all the families of this district. Please don't let us down, let us fight and continue to #bleedpurple.

Thank you,
Amanda Meade

Against Dissolution of PEASD, in support of the education of my five PEASD students.

N1890 Parkview Circle
Palmyra WI 53156

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Paul Sayles <psayles928@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 9:25 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolve and reorganize

Dear Board Members,

I am in favor of dissolving PEASD. I just built a new home in Eagle 2 years ago and considered it my future retirement home. I worked very hard over the years for what I have. My school portion of property taxes this year is over \$5500. I voted against the first referendum because if it passed, at the end of the 4 years my school taxes would have been \$10,000. That is an outrageous amount of money. So when I hear people from Palmyra ACCUSING me of wanting to keep my money, they are right! It is easy for Palmyra residents to vote in favor of a referendum when the financial impact would be far less for them. I don't live in a fancy, huge home. It is just a new home. A 3 bedroom ranch. I am not "rich", I have worked hard and saved for what I have.

2 good school districts have come forward and I feel that they should be able to absorb PEASD in a reorganization. This will be the best for all kids in those districts. I think that kids will be fine with the reorganization and it will be better for them in the long run.

I will not be coming to any more of the meetings because they are all in Palmyra and this is a very hostile environment. You did the school community a disservice by hosting ALL meetings but 1 in Palmyra.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in this email format.

Paul Sayles
Eagle Resident

Sent from my iPad

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: 19 19 <nmatusewic@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 9:17 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolve

Please dissolve PEASD. I'm not here to bash the Palmyra Eagle school district. We open enrolled prior to closing on our house in Eagle to Mukwonago school district. The amount of discourse and absolute ugliness that has been shown during the failed referendum and the most recent vote is an embarrassment to the community. Listen to the VOTERS; the majority does not wants the tax increase to keep PEASD open.

Nick Matusewic

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: jimandcherix2 <jimandcherix2@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 9:13 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Watch "Whitewater School Board Meeting 11/18/19" on Vimeo

Please watch the school board meeting where Whitewater discusses the East West solution. They indicate that they are in favor of this solution, but did not openly state they wanted dissolution at one of the public meetings.

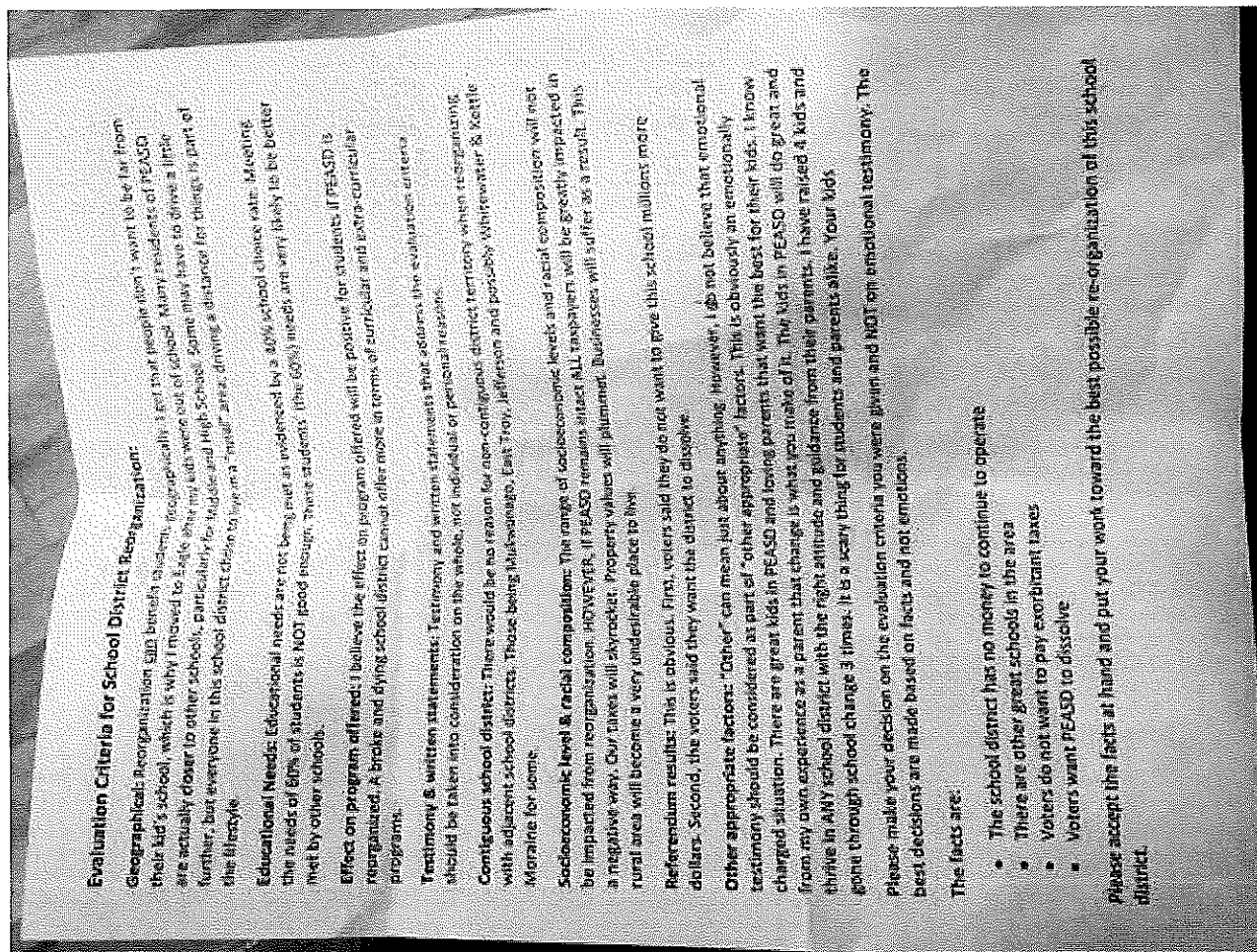
Watch "School Board Meeting 11/18/19" on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/374204416?ref=em-share>

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Teri Sayles <terijsayles@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 8:13 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Written comments

Valued Board members,
This is the statement I prepared and stated I would be submitting in writing when I spoke to you on December 5.



