

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Miota, Marge <marge.miota@aptar.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 2:32 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: AFFIRM Dissolution

SDBAB,

I am in FAVOR of dissolving the PEASD.

I am a 20 year resident of Eagle, but have lived and worked in the general area for 40 years. When I built my current home in Eagle, I was not even married, and did not think about the school district.

When my daughter was born, my husband and I chatted about what would make sense for us, and we thought it was far in the future, but that we felt logistically open enrollment to MASD would be best for our family. After my husband's death, I decided that I needed to do a little research to determine what was best for my daughter's education. In speaking with some neighbors, I learned that although their son was doing well at PEASD, their daughter was struggling and needed help. After only 1 semester after moving their daughter to MASD, their daughter was able to get back on track due to the extra help the school provided her. Then, after reviewing the state report cards online, I found the MASD schools were significantly better than the PEASD, so that solidified my decision.

My daughter is now in 5th grade, and has been open enrolled to the MASD since she started school in Kindergarten. Over the past six years, I have observed the PEASD continue not adjusting their budget for the open enrolled students. They have known that I (along with over 400 other students) open enrolled out of their district, however the continued to budget as if those students would be back the next year, and the next.....nobody ever asked me if I would be changing our open enroll status. Following are some alarming observations that I have made:

1. The PEASD continued to staff their schools for these additional 400 students. Why?
2. The PEASD continued to staff their administration as if these 400 additional students were still in their district. Why?
3. The PEASD continued to prepare their budget as if they would still have the full state aid for these additional 400 students (\$4 million). Then they claim that OE students are a "cost" (\$2.8 million). If they were to properly budget, they would not even consider the state aid for the OE students. On the other hand, if they needed the money that they would keep for our OE children, at max they should have only budgeted for the amount that they get to keep for the known OE students (\$1.2 million). (note, these are rough, not exact numbers)

State Aid	OE Students	Total	
\$7,000.00	400	\$2,800,000.00	PEASD pays
\$3,000.00	400	\$1,200,000.00	PEASD keeps
<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>\$4,000,000.00</u>	Total

I know there are several other examples of how the PEASD has poorly administered and managed, but this is the main reason that I support dissolution.

We already know that MASD is willing to take all of the Eagle students, and they have taken into account the financial implications already. They would even keep Eagle Elementary open. If this proposal is accepted, our taxes in Eagle will actually go down (mine personally by over \$1,000/year). In the referendum last year that PEASD proposed, they were asking for an increase that would have resulted in a \$1,500 increase in my tax bill!

There is a solution that is fiscally responsible and gives our children a superior education, which MASD/WWAD proposed. As a supporter of the dissolution of the PEASD, I ask you to consider the MASD/WWAD East-West resolution.

Thank You,

Marge Miota
S78 W36930 Wilton Road
Eagle, WI 53119
262-395-0674

Marge Miota Pricing Analyst - North America
AptarGroup
711 Fox Street, Mukwonago, WI 53149, United States
(phone) +1 262 363 0472 | (mobile) +1 262 395 0674
marge.miota@aptar.com | www.aptar.com

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Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: AMANDA LYNN POPP <alpopp@wisc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 2:29 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Letter of Support for Palmyra-Eagle
Attachments: Letter of Support.docx

To whom it may concern,

Attached, please find my letter of support for the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Popp

December 1st, 2019

I am writing you today to voice my support for the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District and to express my disappointment with the possible dissolution of the district. As a graduate of Palmyra-Eagle High School, I can firmly state that the quality of education I received there prepared me for future success.

At Palmyra-Eagle I had both faculty and staff support that allowed me to pursue my interests. For the teachers at Palmyra-Eagle I was not just a number, but a student, who was always encouraged to follow my educational and extra-curricular interests. I remember days when I would arrive to school early, seek out any of my teachers, and could engage in discussion about classroom material, current events, or any topic that came to my mind. These moments to me showed the level of commitment my teachers had to continuously engage in and enhance my learning. Furthermore, attending Palmyra-Eagle allowed me to engage in opportunities outside of the classroom. I was a year-round two sport athlete, member of the drama club, held a part-time job, started a volunteer organization, and was a member of multiple academic clubs. Having gone to a larger school, I cannot say if I would have had the opportunity to join these organizations.

The lessons I learned at Palmyra-Eagle have shaped my future interests and guided my career. I became interested in foreign languages during high school as a member of the French Club and joined the Peace Corps and the Fulbright Program as an English Teaching Assistant. Having seen the level of dedication my teachers had during my time at Palmyra-Eagle, I am now pursuing a master's in science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

I would argue against those individuals that claim that Palmyra-Eagle is a failing district. Education is only as strong as the work one puts into it. During my time at Palmyra-Eagle I felt continuously supported and encouraged and received a quality education that has provided me with the ability to pursue my own interests. I am requesting that the board deny the request for dissolution so the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District can continue what they do best: educating and supporting students.

Sincerely,

Amanda Popp

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: sue fischer <smfischer14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 2:28 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: 4 day a week school idea

Have you considered a 4 day school week?

The benefits are extensive and the drawbacks few.

It would make us a unique district and not only help us retain students but most likely draw in students from other districts through Open Enrollment.

It would save us money in Busing (20%), Food Service (20%), Utilities (put on weekend mode saves heating/cooling costs), Staff (hourly staff would possibly work fewer hours per week).

Whether you have school 180 days at 6 hours a day or 144 days at 7.5 hours a day you still have 1080 hours of instructional face to face time in a year. Wisconsin only requires minutes not days anymore so any combination that gives you the number of minutes required would work. Because we are over on our current minutes we would only have to add about 1 hour to each day in order to go to a 4 day a week schedule.

Colorado started the practice back in 1980 with just 3 schools, in 1981 there were 12 districts and as of 2020-2021 109 districts have been approved to do a 4 day a week school.

Below are some excerpts from a document about 4 days a week schools in Colorado:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedserv/fourdayschoolweekmanual>

Districts utilizing the four-day week tend to be rural and sparsely populated. Many have great distances for students to travel with long bus routes. Many also have major distances to travel to athletic events, as they participate in differing sports, conferences, and leagues. The majority of the four-day districts conduct no classes on Friday

Among districts that have implemented the concept, the practice of the four-day week is very popular among students, parents, and teachers. Satisfaction surveys indicate that 80% - 90% of community members favor continuing the four-day week in districts that have been on the schedule for several years. The opposition seems to come from members of the community not directly associated with the school, and from those who feel that school employees should work a traditional week.

Reasons for popularity vary from district to district. Some reasons offered are as follows:

- More time for family and family activities;
- Friday teacher preparation time instead of weekend preparation;
- A longer weekend break so that the intensity of the other days can be relieved and, also, as a strategy for increasing teacher recruitment and retention.

The initial reasons for going from five to four days of school per week have generally been financial. Once again, the financial picture differs from district to district. However, there are several general trends that are reliable.

Financial Information

Transportation costs can be reduced by about 20%. In order to realize that level of savings, districts must severely restrict or eliminate transportation for activities or programs not conducted on regular school days. The capital, insurance, maintenance, and administrative costs remain relatively constant. Fuel, oil, salaries, and supervisory costs can be reduced. Transportation employees will have a reduction in net pay.

Food Service

If districts are subsidizing the foodservice program from the general fund, 20% of that subsidy may be saved since the program runs only four days. However, certain fixed costs are not reduced.

Utilities

If buildings are actually closed and placed on a weekend cycle, savings compared to a three-day weekend can be realized. However, common practice is for buildings to be open for extra activities and for the use of staff. In most cases, heat is provided.

Staff

Most staff members are either on contract or on regular work weeks. Secretaries usually work 10-hour days with offices closed on the off day. Teachers and administrators usually receive the same annual salary. Hourly employees tied directly to the school day, such as aides and paraprofessionals, may or may not work the same number of hours per week.