I apologize for the photo but I wanted to be sure you received it this evening.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Theresa Sayles

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Craven, Stephanie M. (MU-Student) <smc893@mail.missouri.edu>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 7:58 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Why I Loved PEHS

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in to provide my testimony as a graduate from PEHS. My name is Steph Craven. I graduated from Palmyra-Eagle in 2015. I then went on to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia, a D1 school, and graduated with a Bachelor's of Health Science in 2019. I am now attending the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, and will graduate as a veterinarian as well as with a Masters in Public Health in 2023. I will also add that my sibling Mandy, a graduate of PEHS, is a resident veterinarian at Cornell, and my brother is an electrical engineer working for the military. Going to a small school like Palmyra-Eagle did not limit my opportunities as a student. If anything, they made them that much greater. I was involved in so many clubs, leadership positions and sports because of the small community and availability that a small school offered. I did not feel intimidated to get involved in leadership, because I knew the faces and names of all of my peers and was that much more driven to help each other succeed. The teachers were always available for extra help and were very involved in our success.

Our teachers knew all of our names, our likes, dislikes, what we struggled with, and where we strived. I still talk to many of my teachers today because of the impact they had on my life. I was given so much confidence as a student at PEHS because the community was so strong. I think a school like PEHS has an incredible amount of potential to grow even more because of the strong, dedicated community that exists there. PEHS has so many people greatly involved, and the roots of this community are incredibly deep. My hope is that the situation with the dissolving of our program will make the staff even more motivated to step up the education that we offer. I admire the determination that the teachers have to keep PEHS alive. I felt safe at PEHS, I felt loved, encouraged, and I had fun at my time there. It would be an absolute shame to dissolve the program and would impact so many people and their families.

Steph Craven

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Amy Beaver <amy.beaver33@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 7:50 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD

I am writing because I believe the PEASD should not dissolve. I worked at PEHS for 15 years and currently work and reside in the East Troy Community School district. What's at stake in all of this is the precedent that will be set if this district dissolves. There are no winners in this process. There isn't a school district in this state that isn't paying attention wondering if it will be the same fate for them someday down the road. Who is going to fix it? How many schools will have to reach this point before our state leaders make a change that doesn't have to do with party lines but what's best for our kids, the future of our society? This is not just a PEASD problem, it's a state of Wisconsin problem. If a public school closes it is just one step closer to the privatization of schools which immediately separates the families that have from the families that have not. Every kid has a right to a quality education regardless of their parents income. I admire your willingness to sort out all the details and listen/read hours of testimony and I trust your decision will be based on facts and what is best for schools in WI. Thank you for being advocates for education.

Amy Beaver
W3835 County Rd A
Elkhorn, WI

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Milligan KM <milligankm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 7:28 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Dissolution

Dear School District Boundary Appeal Board,

This is my second written statement to your board. I sent my first one back on November 14th, and I had not planned on writing another one until after I sat through the first half of the meeting this evening. After listening to a former PEASD parent speak, I felt the need to write another statement to your board.

First, I take offense to her false, untrue statements regarding our school marking students late and not being forgiving when students are late due to snow or trains. I have had the sole responsibility of documenting student attendance for the past 12.5 years in the PEMS/HS building. When there is a slow train that causes students to be late to school either via bus or car, we do not mark them tardy. I make announcements to the entire building each and every time there is the circumstance where snow or a train causes students to be late to let the teachers know NOT to mark any students tardy on those days. I am very in tune to the weather and surrounding circumstances that may make a student late to school as I do not ever want to jeopardize a student's safety just to arrive at school on time. We are very forgiving on attendance at PEMS/HS, and her statements were 100% false. I am sure every staff member and student would attest to the fact that they hear my announcements several times throughout each and every school year telling teachers to allow students to be tardy on those types of days.

Second, I would like to capitalize on her efforts to have you not make her neighborhood part of the East Troy School District, but for a different reason than what she stated. She mentioned the poor road conditions in the winter in our school district and surrounding areas. That, in fact, was somewhat true. For the first 10 years of my employment at PEASD, I drove 3/4 of my drive through Waukesha County, and 1/4 through Jefferson County, and for the past three years, I have driven 1/2 through Walworth County, and 1/2 through Jefferson County. I can attest to the fact that Jefferson County roads during the winter months are the worst roads I have ever driven. I can tell when I cross over from Waukesha or Walworth into Jefferson County just by the road conditions. Jefferson County roads are slippery and snow covered and very dangerous even with the smallest amount of snow. Now, I do not fault Jefferson County for their poor job of clearing the roads, because I do not know what their budget is in comparison to Waukesha and Walworth County. I assume they must be working on a tighter budget, and much like PEASD, probably do not have the financial means with which to do a better job making their roads safer. However, that does not change the fact that Jefferson County roads are very dangerous during the winter months.

That being said, this is all the more reason that redistricting the PEASD students to spend more time traveling on the Jefferson County roads heading to farther away districts, is very dangerous! I was forced to purchase a new car last year with all-wheel drive just to drive the Jefferson County roads in the winter to my job. I will attest to the fact that it will be very dangerous for students, parents, and buses to travel longer distances through Jefferson County.

I felt the strong need to defend myself and PEMS/HS regarding not being forgiving to students traveling through poor road conditions and train delays, because it is simply **not true**. Also, her points about road conditions struck a nerve with me as I have witnessed first hand the poor road conditions while driving

through Jefferson County vs. the much safer Walworth and Waukesha County road conditions during the same weather conditions.

Thank you so much for your time. I wish you all the best of luck in your tough decisions ahead.

Sincerely,

Karen Milligan
Main Office Administrative Assistant
Palmyra-Eagle Middle/High School

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Amy Schultz <amylizzy1971@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 7:21 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle School District Boundaries

Dear School District Boundaries Appeal Board,

Thank you for taking the time to consider my community's input in this matter.

I live at S104 W38627 County Road NN Eagle, WI. My home is in the Town of Eagle. I have two sons, age 27 and 14.

I **strongly support** the dissolution of the Palmyra-Eagle school district.

I would like to be a part of the Mukwonago school district, as they offer an education that Significantly Exceeds Expectations of the DPI. In fact, Mukwonago ranks 38th on your 2019 School Report Card. The Palmyra-Eagle school district ranks a dismal 306th.

The Palmyra-Eagle District School Board has proven they are unwilling to manage or balance a budget as larger more successful schools in the area do. They are fiscally irresponsible. Decreasing enrollment numbers and increasing administration and their salaries indicated this. Their honesty with the community with regards to their intent has been questionable at best.

I feel that the district has taken advantage of our community with its repeated attempts to bilk more and more taxpayer dollars while providing an education that is exceeded by 268 other school districts, that also fall below Mukwonago.

I moved to the Town of Eagle nearly 20 years ago. At that time, I made the decision after much research to send my eldest son to Mukwonago by taking advantage of the school choice program. In 2010 I moved away from the Palmyra-Eagle School District to Big Bend where my younger son attended the MASD elementary school. Upon considering the purchase of my current home on the other side of the Town of Eagle in June 2014 I again researched. School test scores, student to staff ratio, extra-curricular opportunities and fine arts program played into this research just as it had the first time. The results were the same, the Mukwonago School District coming out as superior.

The choice is simple, I would like my home to be a part of the Mukwonago School District.

I implore you to make these Boundary decisions quickly as to not further disrupt our community's youth. We do not need our children burdened with worry over where they will go to school next year.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, should you have any questions for me, I can be reached at 262-424-2873.

Warm Regards,
Amy Schultz
S104 W38627 County Rd. NN

Eagle WI 53119
Ph. 262-424-2873

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Teri Sayles <terijsayles@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 5:49 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolution.Reorganization

Valued Board Members,

I am a resident of Eagle and participated in both elections with referendum questions on the ballot. I voted 'no' to giving the school district more money knowing fully that it was likely the school would dissolve. I attended the school board meetings where board members discussed and voted TO DISSOLVE the school district. I voted 'yes' in the referendum to dissolve the school district.

I am now expressing my testimony to you to dissolve and reorganize the Palmyra-Eagle school district. I spoke at the December 5 public hearing and expressed reasons according to the evaluation criteria that the district should be dissolved.

Please do not be swayed by emotional demonstrations of students, parents and faculty members. This should not be an emotional decision. Please focus your efforts on the most appropriate way to reorganize this district to benefit ALL members of the district in a financially responsible way focusing on the evaluation criteria set before you.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Theresa Sayles
S106W36642 Saddle Ridge Drive
Eagle, WI

Soli Deo Gloria!

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Jim Geraci <jimgeraci74@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 5:37 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra - Eagle dissolution

Hello,

I am in favor of dissolution of the school district. There's no apparent feasible way that the school district can stay afloat without taxing many people out of their homes. I am looking forward to a time that the toxicity and emotions will settle down and we can be a normal community again.

Thank you,

Jim Geraci
S.106W.38735 Hwy 67
Eagle, wisconsin
53119

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: jimandcherix2@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 5:21 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Please dissolve Palmyra Eagle District
Attachments: Dissolve the district.docx

I am in favor of the dissolution of the Palmyra Eagle School district. I am not happy about having to say that we should close a school district, but at this point, we have run out of options. I live in Eagle. I moved to Eagle before having any children and my children attended Eagle Elementary. I was an involved parent, I volunteered at school, and was on the PTO board. When my oldest was going into second grade, we open enrolled into the Mukwonago district. My children did just fine in Eagle, did not have problems grades or with other students. I just felt that Mukwonago had more to offer academically and socially and was a better fit for my kids. This was my choice for my children, but I have friends who kept their children at PEASD and have been just as happy with their choice.

I have driven my boys back and forth to Mukwonago for the past 8 years because that is the choice I made. I have had no issue with that. I had no problem with the Palmyra Eagle district remaining as it was and when the referendum of 2012 was proposed, I voted yes for the increased funding that was needed because I felt it was justified. The referendum did not pass.

A year ago, news came that Palmyra Eagle was requesting another referendum. This was not an ordinary referendum, this was one of unbelievable economic impact, not just to me, but to everyone in this district. My personal impact would have been an extra thousand dollars a year or more in taxes. That is NOT an ordinary referendum. I researched, and I asked questions about why this was needed. I went to the informational meetings, I saw the presentations. The bottom line is that the school district was broke and if we didn't pass the referendum, they would have to file for dissolution. In addition, we were informed that this referendum was not for any improvements, it was just to keep the doors open. I was not aware of the dire circumstances of the school, nor were most people. I talked with school board members and the superintendent. I voiced my concerns that this would not pass, that there was no way that people could afford this. I urged people to work together to come up with other solutions, but I was told that there weren't any. People have had many powerful reasons for having voted one way or the other, but unfortunately some people looked only at how it would affect them personally. I looked at how it would affect the entire community and talked with everyone I could. I had the door to door conversations, not just in Eagle, but in Palmyra. It's been mentioned, that Palmyra has a 30% rate of economically disadvantaged families, so how could those families have been able to afford that referendum? I had a conversation with a man in Palmyra that I had never met before I knocked on his door. He was nervous about which side I represented when I asked him if he would talk with me. When I told him that I was in favor of voting No for the referendum, he relaxed and asked if there

were a lot of No voters. He told me that he was terrified the referendum would pass, told me of his wife's deteriorating medical condition, of being on a fixed income, and that if this passed, he would lose his house due to the inability to pay the extra taxes as so much of his income went toward medical expenses. I had many, many conversations like that.

The April referendum did not pass, and it was adamantly voted down. Those of us who voted no were blamed. I understand that the students who attend Palmyra Eagle and their parents do not want to see an end to their district. While I know you have been told that you will be ok, and you will be, it doesn't take away from what you are going through. I understand that people need to blame someone or something, but I won't accept the blame. I didn't request the referendum, the school board did. I also didn't request the advisory referendum showing that 75% of Eagle wants the district to dissolve. The questions were asked and answered. They may not be the answers that everyone wants, but the answers are that people would not support the referendum and are in favor of dissolution. If this district is not dissolved, the only way for it to survive in the future would be through more proposed referendums. Those will not pass either. If the district does not dissolve, I can pretty much guarantee that the voters of Eagle will not allow any future referendums to pass. Eagle wants out. If there is a way to keep a Palmyra only district as many Palmyra residents want this, then we need a plan that is feasible for everyone, but we don't have that plan. I believe there were cuts and changes that could have been made to lessen the previous referendum request, but it is too late. Palmyra Eagle is out of money and there is nothing that will change that fact. They cannot operate on money that is not there.