CHILD CARE

The issue of baby-sitting seems to be a wash. With the longer school day, students get home at approximately the same time as their parents. The latchkey issue is virtually non-existent on school days. The issue is the full day of childcare needed on the fifth day. Most people have made the adjustment within neighborhoods or in other ways. With schools closed, more baby sitters are available. It does not seem more difficult to arrange for a single full day of babysitting than for a couple of hours five days per week. In many cases, a single day is simpler.

INSTRUCTION

The use of instructional time is probably the most controversial and least studied of all the issues. In the beginning, teachers clearly are faced with rearranging the instructional day. The major concern is for younger students and their ability to avoid fatigue.

When districts are strict about reducing interruptions of instructional time, the quality of that time can increase. The three-day weekend allows more flexibility for dealing with family and other conflicts that normally disrupt school. Appointments with doctors and dentists can be scheduled outside of school time. Sometimes, it takes all day to go to the dentist when a major drive is involved.

Some of the travel time associated with athletics and other activities occurs when school is not in session. A negative point is when a day of school is lost for any reason, it is a 20% longer day than a six-hour day, and, therefore, more hours are lost.

The general conclusion is that when strictly enforced, there are fewer disruptions to instructional time during the four-day week. Teachers, students, and parents are able to adapt to the longer day by planning creatively for and pacing the delivery of instruction. This is true even for younger children.

CONCLUSION

The four-day week presents only one interesting method of utilizing time in ways other than the traditional. For many communities, it meets a need for efficiency. These communities tend to be small and rural in nature. Probably, these communities also have a larger percentage of traditional families with at least one parent not working outside the home. Many communities have a strong agricultural base with a tradition of family farms.

This idea would make us unique and different and could possibly be groundbreaking for the way education looks in Wisconsin. It is not only innovative but also cost-efficient.

More info on a school district in Colorado

<https://www.sd27j.org/Page/7882>

Susan Fischer

Palmyra-Eagle Math/Physics Instructor

262-742-3304

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Patrick, Brad J <bradley.patrick@centurylink.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 2:17 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Against Dissolution

I am against dissolution of the Palmyra Eagle Area School District.

I am a lifelong resident of Palmyra and now live in Eagle for the last 14 years. I have 3 boys enrolled currently. One in Eagle Elementary, one in Palmyra-Eagle Middle School and one in Palmyra-Eagle High School.

My 3 boys are the 5th generation to come through PEASD. The value of being in a small school with small class sizes is something you can't teach. The one on one time with the teachers and the interaction with other students that you know every single one by name is something that makes you a better person in many ways. As far as the people out in the community that are in favor of dissolution that say that Palmyra Eagle children are very under educated is a huge false statement. As you are well aware the curriculum is mandated throughout the state. School is what each kid makes of it. I myself was never good at taking tests and was a B average student but have been very successful in my career up to this point. It is all about working hard, doing something you love and pushing yourself to further advance.

Dissolution to PEASD would be detrimental for the community of Palmyra area businesses. A school district is the rock of the community. Without the school in the community there will be many small businesses close up shop and will become vacant buildings. What is going to happen to real estate values when there isn't a school in the community? What would be the reason anyone would want to ever move to Palmyra? Palmyra as we know it today would no longer exist.

Solutions: There are many different scenarios out there for a solution to keep the school district open. The very first one being that if you want your children to go to a school district other than the one you reside in you should have 2 options. The first being if you want to leave the school district for a number of various reasons you should be financially responsible to reimburse the school district you are leaving out of your own pocket. This is happening not only here in Palmyra Eagle but is happening everywhere state wide. This would take care of the majority of the financial issues we are facing. The second option is why don't you move into the school district in which you want your children to attend? Then we could possibly get families in here that want to support our small local business' and attend school here. We have 2 very attractive communities between Palmyra and Eagle because of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Unfortunately they do not pay any taxes on the thousands of acres they have in both communities. If this was private land, we would have the tax money coming in to support the district as we know it today. So now we have families moving out to Eagle to get all the benefits of the small town, state land and cheaper housing but have no intention on sending their kids to school here.

Thank You,

Brad Patrick
340 Elkhorn Rd
Eagle WI 53119

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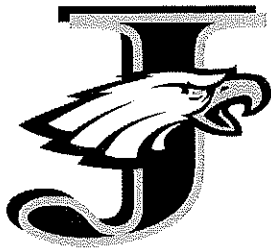
Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Chris and Ashley Schmidt <chrisandashleyschmidt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Jefferson School District/SDBAB Forum
Attachments: Memo_SDoJ Palmyra Position Paper-1.pdf

In regards to tonights SDBAB forum:

As a of children in the school district of Jefferson, we stand with Dr Rollefson and the districts stance on the issues at hand.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JEFFERSON
206 S. TAFT AVENUE, JEFFERSON, WI 53549

MARK D. ROLLEFSON, ED.D., SUPERINTENDENT
PHONE: 920-675-1013 • FAX: 920-675-1020
rollefsonm@sdoj.org • www.sdoj.org

TO: School District Boundary Appeals Board

FROM: Mark D. Rollefson, Ed.D., Superintendent

RE: **School District of Jefferson's Position on Palmyra-Eagle Area School District Dissolution**

DATE: November 21, 2019

Advocacy versus Responsibility

As a superintendent of schools and public servant, I advocate for all children in Wisconsin. As the superintendent specifically of the School District of Jefferson (SDoJ), I am hired to advocate and assure of high quality education for the students of the School District of Jefferson. This is where my responsibility rests.

In addition to the students of the SDoJ, I serve the parents, businesses, service and civic organizations, and employees of the SDoJ. This is not to say I do not care about the children and the communities of Palmyra and Eagle, because I do. However, my job and employer is that of Jefferson.

With that said, I am speaking on behalf of the students, employees, parents, businesses, and organizations of Jefferson, Sullivan, Rome, and Helenville. As a representative of the communities of which I serve, I strongly oppose dissolving the PEASD. I share this stance as the superintendent of the SDoJ. The Board of Education of the School District of Jefferson has this same stance.

Fact & Criteria versus Emotion

A representative of the SDBAB spoke last week indicating the necessity of all persons speaking at the public forum to remove emotion and consider facts based on the criteria as set forth by statute and the SDBAB.

I appreciated those comments made and wholeheartedly agree. Making difficult decisions when emotions run high necessitates level headed patience and poise. As such, I will address the rationale of the SDoJ stance on the criteria that the SDBAB has established as important.

Facts and Figures Regarding Jefferson

Let me first start, however, with some information and background about Jefferson.

1. We experienced a net loss due to open enrollment reaching figures of nearly \$700,000 net loss per year. Our district lost millions of dollars over the course of several years.
2. A variety of efforts have allowed us to turn that around, thereby experiencing a net gain of students in recent years.
3. However, we are still a declining enrollment district.

4. The socioeconomics of Jefferson are similar to that of PEASD with approximately 40% free and reduced.
5. It is difficult for many of our families to financially support their needs.
6. We attempted three operations referendum over the past five years. The first one (non-recurring) failed, the next one (non-recurring) passed, and the most recent one (phased-in recurring) passed.
7. We are in year number one of the phased-in recurring operations referendum with an additional \$775,000 for our district. This is not easy considering our demographics.
8. Please remember that number of \$775,000.
9. This operations referendum was advertised to maintain our current programming. We did not build in extra.
10. We told our public what our financial advisor, Baird, estimated the mill rate would be at with the referendum dollars included, and we have been able to deliver on that promise to our public.
11. As we forecast next year's 2020-21 budget, we have a \$58,000 surplus. This is clearly not a lot. Our budget continues to be very tight.
12. I was at a workshop in Madison a week ago today. I sat with two superintendents who told me their fund balances were at 70% and 90% of their budget. This is nice for those districts. I do not want to call out those districts, but I find this to be an abuse of taxpayers' dollars. The SDoJ does not believe we should be able to hold local taxpayers' dollars hostage.
13. The SDoJ has a board policy stating that our fund balance must not drop below 10% and not be above 20%. The SDoJ Board of Education assures we remain within those reasonable confines.
14. Our district is long and skinny. We can travel 5 miles to the South and be in Fort Atkinson. We can travel 5 miles to the north and be in Johnson Creek. We can travel 7 miles to the west and be in Lake Mills. However, we can travel from Jefferson 14 miles east and still be in the SDoJ. Our largest hub is Jefferson with another hub in Rome/Sullivan. In between is mostly farmland and swamp (not neglecting small Helenville).

SDBAB Criteria #1 - Geography and Bus Distances

The geographical and topographical characteristics of the affected school districts, including the estimated travel time to and from school for pupils in the school districts.

It appears that the most natural territory redistribution would go to Mukwonago and/or Whitewater. However, it is reasonable to see that a small sliver of territory could be redistributed to the SDoJ. Looking at a map, this could be roughly 5% of the current PEASD territory configuration. This might be, at best, 5-20 students. It appears some of these students open enroll into the SDoJ already, so the net gain in student membership is negligible.

The bus travel time and distance from the northernmost portions of the PEASD to Sullivan Elementary School are reasonable at less than 30 minutes of bus drive time one way.

The time on the bus for these same areas of the PEASD to Jefferson Middle School and Jefferson High School would likely be more than one hour (two hours per day) which is greater than what the School District of Jefferson School Board Policy allows.

As such the cost to transport these students would likely be enough to move our currently forecasted budget as flat for the 2020-21 school year. In other words, the "surplus" of \$58,000 could reasonably be used up just due to transportation.

Transportation is one factor influencing our decision to request the SDBAB deny the request of dissolving the PEASD.

SDBAB Criteria #2 and #3 - Educational Needs of the Children

The educational needs of all of the children in the affected school districts, the educational programs currently offered by each affected school district, and the ability and commitment of each school district to meet those needs and continue to offer those educational programs.

Do we have "room" for students to attend Sullivan Elementary, Jefferson Middle and Jefferson High schools? The answer is definitely, "Yes." As mentioned, although we have a net gain in open enrollment, we are still experiencing declining enrollment overall. We have the space. Additional students would not negatively or adversely affect educational programming for the SDoJ. The students would be welcomed to our fine academic programs, fine arts, athletic teams, clubs, and organizations.

However!

I am basing these next comments on some reasonable assumptions. If the SDBAB decides to redistribute territory to neighboring districts, and if the SDoJ were to be assigned approximately 5% of the territory, and if 5% of this territory equates to 5% of equalized property value, then is it reasonable to assume the SDoJ would be assigned approximately 5% of the \$1.3 billion dollars of PEASD debt. These are a lot of IFs, but this entire dissolvency process is loaded with many IF factors.

Five percent of the \$1.3 billion dollar debt is \$650,000. This is nearly all of the money (\$775,000) we passed in our current operations referendum. If you throw in some voucher students, it is reasonable to draw the conclusion that our community passed an operations referendum to pay for PEASD debt and voucher students.

It is reasonable to ask the questions:

- Would Jefferson have to pass a one-time operations referendum to pay off the PEASD assigned debt?
- Would we have to layoff staff to pay for the newly assigned debt?
- Would we have to cut academic and/or extracurricular programs to pay off the newly assigned debt?
- Would we have to delay maintenance and projects to pay off the newly assigned debt?
- Would we have to use a portion of our fund balance, built up over many years through the careful use of our resources, to pay another's debt and then have to borrow for our cash flow needs, incurring additional expense?

This could result in cuts to our programming causing an adverse and negative effect on the education of the children we serve. As such, the stance of the SDoJ is to deny dissolvency.

SDBAB Criteria #4 - Testimony and Written Statements

The testimony of and written statements filed by the residents of the affected school districts will be a consideration of the SDBAB.

This statement I am verbalizing here this evening is not only from me, but on behalf of the board of education of the SDoJ. Additionally, I suspect the SDBAB will receive similar stances via electronically submitted written statements from Jefferson stakeholders.

SDBAB Criteria #5 - Estimated Fiscal Effect

1. As mentioned earlier, assuming debt from the PEASD could reasonably negatively and adversely affect the SDoJ.
2. As mentioned earlier, the additional (likely few) students may only marginally help the SDoJ while considering there are some who already chose Jefferson through open enrollment.
3. As mentioned earlier, the additional transportation of students may result in a financial constraint.
4. If the SDoJ picked up more students than we predict or estimate, is it possible that this negatively affects our district through current hold harmless exemptions as experienced through the state funding formula.
5. Sometimes adding one student to a grade (for example 4th grade) changes the student headcount for that grade from 21 to 22 students. Other times it may go from 29 to 30 students necessitating hiring another teacher. This is unpredictable. The SDoJ would like more than a year to prepare for this.
6. Is it possible the SDoJ would pick up a student(s) with significant special education needs necessitating increased paraprofessional help, pupil services staffing, transportation needs, or various needs based on IEPs. The SDoJ needs more than a few months to plan for this.

SDBAB Criteria #6 - Referenda Held

The results of any referendum held.

It is realized that the PEASD held an advisory referendum and 53% of the voters supported dissolvency. I am confident that given the influencing factors and concerns shared that if the SDoJ had held an advisory referendum regarding the dissolvency of the PEASD, and the reassignment of debt to the taxpayers of the SDoJ, the residents of the SDoJ would have voted to deny dissolvency of PEASD.

The residents of the SDoJ are paying on their own debt for ACT32 energy efficiencies, construction debt of the newly remodeled high school, and our recently passed operations referendum. Asking our residents to assume debt from the PEASD is unreasonable.

SDBAB Criteria #7 - Other Appropriate Factors

The SDoJ supports any of the following:

1. Keep the PEASD operating for the 2020-21 school year.
2. Allow Eagle to detach and join with Mukwonago for 2021-22.
3. Allow Palmyra to stand on its own as a smaller district starting 2021-22.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: jo_garcia82 <jo_garcia82@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:56 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra

Hello.

My name is Jordan, and I graduated from Palmyra in 2000. I will never forget any of my teachers, from Kindergarten, all the way through 12th grade, and I don't think many people can say that. They are each ingrained in my memory in such a positive way.

It saddens me that this is has gotten to this point with the district. There has to be some answer besides the district dissolving. I believe that the answer is, Palmyra should just be their own district. It seems like the only logic answer rather than bussing students to another district.

I really hope that the district doesn't dissolve. It is just going to create more problems all around.

Sincerely,

Jordan Reimer. (Garcia is my maiden name)

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Brenna Schneidewent <lilschneidz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:49 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Oral Testimony for Public Hearing

Brenna Schneidewent
2134 E Broadway Rd., Tempe AZ 85281
262-813-9249

"I'm really bummed that this is our current situation but I am happy that I have this opportunity to express my gratitude for our district. Palmyra-Eagle has shaped me as a person and gave me so many opportunities to explore leadership positions, where I would not have gotten elsewhere. This has prepared me well for my college career and professional life because I learned how important it is to establish relationships with teachers and faculty. This has helped me to improve my networking skills more than I could have realized at the time.

Also, being able to be a leader for the PEHS soccer team since my sophomore year has taught me a lot of lessons such as effective communication, decision-making, sacrifice, team-building, and support. These lessons are ones that I have used on a daily basis, as I have been selected as a class facilitator at ASU and for several leadership positions at my on-campus jobs. I could go on but I know my sister's testimony is nice and long, so I'll save you all some time and say thank you for everything, PEASD. I'm truly hoping for the best.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Holly deBack-Walslager <hollywalslager@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:33 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Whitewater Board meeting discussing east west solution 11-18-2019

Hi,

After attending the SDBAB meeting tonight & questions coming up by two board members stating they thought Whitewater had changed their position on the proposed East-West solution; I thought I should share this meeting video. <https://vimeo.com/374204416?ref=em-share>

It is from November 18, right before they presented in at the hearing. It explains why they changed their "public presentation", it also clearly states they do have a solution and are willing to participate. It even states that they would consider placing some of the current WW students in the area that borders Palmyra currently into a Palmyra school building. They toned down their presentation (according to a comment on the video) as they did not want to offend the PE supporters & wanted to be sensitive to everyone. They also discuss the mill rates. I thought this meeting was very telling & very clear they have a solution & are willing to help in the process; similar to Mukwonago.