You have heard the numbers and statistics many times. Palmyra Eagle is broke. They have a 40% open enrollment rate. There are just over 600 kids that are spread across 3 fully staffed and operating buildings. Administration is top heavy and excessive. The district has not been fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. The school board requested to dissolve. The community is in favor of dissolution. At this time, we are out of options. I ask that you dissolve the Palmyra Eagle School district. Thank you for your time.

Cheri Geraci

Town of Eagle Taxpayer

S106W38735 Hwy 67

Eagle, WI 53119

414-380-9822

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Shelby Nickels <shelbylynnic@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 4:52 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Charter School Proposal
Attachments: Charter Proposal for SDBAB .pdf

Hello,

Attached is a plan for a proposed charter school as a solution to continuing to educate students in the Palmyra, potentially Eagle and surrounding area communities. We are neither for or against the dissolution as long as we have an authorizing school district which is a requirement. We have potential interest in working with Marzano's Resources to promote an innovative education to our communities.

Our team is fierce and is willing to put the time and effort into the steps and preparation that would need to take place to continue to educate in our community with this Panther Academy.

This attachment was also given to the board at the December 5th meeting.

Thank you for all you are doing.
#pantherproud #panthernation #webleedpurple

--

Shelby Nickels

Independent Thirty-One Gifts Consultant

shelbylynnic@gmail.com

mythirtyone.com/snickels

- *"Give a girl a new pair of shoes and she can conquer the world."*- Marilyn Monroe

Panther Academy Charter School Proposal

Mission Statement of Panther Academy Charter School:

Our mission is to ensure that all students become empowered, independent, and confident career-oriented learners. We emphasize the total development of each child academically, socially, and emotionally to prepare them to become valuable and productive members of our local and global community.

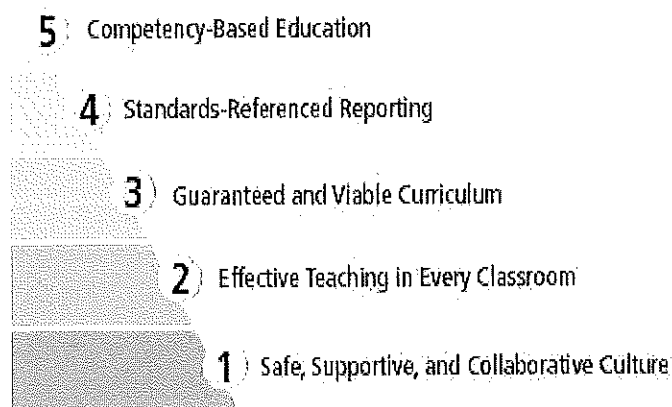
Community Need:

A Panther Academy Charter School will allow students to attend school in their own community that can better serve the needs of all students. Advantages include educational innovations, teaching improvements, community connections, and financial sustainability.

Educational Plan:

The Panther Academy Charter School would follow the Marzano model that is based on the High-Reliability Schools framework which provides intensive, highly-specialized professional development for each educator, delivered by Marzano-trained Site Implementation Specialists. Through a competency-based educational program, Panther Academy will lead with a growth mindset and be a place where all students will have individualized learning opportunities focused on specific content and valuable skills. These skills will ensure future success in academic endeavors, chosen career paths, and contribute to them becoming valuable members of our local and global community.

Marzano's High-Reliability Schools (HRS) follows the model of competency-based education which the charter will take on in progressive steps, starting with a safe, supportive and collaborative culture. Marzano's model follows best practices and works in conjunction with National and State initiatives for Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).



Palmyra Academy Charter School will be a professional development school joining in partnership with UW-Whitewater to create a shared commitment to innovative and reflective teaching practices, invest in qualified educators, and create equity through ongoing professional development to implement and improve effective teaching practices. Partnerships would also be pursued with community businesses, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and other educational agencies such as CESA 2.

Other considerations:

- Four day school week
- 3K, before and after school care, and full-day child care for the community
- Academic and enrichment opportunities for school-age children on non-school days
- Continue current academic standards while pursuing options to expand the curriculum, including virtual classes, partnerships with other districts and expanded partnerships with local two and four-year higher education institutions
- State and Federal grants exist to support the formation of new charter schools in Wisconsin

Possible geographic arrangements:

- Close one elementary school
- Transfer Eagle Elementary School property to another school district
- 4K-12 located at the current Palmyra-Eagle Middle-High School

Possible savings:

- Reduction in staff, including administration, teachers, and support staff
- Shared staff with authorizing school district
- Potential to reduce operational costs by only utilizing one building

What we would need:

- Authorizing School District - Mukwonago, Kettle Moraine, East Troy and Whitewater about a possible charter option (contacts made)
- Contracting with Marzano to implement their Site Implementation Specialists (contacts made)

Conclusion:

A charter school would allow students of the Palmyra-Eagle community to continue to be educated within their community. Keeping in mind that charters are a 5-year agreement, this would allow the authorizing school district time to develop a plan if they do not wish to renew the charter. By building the partnerships as described above we believe we can be financially solvent. After taking all of the options presented into consideration, we feel this is the best solution for all involved.

Submitted with respect:

Kari Timm
W5404 Kenosha Dr
Elkhorn, WI 53121
920-723-7235
ktimm1977@gmail.com

Shelby Nickels
127 Allen St. #12
Walworth, WI 53184
262-949-8299
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Kay Leigh Sockrider
231 Trotters Ln
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843-607-3355
kayleigh.sockrider@gmail.com

Kathy Retzke
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262-949-3807
katen2285@gmail.com

Jodi Jonas
W367 S9675 South Rd.
Eagle, WI 53119
262-470-0671
jodijonas@outlook.com

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Jen Prowitz <jenprowitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 4:41 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Against Dissolution

To Whom it My Concern,

I wanted to take a moment to write a letter about my concern for the Palmyra-Eagle school district. I have a lot of feelings on the subject based on the three main areas of my life - I'm a mother, I'm a former middle school science teacher (16 years), and I'm currently a real estate agent. I'd like to briefly explain my concerns with each of these three hats on.

I'm concerned about the district as a mother because I know what it means to my own children to have a school of their own. Their friends from school are a short bike ride or drive away. They are able to attend extracurricular activities because the travel time doesn't take up the entire evening. They are able to attend summer school because their building is near. And they even sometimes see their teachers around town (an exciting treat for them!). These are all things that wouldn't be possible if they attended a school far from home. I rode the bus growing up and lived just outside of my town. The bus ride was a total of 35 minutes each way. I can't imagine having to bus some of these kids to Whitewater, Kettle Moraine, or East Troy! The Eagle students wouldn't have too much of a drive to Mukwonago but it's still a pretty long time to spend on the bus. Can you imagine putting your kindergartener on the bus at 6:30 in the morning? I can't.