Also as an FYI, the PE mill rates came out in November & they are actually 11.21 for PE, so they would remain similar should the Jefferson part of the district go to Whitewater. If you would like the actual paperwork filed by Carrie Ollis (PE school board clerk) with the village, please let me know, we can provide that as well.

Thank you for all your hard work in this process.

Holly
Palmyra Resident

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Mitzi Roscizewski <mroscizewski@wi.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:25 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PLan

Hello! I want to express how much I appreciate your time and efforts regarding the issues of PEASD . I wanted to extend to each of you additional information if you need it. I am more than happy to provide you the numbers that we do have for the presented plan. As you heard from Mr. Hoff, previous Baird estimates indicated a \$650,000 savings through consolidation of the two elementary schools. With other reduction, consolidation and elimination of district positions would save conservatively \$150,000. That is \$800,000! Add to that a Fund Balance in excess of \$3.2 MILLION, I think we can exist beyond 2020!

I am OPPOSED to dissolution of PEASD for our students, families and community and those in the surrounding districts!

Mitzi Roscizewski
W350 S7923 Prairie Farms Court
Eagle, WI 53119
262-470-4032

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Amy Wilde <kadbwilde@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:07 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Statement/Testimony
Attachments: Letter to the board.docx

Thank you in advance for reading my testimony.

Amy Wilde

Thank you in advance for reading my statement/testimonial, and for all the time you have given of yourselves throughout this very stressful process. My name is Amy Wilde, I am a 1988 graduate of PEHS, my husband is a 1984 graduate and is currently a middle and high school physical education teacher. My oldest son graduated in 2017 and my youngest is currently a senior, who spoke very passionately about our school at the November 21st meeting on behalf of his friends and cousins that would still be in school next year. Probably most importantly however, until this summer I was a school board member. I am the one board member that who voted against dissolution and eventually resigned because I did not feel dissolution was the solution to our financial difficulties and that there were things that could have been done, should have been done and could still be done to save our district.

I originally ran for the school board 3 years ago because I felt like there was not enough accountability in the district and that we were over staffed among other issues. I felt that my 25 years of teaching experience and master's degree in Educational Leadership would bring a different view, skill set and knowledge to the current board.

During my first year on the board we were tasked with making over a million dollars in cuts, and chose to cut summer school, and push back needed maintenance, yet we were still extremely top heavy with administration and non-teaching professional faculty. My suggested cuts and consolidations were shot down. As an educator for 25 years in 3 different much larger districts, I knew that there were cuts that could be made at the administrative level. I knew we could be more creative with our staffing and hiring practices, but we chose to cut summer school to save \$37,0000 and put off needed maintenance when cutting just 2 positions would have saved us over \$200,000 in salary and benefits.

As a new board member, I felt that my voice was not being heard, and since I was new, I may not have pushed as hard as I could have, and I will regret that forever. What I did do however was on my own I began contacting other schools in our conference that were similar in size and demographics to PE – not comparing us to Mukwonago or Kettle Moraine or even Jefferson and Whitewater. The superintendent from Deerfield contacted Dr. Bloom and told him that one of the board members was emailing and asking questions about administrative and non-teaching faculty. When Dr. Bloom found out I was doing this because I did not like the information he gave us to compare ourselves to which included Mukwonago, KM, Pewaukee, etc. he then reached out to the other districts and asked them. The information I got from schools that did respond to me and that Dr. Bloom eventually put together did not surprise me at all – but I think did surprise a lot of others on the board. They had no idea how grossly overstaffed we were because they never got to see those numbers until they were exposed.

As an example, one response I did get was for the school district of Markesan, which at the time had 97 students more than PE (Markesan – 857 and Palmyra-Eagle 760). When comparing our administrative and non-teaching faculty PE was at 11.0 FTE and Markesan was at 7.25, at almost 4 less FTE that could have been a cost savings of \$300,000-\$4000,000, possibly more and I heard several times now that we will be about \$400,000 short next year. I encouraged our superintendent and board to look into creative ways to cut and combine our staffing to fit our current student enrollment which was much less than when many of these positions were created and filled. Why not have a principal of a half full elementary school also be the elementary curriculum director. The response I got, “We tried that when so and so was principal and nothing ever got done with curriculum.” That answer shocked me; my response was “Then either you hire bad people who don't do their jobs, or you don't hold people

accountable for doing their jobs.” Either way that is not an acceptable reason not to do something.

An example comparison of PE with Markesan and Johnson Creek in just a couple of areas. Superintendent - Palmyra-Eagle has 1.0 FTE superintendent, Markesan’s superintendent is also the Athletic Director and the Business Manager, in Johnson Creek the superintendent is also the Business Manager.

Director of Special Education and Student Services – PE 1.0 FTE, Markesan – 1.0 but also the school psychologist, Johnson Creek – 1.0 but also the school Psychologist

School Psychologist – PE 1.2 – Markesan and Johnson Creek – included with Dir of Sped.

These are just a few of the examples, there are many, many more which I am sure Dr. Bloom could provide you with the rest of the information that he gathered and put into a spreadsheet and you can see there were plenty of ways we could have been more creative and efficient with our staffing.

This does not even include the option of closing an elementary school, when both are half full. Another potential cost savings that we did not make due to some of the board members fear of losing students to Mukwonago.

My entire time on the school board, I felt that I ran into road block after road block, and that every idea I suggested was shot down. I know I don’t have all of the answers, but I know we did not exhaust all options.

To tell you how strongly I felt that there were cuts to be made, even though Mr. Hoff spoke on our behalf stating that we had cut everything we could cut and were bare bones (which I asked him not to speak for me) – I suggested that we needed to cut a physical education teacher or possibly two – my husband is a physical education teacher who could have been one of the cuts, but I knew we did not need 5 full time physical education teachers in a school district of 760 students. I don’t want to see anyone lose their job but when it comes down to cutting down 4 or 5 administrative positions to get us down to where other districts our size are or closing a whole district because we don’t make those tough decisions, I am sorry they needed to be made.

When it came to voting for dissolution, I was the only one who voted against it – why? Because I knew we had not done everything that we could have done, and I know we can still make changes that can help us sustain the district and make things work until the state finally takes action and changes the inequity in school funding that is destroying rural school districts. I was told over and over that there were not enough cuts we could make and continue current programming. I call that BS! We have made many of these cuts this year out of necessity and are still offering our students the same programming we have the past few years.

Making needed cuts that do not directly affect children (i.e. administrative level which we did this year) and closing an elementary school, finding community and business partners like other districts are doing, applying for grants, continue fundraising being done by parents to support athletics and other clubs and organization, We could have looked into charter status. We could have looked into sharing staff with other districts near us (i.e. superintendent, librarian, business manager, etc.).

We can still do all of these things if given the chance and the time. Tonight you asked the 3 ladies who presented their plan if they reached out to the current school board and I can tell you that they did. They asked to come and speak to them, they asked them to attend meetings where they could tell them their ideas they still said there was nothing they could do. I know because they also asked me. I finally decided I could not accomplish anything or do anything to help save the district by being a member of the school board. I decided I needed to resign

because my beliefs did not align with the current board, and I felt I could do more to help and have a bigger impact not being the lone wolf on the board. Everyone on the current board is a good person who had good intentions but the board lacked the leadership and foresight needed to move forward and make the hard decisions to save a district that is being so negatively affected by revenue limits and open enrollment.

I am asking that you to please look closely at the ideas presented at the December 5th meeting, request to see the staffing of the other districts in our conference and look at the numbers. We can do this with the support of our communities and creative forward thinkers willing to be involved. The community, the teachers, the families and even the board members were not given the time or opportunity to help the school. As board member we were literally told we have to go to referendum and if it doesn't pass we will have to file for dissolution, a couple of months before it happened. I pleaded with Dr. Bloom and Mr. Hoff that there had to be other options and that we owed it to the community and the kids to look at every option and overturn every stone.