I'm also concerned as a teacher, the districts that surround Palmyra-Eagle already have full classrooms. Now add a few hundred students more. Where will they go? Will the classes be overloaded causing more students to be "lost"? Will schools need expensive expansion projects for more classrooms? Will they need more staff? What about supplies? I frequently bought supplies and snacks for my students whose families couldn't afford regular meals or school supplies. I know I didn't have to. There was no one asking me to do it. But like all teachers, I saw a need and I filled it. It's what we do. So now what? Class sizes get bigger? Needs grow? We already double as surrogate parents for these kids and take on the emotional stress of it too. I loved my students like I love my own children. Adding an additional section ensures a more normal class size but it doesn't take away from the strain of being responsible for more children. I worry for the teachers being asked to care for even more fragile hearts.

Lastly, I'm concerned as a real estate agent. I recently sold a house to a young couple who wanted to move to Palmyra. They excitedly purchased their new home for a good price but my concern is that in the future, their investment will start to decline. One of the things that draws a family to a particular place is the schools. In fact, it's the main reason families move to one place or another. If their child needs to be bussed to a different town, why would they choose to buy there? Of course, no one can tell the future - especially with the market. But I can definitely see the property values decreasing over the next few years. So now what? People who live there are stuck in their homes as their values plummet. I don't see this being a good fit for anyone involved.

I know that there are no easy solutions. And I can honestly say that I have very little to offer for help in this area. It's a tough situation for everyone and no matter what is done there will be many people that are upset. But what it comes down to is the kids that go to those schools. They need their school. They need their community to back their school. And they need the state to support their school. It's THEIR school. And they deserve to have it. Please consider measures to keep the Palmyra-Eagle school district open. Feel free to contact me at any time if you want to brainstorm or look at alternatives. I am happy to be another brain helping to figure this situation out.

Jen Prowitz
Realty Executives Southeast
103A Lake Street

Mukwonago, WI 53149

(920)723-6739

Home Address:
1105 Pheasant Ct.
Elkhorn, WI 53121

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Ben Preuss <bpreuss23@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 4:19 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Alumni Against Dissolution

Hey DPI,

My name is Ben Preuss. As an alumnus of Palmyra-Eagle, I am very sad to hear about the potential dissolution of the district. Going to high school in a small town is something that I wish every kid had the chance to experience. The friends I've made and the experiences I've had at Palmyra-Eagle will be with me for life. Getting to know all my classmates and teachers on a personal level had a huge positive impact on me. Small class sizes and having that personal connection with my teachers allowed me to get the individualized attention that I needed to be successful. The education I received at Palmyra-Eagle left me well prepared for college, where I went on to receive my MBA from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. I feel confident in saying that I wouldn't have accomplished this without all the amazing benefits provided to me by the Palmyra-Eagle School District. I truly believe that this district has played a huge role in my success today, and that's why I felt the need to speak up. I hope that you'll take my thoughts into consideration by allowing these kids and future generations to continue benefiting from this great high school. Thank you.

Cell
262-224-3617

Address
26 Summerview Ct. Apt. A
Madison, WI 53704

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Kay Leigh Sockrider <kayleigh.sockrider@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 4:09 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Charter School option
Attachments: Charter Proposal for SDBAB .pdf

To the School District Boundary Appeal Board,

My name is Kay Leigh Sockrider and I am currently the district School Psychologist for Palmyra Eagle Area School District. I am not only an employee, but also a community member and a parent within the district. My two children attend Palmyra Elementary School in the 2nd and 3rd grades. This is my 2nd year working for the district. I left a higher paying position in a different district in order to join the amazing educators at PEASD. I was instantly part of a new family and support system when I became a Panther. I truly thought I would be finishing out my professional career at PEASD with my children and the students in my community.

My husband and I are both graduates and alumni of Mukwonago Area School District, graduating from Mukwonago High School in 1998. My mother-in-law and my father-in-law are both retired teachers from Mukwonago Area School District, where they taught for the majority of their careers. Although my husband and I both received an excellent education from Mukwonago Area School District, we thoroughly researched, visited and meticulously deliberated over our decision of where to send our children to school. After touring Palmyra Elementary School, we knew we wanted our children to attend a small neighborhood elementary school in a safe community where our children could walk to and from school and live near their classmates. Palmyra was the perfect choice for our family.

Attached below is a proposal for the *Panther Academy Charter School*. As a parent, community member, and employee, I feel this is a viable solution to keeping the small neighborhood based school my family and so many other families desire. Keeping our local school will assist in reducing the trauma directed at our students from this experience, eliminate the potential for our students to have to travel for extended periods of time to neighboring districts, and ensuring our students will continue to live in the same community as their classmates.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Included in the proposal is the contact information for the stakeholders in the Panther Academy Charter School. We encourage any questions or comments you may have.

Respectfully,
Kay Leigh Sockrider

Panther Academy Charter School Proposal

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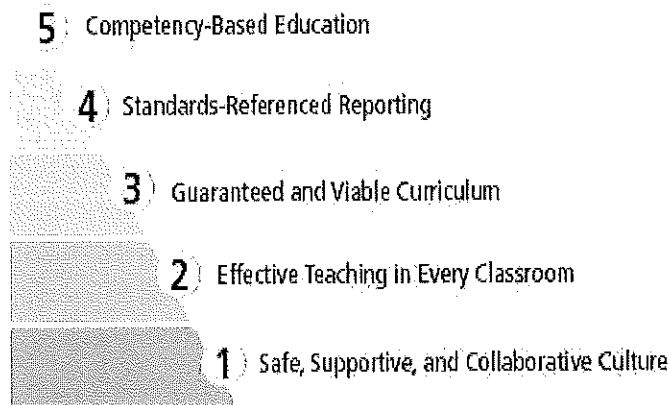
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katen2285@gmail.com

Jodi Jonas
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Eagle, WI 53119
262-470-0671
jodijonas@outlook.com

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Kelly Mcconahay <kmcconahay@peasd.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 3:42 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Against PEASD dissolution

As I write this letter, I struggle with how to proceed. Do I proceed as a taxpayer and community member? A mother of three boys in the district? A teacher? Or a soon to be displaced employee of seven years? The potential dissolution of the PEASD affects me profoundly in all three ways.

I was hired as a special education teacher at Palmyra-Eagle Middle School for the 2012-2013 school year. It was my second year ever of teaching, so I was still a rookie. The staff and students took me in, made me family, which I really needed since I struggled as a first year teacher. They nurtured me, mentored me, supported me, cared for me, and helped me develop into the confident professional I am today. I loved working for this district. In fact, I loved it so much, the next year I decided to buy a home in the district so that my three boys could attend school here. I chose to move them to this small community school district where they would receive more of a more personalized education, where they would be known. They had been attending Waukesha schools, and I felt like they were lost in the crowd. All three attended school at Eagle Elementary, then PEMS, and now the high school. When the boys moved into the PEMS/HS building, my coworkers took them under their wing. They nurtured them, cared for them, looked out for them, and made them family too. For me, it was a tremendous experience

to have all my boys close in this safe, comforting place, especially since as a family, we had been through some hard times.

Fortunately we were part of this amazing community when tragedy really struck our family. Three years ago, I was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer. This PESD community was my salvation. They rallied together and made our family meals, gave my kids rides when I was in treatment, and offered us financial support such as fundraisers, gas cards and Subway cards to help offset some of the costs. In addition, they looked out for our well-being. I strongly believe this school district was instrumental in my recovery from cancer.

Then last spring, the unthinkable happened. Just three days after my father died after losing his battle with cancer, the referendum to keep this school district open, the school district that has been my family's home away from home, had failed. Not only did I have to move my family through the loss of my dear father, I had to negotiate coping with the loss of our school. My at the time 9th grade sons would potentially have to transfer to a different district, and I would potentially have to find a new place of employment myself. It was too much. I was drowning in grief over these losses.

In the midst of having to bury my father, I also was forced with having to figure out a plan for my family's future. It was heartbreaking to make the decision I had to make, but we had to be safe. As devastating as it was, we had to move on. I chose to uproot my family and move back to

my former community where we would be closer to family and more opportunity for employment for myself. I currently have no job planned for next year, which is quite terrifying, considering I am a single mom with three boys at home. My sophomore sons now face moving into a larger school where they know very few people and may get lost in the crowd. As a family, our future is very uncertain and terrifying.

I also want to mention my experience as a teacher at this school. As heartbreaking as it is for me to endure the negative effects of the dissolution on my family, it is exponentially more heartbreaking to witness the students expressing their fear and uncertainty over their futures. Students who have attended school here their entire lives will be separated from friends. At the end of the day the last day of school last year, the middle school hallway was filled with sobbing children hugging their friends who they already knew were open-enrolling out of the district, and hugging beloved teachers they would not be returning to see. This year, every day, students express anxiety about their futures. Dissolution is a constant topic amongst them, and they want answers from us. Sadly we have none to give. It is hard enough to be a teen-ager in today's world, and it is unconscionable for students to be forced to endure the trauma of losing a place where they feel safe and loved.

The funding formula in place for the state of Wisconsin has unfairly put this community in a horrible position. Dissolution will cause heartbreak and trauma, and will forever alter this close knit community. There has got to

be a different way available to keep this community school open so that the lives of so many students won't be harmed. Because dissolution will cause irrevocable harm.

Sincerely,

Kelly McConahay
Special Education, PEMS
Parent of students of PEHS
Resident of Evil

Kelly McConahay
Middle School Special Education
(262) 495-7101 ex. 2101
kmccconahay@peasd.org

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Mary Kutz <mkutz@peasd.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 3:34 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Letter to the SDBAB

Good afternoon:

I have been teaching in Palmyra-Eagle for 29 years. I taught in a city school district in upstate New York before finding my home away from home, here. I have often told people I am a "lifer" here. Many have asked "Why?" My response has always been the same. Because I love my students, my-coworkers and the small school setting. We are a family. We are small enough that I can greet by name each and every student in the middle and high school. How many teachers in surrounding districts, especially the larger ones like Mukwonago, can say that? Knowing your students individually and personally makes a big difference in a learning environment.

I have been here longer than any current administrator, many other teachers and staff. I say this so you know how heavily vested I am in the success of my school and students. Together, we have lived through many good times and some heartbreaking ones, all bonding us closer together as a family. Like no other I have heard of, our school family has supported families in the community during times of financial hardship, medical crisis, homelessness and sadly, death. From fundraisers, babysitting, food drives, bake sales, volunteering meals, raking/shoveling, cleaning highways, donating Christmas gifts, supporting local vendors-- the list goes on and on-- our schools make a difference in the communities of Palmyra and Eagle. Will P-EASD families receive the like if absorbed to other well established districts since they would be on the outskirts of district lines?

As educators, we know schools bring a sense of identity to students and communities. Without the school district to bring Palmyra and Eagle together, my fear is the two communities will be even more greatly divided because there will no longer be a face for and bridge between the communities. Some are okay with that. But the dissolution of the school will begin a domino effect of many unknowns that will permeate into all facets of the community, businesses, real estate, etc. Make no mistake, if the district is dissolved, there will be institutional mourning in both communities.

It breaks my heart to see the turmoil caused by the referendum and possible dissolution in the eyes and hearts of our students. If dissolution occurs, our students will be shuffled to other districts and forced to take on a new identity amidst the loss of current friendships and school relationships. Their sense of belonging and unity they might have achieved from teams and clubs they once belonged to will be replaced with anxiety, fear, disappointment, judgement and stereotype.

I am a health teacher and teach lessons on stereotypes and empathy. I show a video called "Perspectacles". It is about a student who walks through school only seeing what he wants to see based on what he's heard or seen on the exterior. A janitor gives the student a pair of "perspectacles" - a pair of glasses that allow the student to see others for who they truly are and what is really going on in their lives. When the student begins to see others for who they truly are, he attempts to make amends. It is my hope that through this process, you will use your "Perspectacles" to see our students and small rural school community for who they really are and for what they really need and want. Our students want to keep their school. They and their families need an opportunity to voice options and plans to keep our schools open, whether it be K-12 in one building in Palmyra, a charter school or other possibilities. But this is a big feat because time is of the essence. Because the

community and district employees were not respectfully informed of the financial viability of the district long before the initial referendum, it leaves very little time for planning and implementing of other viable options. I recently received a flyer from Fort Atkinson School District to solicit ideas for future planning in the district, and I wonder why was this not being done 5 years ago in our district? Where was the strategic planning? Where was the opportunity for families and employees to have input? How did we get to a “do or die” situation?