I will be at all of the upcoming meetings should you have any questions. In the testimony I heard \$650,000 can be saved by closing a school and if cutting and consolidating administrative positions could save us another \$300,000 to \$400,000, that is a million right there, not including other ideas and additional financial support.

As a final thought, I was in Subway in Palmyra the other day when the customer in front of me asked the high school girls working what the status of the school was. They said they didn't know, but that their boss told them if the school district closes, they will lose 60% of their business and be out of business within a year. This is the reality for the businesses in Palmyra – it will become a drive through town if it loses its heart.

Thank you,

Amy Wilde

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Brad Schucht <bschucht07@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:57 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-eagle Dissolution

Dissolution board:

I'm writing you in opposition to dissolution, I've been to 3 of the 4 meetings, but haven't been able to speak. I did not attend school here although my wife started & graduated school in Palmyra. We have 2 young children, the first started kindergarten this year in Palmyra and our daughter will hopefully be beginning in another year. We had considered school choosing out, not because we had any negative thoughts of Palmyra -Eagle, just considering what was best for our children. We considered a Montessori school as well as the Sussex Scholl district that is highly rated where my wife works as the Midwest Environmental Coordinator for Quad Graphics after graduating from Palmyra - Eagle & graduating Carroll College. We finally decided on Palmyra in part because the thought of our children growing & learning in the same halls as my wife, with paintings on the walls she helped paint in elementary school.

In my opinion this is less about Palmyra - eagle and more about the unhappy eagle residents taking advantage of the situation. It was the perfect storm they in part created and once again leave a school district hurting when they needed them the most. I firmly believe that if dissolution wasn't a option that a solution whether it be this past referendum or another form of one that they and the rest of the school district should have approved a way to support All of Our children.

I believe that dissolution would put a unfair burden on all of the students involved apart from some of the school choice students. I know for certain that some of our freinds felt they had no choice but to opt out of Palmyra this year with the uncertainty, and would rather be here in Palmyra. It would also pour a unfair burden on the students of the school districts that our students would be forced to attend in the event of dissolution as well as their taxpayer's.

We shouldn't be playing kick the can with our students future. By approving dissolution you unwillingly with be putting their districts and students in the sane peril ours and our families are currently facing. PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE DISSOLUTION, PLEASE FIND A WAY TO KEEP OUR SCHOOL AND OUGHT STUDENTS FUTURES BRIGHT.

THANK YOU, from the father of a Current and soon to be second Palmyra student. Brad Schucht

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Josh Gajewski <gajewskijt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2019 12:00 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Dissolution

I would like to submit this message in opposition to the dissolution of the Palmyra - Eagle Area School District. As a resident of the District, a parent to children in the District, a long-time employee of local government and an advocate of the health and well being of the local community. I believe that an affirmative vote for dissolution will have an overall negative impact on the students, parents, residents and communities currently involved with the District. I would like to support my opposition to dissolution using the following perspectives, as they relate the WSS 117.15.

117.15(1): As the PEASD currently operates over an area crossing multiple counties and numerous municipalities, transportation of students throughout the District results in numerous challenges, both from a logistical and financial perspective. Should the District dissolve, the proximity of neighboring Districts which an area may be assigned to will no doubt add to the complexity and costs related to student transportation. It is also likely that parental commuting will also be affected by dissolution, which could result in problematic scheduling for families enrolled in the District to be able to provide adequate transportation. With some bus routes currently in excess of 60 minutes, I am concerned that students would be subject to excessive transportation times each day, which would be even more of a concern for the youngest of students.

117.1(2)-(2m): The educational programming available to the District students will no doubt be affected, should dissolution be approved. If viewed only from a logistical standpoint, the transition of educators and students to new facilities, the integration of new curriculum and current programming, and the compounding disruption these two items would cause will likely result in new inefficiencies within educational operations. This likely will result in lost programming time for students throughout all involved districts during this acclimation period.

117.15(3): Please take this correspondence as a written statement filed in opposition of dissolution.

117.5(4): As discussed by representatives of neighboring districts, there will be a financial impact to everyone involved in the potential dissolution process. Using the east/west consolidation theory, there is a strong possibility that the majority of residents involved would see an increase in property taxes as a result of the District dissolving. Personally, I am estimating that my property taxes would increase roughly \$400 annually. This amount is roughly two-thirds of the proposed District Referendum amount in year 4. Taking that another step further, the \$200 "annual savings" would easily be erased with costs for commuting to a new district roughly 10 miles away, while staying involved with the new district. This leaves us in a situation where we've been uprooted and transplanted to a new district, having to travel farther, and still have no economic savings or advantages.

117.15(5): As there have been no formal boundaries proposed by the SDBAB at the time of drafting this correspondence, I believe that contiguous boundaries will be achievable should dissolution be approved.

117.15.(6): As shown in the demographics of the District and surrounding districts, there is a potential that portions of District would be assigned to new districts with a less diverse student body, from both socioeconomic and racial perspectives. I have a concern that either or both of these factors may have an adverse affect on the integration of students from the District into their newly assigned districts.

117.15(7): Please review the demographics of both the Funding Referendum and Advisory Referendum while considering this matter. There is a deep divide within the District that is evident.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Josh Gajewski
N662 County Rd. H
Palmyra, WI 53156

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Peardon, Sheri (Provisur) <Sheri.Peardon@provisur.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 12:19 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra Eagle School District

To: SDBAB Members
From: Sheri Peardon
W1079 Hooper Rd.
Palmyra, WI 53156
Resident in the Town of Palmyra
RE: PEASD Dissolution Decision
Date: December 5, 2019

I just wanted to reach out to you as a resident of Palmyra, WI so that you know there are Republicans that have voted Republican in every election that support keeping Palmyra Eagle School District intact. This is not a Republican/Democrat battle. This is a community fighting to keep their rural community and rural traditions. I think that you need to hear the other side of the story.

We understand that our Administration has wronged us, but don't feel that is a reason to make our entire school district dissolve.. How about we get rid of our Administration and school board and find someone who can set a budget and make the difficult choices to keep that budget? A school district is a business, and just like any other business, if things aren't working you need to make cuts and try to increase your ROI. I understand that PEASD has a larger number of Administrative positions than any other school in our state that is our size. An easy budget decision would be that we can't afford a School Superintendent, Principal and Associate Principal all under one roof. If we get rid of 2, we save over \$200,000.00 per year. If we can only fill 1 grade school, then close one, sell the land and consolidate. If we can fit all of the kids under 1 roof, then sell both of the grade schools and have K-12 under the Middle/High School roof. We could have a developer come in and develop multi-family housing where Palmyra Elementary is now. The school itself is falling apart. We don't have enough housing in Palmyra. We are land locked because we are in Jefferson County and they value their farm land. If someone desires to build a house in the country, and it is on Class A farm land, they have to buy at least 40 acres of land to build their house. Many can't afford that. I also have neighbors that have put their farm land in a Permanent Preservation Program. While we love this because it keeps our community rural, it also presents a problem with housing in our Community. My father, Raymond Leanna, owns 4 rental properties in Palmyra. He just rented out one of his houses, and could have rented it 5 times over without even advertising. If we put up 4 family or 8 family housing where the Elementary School now sits, it could be a win-win. Eagle Elementary is in a beautiful spot. I'm sure some business would love to have their location. I work at Provisur Technologies in Whitewater, WI. It is an international company, with world-wide locations. I'm sure a business such as this would treasure the location of Eagle Elementary, set back off of the road, with woods surrounding it. Then you get rid of 2 more Principals. I believe this is what Waterloo School District does. K-12 all under one roof. I feel that our situation should have never come to this. We should not be asking the question "Do you want Palmyra Eagle Area School District to close?" We should be asking what can we do to make Palmyra Eagle Area School District succeed! The taxpayers were never given that question. They were told "Give us X amount of dollars or your school will close." It was kind of a bullying tactic, and many in our community didn't buy it. Even then, most in Palmyra do not want our school district to close.