The perception of some in the community is that we are a “low-quality” school. But you know what, we are meeting and in some cases exceeding expectations! We also need to remember that test scores don’t show everything. They don’t show the empathy, conflict resolution and decision making skills students are learning and they surely don’t show you the communication, coping and self-advocating skills our students have acquired throughout this whole referendum process. Again, some may think we are a low-quality school district, but we ARE producing high quality students with life skills unique to being educated in our small rural district.

In conclusion, it is my hope that as a board you will use your collective wealth of educational and personal experiences and your “perspectacles” to not dissolve our district. Help us to find other alternatives to stay open.

Thank you for your time, commitment and dedication to this extremely difficult and important matter. Your decision could be precedent setting in our state. Even after all is said and done for the final decision for Palmyra-Eagle, I pray that you will continue to fight to change laws that govern open enrollment. It is gutting our small schools. It is robbing Peter to pay Paul. The big districts continue to get bigger and the small districts continue to get smaller and smaller until they, WE, can no longer exist. This is a tragedy.

Respectfully,

Mary Kutz
P-EMS Health/PE Teacher

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Mary Kutz
Health/PE Teacher
Palmyra-Eagle Middle/High School
mkutz@peasd.org
(262)495-7101 ext. 2401



"Your mind is a powerful thing. When you fill it with positive thoughts, your life will start to change."



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
125 S Webster Street
Madison, WI 53703

December 5, 2019

Dear WI DPI School Finance Team,

Standard Process is a strong believer in the importance of a well-educated work force. As a major employer in this area, we have been a longtime supporter of the Palmyra Eagle School District. We believe this local school district is an important part of the community, and would like to voice support of keeping the school district open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Charlie'.

Charles C. DuBois, CEO

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Villela, Angela <avillela@Standardprocess.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 3:34 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Standard Process Support Letter
Attachments: WI DPI Letter RE Palmyra Eagle School District 12.05.2019.pdf

Angela Villela



Angela Villela | Senior Executive Assistant
Standard Process Inc.® | **O:** 262-495-6457 | **C:** 262-215-1198
1200 West Royal Lee Drive
Palmyra, WI 53156
standardprocess.com



Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Andrea Samuels <alsflute@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 3:12 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Written Testmony
Attachments: PEASD Speech.pdf

Andrea Samuels
W346 S7075 Sprague Rd
Eagle, WI 53119
Town of Eagle
262-470-1304

My name is Andrea Samuels. I am a resident of Eagle and have been my whole life. We live in an area of Eagle so close to North Prairie that I could see kids getting on a Mukwonago bus on a clear morning. Because we live so close to a Mukwonago Elementary school and I already had family attending that school, my parents chose to open-enroll out when I began kindergarten. I am currently a Senior in highschool and have been homeschooled since middle school. I have never attended a Palmyra/Eagle school so I will admit that I don't know what school is like there, so I am going to share with you what I do know and the perspective that I have.

Many of the people who are against dissolution argue that they like the smaller class sizes and how much the students are able to connect and get help from their teachers. Throughout elementary school, my class size averaged about 20 students and my grade averaged about 60 students. I never once felt as though any of my teachers didn't have enough time to help me or connect with me on a personal level. My principle was an amazing lady who knew the name of every student, every students' parents, and every students siblings, often before they would even walk in that school. She knew enough about each person to talk to you about your sports or extracurricular activities and to make you feel as though you were her favorite student. All of these connections were made without sacrificing learning or grades.

The Mukwonago School District provides a great learning environment without spending nearly as much money per student as Palmyra/Eagle does. I don't need to quote the numbers that many of the adults have already shared with you. If a school district cannot be responsible with the money they are given by the state and the taxes from the residents, why would they be allowed to continue on as a school district? If any person or company runs out of money, banks don't continue to lend them money. Everyone must learn to be responsible with the money that they earn. What kind of example is the Palmyra/Eagle School Board setting for their children and the other students by asking for millions more dollars to barely keep them afloat for the next 4 years? The School Board has stated that if the referendum had passed in April all that money would only fund the district for 4 more years, and then they would come back to the residents asking for more money. They told the residents that they were no solutions that could be put in place in those 4 years to fix the problem. How is that an acceptable way to run a school district?

As if it weren't scary enough looking at the district's financials, the response to the result of the vote in April has been even worse. The number of stories of vandalism are outrageous. If Palmyra/Eagle claims to be a community, why wouldn't they have come together to find a solution in place of the referendum? Instead, anyone who voted no in April was in danger of insults, loss of business, slashed tires, and other cruel vandalism. The fear I saw in my own mother that someone might steal an entire haywagon from our house simply because it hung a banner showing our support to vote yes for dissolution in November was unlike anything I have ever seen before. I can't express my sheer disappointment in the people who commit such acts of hate against people who have a different opinion about the school district. If Palmyra and Eagle are the great community that many people claim, why would a difference of opinion over only one small aspect of that community call for such behavior?

Now I speak most specifically to the students in the room. Most of you are unsure about what the future holds. I understand that feeling, because all highschoolers face it at some point. Sometimes it is changing schools, but all students must decide what to do after highschool. Where they will go to college, what career path they will choose. I want to assure you of this, you won't be alone. There will always be friends and family by your side to help and support you. If the district dissolves, many of you will have friends move with you a new school. You also get the chance to broaden your horizons and make new friends. I know several students who have already moved schools and made new friends, but that doesn't mean they don't spend time with their old friends. No one is asking you to give up everything you have, they are just trying to make the very best decision and it is not an easy choice to make. Someone will be hurt either way.