Matthew and I both attended Palmyra Elementary, Palmyra Eagle Middle School, and Palmyra Eagle High School. Matthew's parents both graduated from Palmyra High School. We chose to have our 4 kids go to a smaller school, so they would have opportunities to be involved that kids don't have in larger schools. Our daughter Mikayla just graduated this last June as one of the Valedictorians of her class. She was on the Volleyball and Soccer teams for 4 years, Dance for 2 years, which some of the smaller schools don't even have, she was the National Honor Society

President, Student Council President, and was able to represent our Community at Badger Girls State in 2018 in Oshkosh, WI. She received the DAR Good Citizen Award for Palmyra Eagle High School. One student was chosen from each school in Jefferson County. She was the Editor of the Yearbook for 2 years. She received many other Scholarships and Awards for Academics and Community Service. She had the opportunity to travel to France, Italy and Spain with the French and Spanish classes. Our other 3 kids have similar lists of involvement. A smaller school is more of a community. Everyone knows each other. Recently a boy from our Community died in a car accident. They had the visitation at Palmyra Eagle High School and over 800 people showed up to show their support of the family. His name was Nate Sullivan if you would like to investigate this. PEASD did not just send this family a sympathy card. The entire community surrounded this family with love and support.

When we were asked to vote on the referendum last April, it passed in Palmyra. We all knew our taxes were going to go up. We didn't want our taxes to go up, but even Matthew Peardon, who is an across the board Republican voted yes. My father, Raymond Leanna is 78 years old. He has a nice house at W1075 Hooper Rd. He also has a good chunk of land. He has 4 rental properties in Palmyra. When I talked to him about how he was going to vote, he stated, "I don't really want my taxes to go up, but we have to have a school in our town. If you don't have a school the town is going to die." Consequently, he voted yes. He had figured out exactly how much his taxes would go up. He voted yes anyhow. We live next door to my dad at W1079 Hooper Rd., Palmyra, WI. We pay \$6,000.00 in taxes every year for the privilege of living in our house. We knew our taxes were going to go up. We voted yes anyhow. We don't even have kids in this school district anymore. My dad operated Ray Leanna Construction out of Palmyra, WI for 40 years, building houses for people in our Community. Presently, Matthew has his own Construction company out of Palmyra. I have already witnessed housing come to a complete halt in our area. If you don't have a school, you aren't going to draw people to your town. You have to take care of your own. That being said, I do not agree with what our Administration has let happen. I do not support doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. I believe our school board and our Administration has failed us. These are changing times. We need to change with them. In the Daily Jefferson County Union the other night there was an article about Fort Atkinson School District and how they are going to have to go to referendum April of 2020 to ask for more money for an operating budget that they had for 3 years that has expired. We now know that Kettle Moraine School District is going through similar circumstances. This is a real fight that every school is facing, not just PEASD. So do we feel that Fort Atkinson School District and Kettle Moraine School Districts are failing also and we should close them down? Pretty soon we won't have any local schools to go to.

I feel like our fight is so much more than money. It is centered around a group of parents from Eagle that have decided they are too good for PEASD and have decided they want their kids to go to Mukwonago. Well, we have school choice, thanks to Scott Walker who Matthew and I supported throughout 2 terms as our Governor. Why is that not good enough for these people? Why can't they just school choice out of PEASD? Why do they want to "take us down" in the process? I know that we paid Mukwonago School District approximately \$2 million dollars this last year for kids that school choiced out to Mukwonago. I am sure that has helped them to achieve their "beyond excellence status". We are following the rules. It is part of our PEASD financial problem, and one that I know that Scott Walker created in good faith that it would make our schools better. The School Choice program is no different than Welfare and FMLA and every other Government program that has been developed. It is put in place for a certain purpose, and then people take advantage of it to fit their own needs.... Their kids being bullied, their kids not getting their way, so they feel the Administration has wronged them, people living in one community, but wanting their kids to go to a different school. Why not move to that community then? Why would you purchase a house in a community when you have no intention of sending your kids to that school? People will tell you "My kids never set one foot in a PEASD school", yet they live in our communities. Well, shame on them! Shame on them for never even touring their local school. Shame on them for not moving into the Community that their kids are going to attend school and getting involved and in the words of Mahatma Gandhi "Be the change you want to see in the World." I cannot tell you the hours that I have spent making baked goods, just to work in the concession booth and buy my own baked goods. All in the name of supporting our school and our kids. I am not getting emotional and crying "big Crocodile tears" to try to get sympathy. I have sat on the committees. I have done my time. I have been and will continue to "Be the Change".

Not everyone wants to go to Mukwonago. Not everyone wants what they have to offer. PEASD has things to offer that they do not. We take every special needs student that applies to PEASD. Mukwonago doesn't. Well, these kids need somewhere to go too! These kids are welcomed into our Community. There is a boy that is Autistic that graduated with my son from Palmyra Eagle High School that rides his bike to work every day to Standard Process. They have taken him in and helped him to succeed. I have taken pictures of a special needs couple at Prom. This girl will never get married. She will never drink an alcoholic beverage. She may possibly not live to 30, but she is a PEASD graduate and went to Prom. Imagine how that made her parents feel, instead of trying to get her into a school that refuses to take her because it will lower their test scores, and blemish their vision of perfection. These are the things that make me proud to be from Palmyra. PEASD also has a thriving Future Farmers of America program. We have students that get thousands of dollars every year in scholarships to go into Agriculture related professions. When I attended PEASD, there were many migrant workers that would come in the Spring and work at Kincaid Farms all summer. In October, they would go down to Texas and work all winter. These kids became our friends. Some of them are still my friends today and have chosen Palmyra as their forever home. These families are part of the PEASD tradition that I speak of. Other school districts would not take, them, because they would blemish their "beyond excellence status" that they think makes them better than any other school in the area. Not everything in life should be rated by a test score. Our kids get to meet kids with very different lifestyles. Some of these kids are the only English speaking people in their family.

I would love for you to consider my angle, instead of just listening to the angry Eagle residents that are just trying to get out of our school district, and will do whatever they have to in order to make that happen. One of the main contributors to the negativity on their Facebook page is an Ex-PEASD Volleyball Coach, Kim Hetz, who doesn't even live in our School District. Last I knew she lived in the Lake Geneva area. She was fired for verbally and mentally abusing our girls, my daughter included. She is just mad that our administration finally listened to our girls, and will do whatever she can to tarnish our school. She went to great measures to get the members of the JV volleyball teams to side with her and go against their own classmates. She almost succeeded in getting the other Volleyball coaches to turn on our girls. Talk about manipulation and bullying. I have seen it first hand, and it was not coming from our 16 and 17 year old girls. She is a major biggest contributor to adding comments about how every person in PEASD is a bully, from the Administration, to the parents to the students. Really? How can every person that chose to school choice out be bullied? They are just saying these things to make them feel justified in their actions. There are some very supportive, encouraging, and compassionate Administrators, teachers, parents and students at PEASD, just like there are in any other school district. Tearing all of us down has to stop. It just is not a valid factor to be considered when looking at the financial challenges faced by our school district.

Thank you for your time.

Sheri Peardon

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Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Patrick, Jody <Jody.Patrick@phci.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 12:07 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Against Dissolution

I am against dissolution of PEASD. My family is all from Eagle. I moved away for college but returned to Eagle when I had kids as my husband and I both wanted them in this district. We're both graduates of PEASD. I do think there is a number of cuts that could have been made years ago that weren't. I understand there is a large number of Eagle residents that choose Mukwonago District. A lot of these families never gave these schools a chance. They moved here with no intentions of sending their kids to PEASD and that is not fair to our district. It is not fair to those of us that live here for this district to have our choice taken away when OE is available to their families. I have 3 boys ages 10, 13 and 16. They all excel here and I contribute that to the small class sizes and the one on one attention they receive from their teachers. I do not want them in a large school nor do they want to be in one. I know this is a hard decision and its all about the students and their future. I do believe there is a way to keep this district intact starting with replacing 6 of the 7 board members and working towards the future of our district. Thank you.

Jody Patrick
340 Elkhorn Road
Eagle, WI 53119

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Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Kayla Heinrich <kkayla05@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:34 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Do not let PEASD dissolve

To whom it concerns:

My name is Kayla Heinrich, my family and I vote to keep PEASD open and to NOT dissolve.

When my husband and I moved to Palmyra we were busy planning our wedding, and not concerned about the school district. A few years later after our first daughter was born was when we started to look into schools and where she would attend. She attended a private 3K and 4K in North Prairie. I had thought I would open enroll into Mukwonago schools as that is where my husband and myself had gone, although different elementary schools. I had previously heard rumors regarding PE schools, and to open enroll. I had heard that there were issues with bullying, drugs and poor education. But to be truthful, aren't these problems everywhere? Bullying happens because kids are trying to figure a lot out, they are scared, over confident, and trying to find themselves in a big world. Bullying will forever happen, its up the adults to help children. Education comes from the teachers, who connect with the students. Its not saying there is a poor education, it's the connectivity of the teachers and students. It wasn't until we had spoke with other parents regarding the school system that we decided to give Palmyra Elementary a try. There wasn't a single parent who advised us to opt out. They gave great testimony and explained how they loved the small schools.

Three years into being with the school district and I could not be happier. There is not one day that I regret staying with PEASD. My oldest daughter is now in 2nd grade at Palmyra Elementary and I will be adding another student next fall into 4K. My daughter loves going to school; she is exceling in areas like reading and going to higher grade levels to get books to read for the week. In areas where she struggles, like math, she is able to get 1:1 assist. The class is able to split up and go to different specialist in subjects they need. This helps her gain confidence and be able to succeed. Even though there is only one to two classes per grade, she has made friends in all different grades. As in life you don't stick with only people your age. You gain knowledge from older friends and in return give it to younger friends. Teachers throughout the school know the students by name. They know the grandparents, parents and siblings. Its an easy thing to do when your students aren't just another number. I cannot vouch for other schools and first hand I do not know, but I can and will vouch everyday for our school and how great it is.

I know families that open enroll and support their decision. Each has their own reasons, wither its for work, child care, family. For some its their belief their child will get a better education and everyone is able to voice their own opinion, its one the great things about America.

My husband and I both are graduates of Mukwonago High School. We had very different education experiences though, as its what we put into it and our personalities. I was one who enjoyed school as he just wanted to be out. The school was able to support each of us in our own ways. I will not say anything bad about the education I received and feel MASD did a good job preparing me to be the successful adult I am. I will say that you become just another number. How can you not when there are hundreds of others in your grade level, and over a thousand other kids in your school. Imagine a mall during the holidays, that is the hallways everyday of an over packed high school. With the recent events of multiple schools statewide, I would not want to have to try to evacuate over a thousand students. I had one of the highest graduating classes and could not tell you the names of some of the other kids I had gone to school with for years as there were just too many. The teachers don't know names, parents or who students are personally. When I was a junior at MHS, my family experienced a house fire. We were out of our home for 9 long months. I only recall one teacher who came out and offered support. I felt like I had to seek out support from other teachers and explain over and over what had happened. A similar thing happened here in PEASD and the response was fantastic. The community pulled together in support. That is the amazing thing about a small school; school and community are one. Without our schools there will be no community. Palmyra will become a drive thru town on the way to Whitewater for the college. I have heard and personally would agree about moving out of the town if there is no school. Kids should not have to be on a bus for an hour to get to/from school. It would be harder to participate in after school activities as it would take longer to get from home to school.

Please consider the families and children that will uprooted if the school had to dissolve. This is one of the hardest challenges we have faced as a parent to a school-age child. A school is not just a school. It is a place a child should feel safe and be happy to go to. This is a small town school and one that has great pride, Panther pride!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kayla Heinrich
422 Hillcrest Dr
Palymra, WI 53156
262-352-4645

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Amy Otto <amy1224@prodigy.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:33 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle School Dissolution

In regards to the Palmyra Eagle School District dissolution, I am asking the board to move forward with the dissolution based on all reasonable considerations of the financial position the district is currently in, and will continue to have in future.

I personally do not have any experience in the Palmyra Eagle School District, we recently moved to Eagle from Mukwonago, and decided to keep our kids enrolled in Mukwonago School District. We were seeking a more rural area to raise our family in, and loved Eagle as a good alternative, knowing we could keep our kids in Mukwonago School District.

The recent school referendum has however, caused a great deal of concern for me. As a taxpayer and resident of Eagle, WI, I am open to a reasonable increase in my taxes to keep the school open and operational, that is NOT what was presented to us in April of 2019. My family was facing a \$700-800 a year increase in our property taxes by year four (4) on this proposal. We were told to vote "yes" for a tax increase or the school would dissolve. With that being the financial condition of the school, it forced many of us to vote "yes" for dissolution. For my family personally, that amount of money would cover groceries for a month, gas to get to work for 2 months, or electric and heat for a home for 3 months. This is not a reasonable amount. We were told there would be "no compromises". It HAD to be this or nothing.

Many of us living in this area are on budgets, we need to pick a choose what we can or can't afford, I would like the school district in Palmyra to do the same. I do not see raising taxes this high as a positive on the many residents in this area. We have retired people in our community and some lower income families living in this area. We would be killing our opportunity for growth, and I believe that home sales would be greatly effected by the overly high tax increase. There are many families that have decided to "open enroll" out of the Palmyra Eagle School district for various reasons, with the unstable environment in Palmyra Eagle School District, I can see that continuing to increase and further put this district in financial strain.

I'm asking to board to use logic when making the decision on whether to dissolve or not for Palmyra Eagle School District. Logic tells us that this district cannot survive into the future and beyond with the current financial condition it is in. Residents have said "no" to a large tax increase, we have schools in the area that are willing to step up and help this district by assuming debt and misplaced kids. Palmyra Eagle will continue to see financial issues into the future, the fighting in our community needs to end. Please listen to what the residents have said in this community, thank you for taking the time to read this.

Amy Otto
W358 S8409 State Road 59
Eagle, WI 53119
262-527-5920

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Mason, Steve <smason@Standardprocess.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:30 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD

Dear Designated Board Members,

First of all I would like to thank you for your time and efforts during this difficult process. There is an overwhelming amount of information to sort through before a permanent decision has to be made, which will affect the lives of many kids and the families of PEASD. As I sit at these meetings and listen to positive and negative points brought up from both sides it saddens my heart we all have to go through this.

I strongly encourage you to keep this school open! Many of my family members have gone through the Palmyra School system with my daughter, fifth generation on our family farm, being the latest graduating a year ago. All have gone on to make their mark in this world with the help of the experiences and values they learned not only from home, but from THIS school. I personally still reference many life lessons, that I pass along to my daughter, I learned from some great teachers here at PEASD. Obviously they stuck with me because I was in the class of 1987!! A strong foundation is why we have been able to succeed in life and that all started in this school system.

I do believe this school has to do some things better, but I truly feel that this can get accomplished with hard work and determination starting from the top down. Strong leadership is important in life and a successful school district is no exception. There are a lot of wonderful people that live in our school district, and a lot of wonderful people that work for this school district. Not having a school in our town/ village would have devastating impacts on both. The future would be very uncertain with it being unlikely that families or businesses would want to move here to start a life or career.

In closing I would once again like to thank you for your hard work during this process, and pray that you see this school is worth saving for futures to come.

Regards,

Steve Mason
W2256 Piper Rd.
Whitewater, Wi. 53190



Steve Mason | Farm supervisor
Standard Process Inc.® | O: 262-495-6323 | C: 262-903-4025
standardprocess.com



Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Megan Pesz <meganpesz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:21 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle School District Dissolution

Our family has chose to reside in Waukesha County. We live, work and contribute to Waukesha County Programs as well as pay taxes to Waukesha County. Mukwonago is the next closest community to our Eagle community within Waukesha County. We identify with Mukwonago. Mukwonago is where we take care of our basic family needs of shopping and daily necessities. We believe Mukwonago School District provides better opportunities for our child academically and athletically. This is why we have open enrolled our son into Mukwonago School District.