I want to thank this board for their time and consideration. And to ask all the people here tonight to be open minded, to consider the point of view of others and how this choice will impact their lives. Thank you.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Alyssa Mueller <alyssamueller10@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 3:09 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD dissolution

Hello,

As a Palmyra-Eagle alumni, I would like you to understand why it would be beneficial to strongly consider options other than dissolution of our school district. Many people in this community are fighting for what is right and what is in the best interest of the children, and keeping this school district open would fulfill that. Palmyra-Eagle may not have some of the extra-curricular activities that some of the surrounding school districts have, but it has so much more to offer in other areas. P-E is like a family. I attended PEASD from 2000-2012 and throughout that time I had several teachers who were invested in more than just making sure our test scores looked good. There were invested in our families, our home lives, and what made us who we are. I still have teachers back from grade school, high school, and coaches that keep in touch and want to know about my successes, even after graduating 7 years ago. This is what makes this district incomparable. P-E allowed me to play 12 sports throughout my high school career. If our children are forced to go to a larger scale school they will not get this option. Being a part of a sports team allows us to bond with peers who have the same interest, to be punctual, to have goals, and most of all to learn what it's like to be a team player and leader. P-E set me up for success as a Junior in high school. My counselor who worked through my yearly schedules with me knew I wanted to eventually work in health care, so she set it up for me to go to WCTC to receive my CNA so I could have a head start with my future career. P-E paid for this class and really paved my way for my future. I am so blessed to have graduated from a school with staff who genuinely cares!

I now have two wonderful children (ages 3 and 5) and when purchasing our first home, my husband made sure we would be in the Palmyra-eagle school district. We do not believe in school choice, which is why we bought our home here. He graduated from Mukwonago High School and knew that would not be the right fit for our children. He was adamant that our children belong to a school district that works with the kids as if they are more than just a number or test score. He remembers his teachers not knowing his name, his story, or if he was even struggling in classes, which has an impact on adolescents. Our kids deserve the best, and what's best is a school with small class sizes, genuine teachers, and opportunities to grow and learn. P-E offers this! Losing our school would be heartbreak. It would be losing our roots to the community. I believe there are options other than dissolution. Can we combine elementary schools? Can we save on costs somewhere or lessen the amount of administrators? Can we become a K-12? Can we look into fundraisers or money from outside companies? (Look at what Standard Process has all done for this district!) Unfortunately, school choice laws have wrecked so much for this district and funding at the state level need to be changed. Overall, we have options, and dissolution should not be it.

Please listen to the community members that have their hearts invested, and not just their wallets. Our kids need us to fight for them and their school, and you can pave the way for them!

Alyssa Pasterski
W1602 Marsh Rd Palmyra, WI 53156
(262) 490-8626

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: sue fischer <smfischer14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 2:57 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Fwd: SDBAP Public Hearing

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

From: MCKAYLA MEHRING <MMEHRING@cottinghambutler.com>
Date: Thu, Dec 5, 2019 at 2:54 PM
Subject: SDBAP Public Hearing
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments@dpi.wi.gov <Palmyra-Eagle.comments@dpi.wi.gov>, smfischer14@gmail.com <smfischer14@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern,

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the meeting tonight but appreciate the opportunity to have our voices heard through this letter.

The Palmyra-Eagle school district provides students with opportunities that they may not be able to experience in a larger district.

Personally, some of my best memories are from here. Because I went to a small school I was able to be a multi-sport athlete and start our schools first equestrian team. We competed against districts from across the state and won two consecutive state champion titles.

Now as an alumni, I always enjoy coming home to our small town and going to Friday night football games. There is something truly special about this district.

Closing the school will impact our whole community. It will hurt businesses and cause the younger generations to look elsewhere to start a family. Fortunately, my parents have chosen to build their life here in this town among other business owners.

My mom is a 1981 graduate of PE. My parents are invested in the PE community owning various rental properties including Palmyra Storage. Many of their projects focus on restoring old buildings in the community. Buildings that were once abandoned have now been turned into beautiful apartments, office spaces, and homes for people to live.

I'm afraid that closing the school will lead to bigger issues in the future for our whole community. Both Eagle and Palmyra. It's time we start acting as ONE and supporting our youth.

This District is worth saving! Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

McKayla Mehring, Class of 2013
Michelle & John Mehring

Mmehring@cottinghambutler.com

414-430-6652

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: MCKAYLA MEHRING <MMEHRING@cottinghambutler.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 2:55 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI; smfischer14@gmail.com
Subject: SDBAP Public Hearing

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Sincerely,

McKayla Mehring, Class of 2013
Michelle & John Mehring

Mmehring@cottinghambutler.com
414-430-6652

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: David Carpenter <stonewallaces09@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 2:36 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle Dissolution "NO" voter
Attachments: 19-1205_Dissolution Letter.pdf

Greetings again,

I would like to submit another letter with some other information I have thought of since the last letter.

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

Greetings Board Members,

So I have been thinking a little more and hearing more testimony and the anger of some of the dissolution "Yes" voters. There are many reasons, taxes, mismanagement, bullying, test scores, etc. It seems most have done so because of mismanagement of the district. I would suggest starting off with a clean slate.

First off, there is no need for a separate district office, we are not that big, get rid of ALL the top management! Recruit new management without spending \$500k. We need to trim the buildings, stop using PES and bus the elementary kids to Eagle as it is the newer, more updated building. This would eliminate the need for a principal. The principal of EES could also pull double duty as a substitute teacher in a pinch. No need for an AP at EES. Depending on pupil population, the grade school would be 4k-5.

The Middle school would be a traditional MS with 6-8. The HS would be 9-12 and have a Principal who would cover both MS/HS and also do double duty, filling in where needed. The superintendent would be the AP and share other duties when not doing superintendent stuff. Guidance/Curriculum and Pupil Services would round out the top staff. All other services can and should be shared with neighboring districts.

As for bullying, that happens in every school district and especially at the MS level where you have multiple grades schools feeding into one middle school. This all happens in the midst of puberty for them and they are all adjusting to their bodies. In my humble opinion, there is no way around this, it IS going to happen, even with rules and/or staff in place to correct it! I hate to say it, but the pacification of the school system has led to this being a big problem. Since it is left up to the parents to discipline the child, they believe the child can do no wrong. Of course they blame the school no matter what, when it may actually be their student! But I digress.

If you end up feeling the need to split off part of the district due to the fact that no other future attempts at referendum funding will ever pass, might I suggest splitting the district at HWY 67. This would give the opportunity for a bus route to pass the gazebo to pick up any kids from Eagle who would like to OE to Palmyra. As it is now, the path from Eagle village to Town park serves as a pathway to Mukwonago bussing it would be nice to reciprocate.

I do not envy your situation. But I would like to think our small rural district can be saved with new management and sharing of services. Also there needs to be some changes to the MANDATES and FUNDING for special needs kids. I know you can't do anything about that, but it would be nice to have them considered.

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