In the matter of Palmyra-Eagle School District dissolution, our family, as Town of Eagle Residence want to become part of the Mukwonago School District. Mukwonago School District is within the county we live and is equidistant to Palmyra-Eagle or East Troy School Districts.

I would love to see Eagle Elementary stay open and become part of Mukwonago School District. Perhaps Eagle Elementary could be a charter school for Mukwonago School District. Eagleville Elementary has taken off and is filled to it's capacity. Having this extra space could allow Eagleville's program to expand. All current students that reside in Eagle and currently attend Eagle Elementary could still attend the school they are familiar with. Busing to Eagle Elementary would remain the same. For those that do not already attend Eagle Elementary and do not choice into Eagle Elementary would attend Rolling Hills Elementary. Additional busing to Rolling Hills would be provided to the village and town of Eagle residence that were previously within Palmyra-Eagle District lines.

I think that Palmyra-Eagle Middle School and High School should become part of Whitewater School District. This building would house Palmyra's students K-8 grade. 9-12 grade Palmyra students would then attend Whitewater High School.

Our family supports the dissolution of Palmyra-Eagle School District.

Thank you,
Megan Pesz
S107 W36994 Annice Lane
Eagle, WI 53119
Town of Eagle Resident
(414)378-5737

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Sarah Schnuelle <schnuelles@sdoj.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Please read the attached comments

Sarah H. Schnuelle
418 East Main St.
Palmyra, WI 53156

December 4, 2019

Dear SDBAB,

My husband and I have lived in the village of Palmyra for 12 years and lived in Eagle for the six months prior. I taught in Eagle Elementary for 8 years. My husband grew up in Eagle, graduated from PEASD, and served as the PEASD school board treasurer for 9 years. I am currently in my 16th year of teaching, now at Sullivan Elementary in the School District of Jefferson, and we open enroll our two oldest there. Having the same schedule, with childcare in the same building, is just easier. Clearly, though, my husband and I have a long history with the PEASD. We are fully supportive of the school district, and have voted in support of all referenda. We trust Scott Hoff and the board have the best interests of the school and community at heart.

With that said, you've surely come to understand that unlike for Eagle, the PEASD is the cornerstone of our Palmyra community. It remains a gathering place, supports our local businesses, and is a major employer. Yet it's been clear for at least 10 years that the majority of the Eagle community does not feel connected to the PEASD, does not fully support the joint school district, and would never support a referendum. With or without Eagle, we would like the school district to remain open. I believe the School Board members, along with most voters in both communities, support allowing Eagle to operate within the Mukwonago school district, ideally maintaining as much current staffing as possible. Meanwhile, most would like to have Palmyra operate as a single-community school district with one K-12 building. The middle/high school are in good condition, and the more-than-one-million dollar athletic complex is nearly new. A referendum would likely be required to remodel the middle/high school to make it suitable to house elementary classrooms, but such a question might pass if put only to Palmyra voters.

I believe those that would open enroll out have already left, and that enough students remain to support a school district with Palmyra-area-only boundaries. I also believe existing district debt should remain the responsibility of residents within the current PEASD school district. I fear reallocating this debt would set a precedent for future dissolution of all districts facing financial woes. It would be too easy for voters in one community to pass a building referendum, for example, only to dissolve and leave the remaining financial burden to surrounding communities.

How the PEASD found itself in this situation is complicated, but private school vouchers, declining family size, and open enrollment competition have all played a role. These same issues plague most districts around the state, so consider that every decision you make with regards to this district sets a precedent for others to follow. This surely will not be the last case of its kind in the future. So, as you learn from this process, I would also urge you to contact your legislators to request new state statutes that might guide future board members like yourselves.

On a side note, my husband and I have been looking to sell our Palmyra home within the next year in order to shorten his commute. According to our realtor friend, homes in the Palmyra community simply are not selling, and our house has lost an estimated \$25,000-\$50,000 in value, apparently as a direct result of the potential disillusion. There is simply no market for homes in our community right now, but the same is not true of Eagle

homes. If Palmyra residents lose their school district, their home values plummet, and their sense of community is gone, they lose on all fronts, while Eagle continues on with little consequence.

It has been brought up multiple times at community forums to keep emotion out of this decision. Yet this is an inherently emotional process. I ask that you not lose sight of the fact that this is not simply about property lines and dollar signs. Children's futures are at stake. For many, the PEASD provides the only family some students have. Their meals, health, emotional safety, clothing, and sense of stability are provided for within the walls of the school buildings. That may not be preferred, but it's the reality. For those students without a safety net in their own homes, the school is all they have, yet the negative attention the district has received in recent months on top of many failed referenda have left students and staff members feeling abandoned. Whatever your decision, please be sensitive to the feelings of loss our community is experiencing while acknowledging the stress that such great unknowns have placed on our students, their families, and PEASD staff.

Whatever your decision, any redistricting or redrawing of boundaries cannot be implemented for next school year. That is simply not enough time for schools to prepare budgets, coordinate transportation, or make staffing changes, nor does it give families enough time to plan for these changes. These are not easy decisions to make, but I believe I speak for the majority of Palmyra residents in saying we want a Palmyra school district to remain for future generations.

Sincerely,

Sarah H. Schnuelle, NBCT
608-516-3302

Sarah Schnuelle
Reading Specialist
Sullivan Elementary
School District of Jefferson
920-675-1568

See the great opportunities The School District of Jefferson has to offer TODAY! [View Video](#)

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Carolyn Markson <cmarkson36@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 11:07 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Public comment
Attachments: to School District Boundary Appeal Board 12 4 19.docx

Attached is my response to the current dissolution discussion.
Thank you for receiving and considering it.

Carolyn Markson
cmarkson36@gmail.com
262-949-4941

--

NOTE NEW ADDRESS as of DEC 15, 2015

**339 NORTHWEST ST
PALMYRA, WI 53156**

Carolyn Markson
cmarkson36@gmail.com
phone: 262-949-4941

DECEMBER 4, 2019
339 NORTHWEST ST
PALMYRA, WI 53156

TO: School District Boundary Appeal Board

REGARDING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE PALMYRA-EAGLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our son and family have lived in Palmyra for over 20 years and all of their children have attended schools here with success, all three graduating from PEAS HS. Two of those three have graduated from the UW system, one continuing on for a MS & PhD and the other is now in service with AmeriCorps, the third will graduate in May from the UW system. All three participated in varied sports and clubs in addition to academic honors.

When we were to elect our final home, we chose Palmyra because we knew of the excellence in the schools, and it had the other amenities we wanted close-by; library, grocery, hardware, PO, restaurants, and gas stations. We elected a home within walking distance to help keep us mobile. We also elected a home we could afford, with taxes and insurance, trying to use our resources wisely.

If our local schools dissolve, we worry about the survival of our village and the above entities; the traffic will diminish with fewer folks needing to come here daily or occasionally for school affairs. We worry how this will affect our home value and all home values in this school area. Will we end up with a home we cannot afford, with taxes owed elsewhere with no local schools? This is quite a terrifying prospect!

You all are charged with considering all the factors and I pray that this is true and that you are doing so. Can Palmyra support a K-12 school? Could it be housed in one building and the Elementary building and property sold for development? If we can't support our students locally, where will they go? What will the alternative school district cost? Will that/those district(s) be required to assume our debt? The questions we have are endless.

Thank you for your consideration, a local senior

Carolyn Markson

262-949-4941

cmarkson36@gmail.com

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: kristen earle <kristenearle008@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 10:03 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolution of PEASD

I am against the dissolution of PEASD!!

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Ramlow, Jaime <J.Ramlow@schenckprocess.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 9:38 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Jaime Ramlow letter not supporting dissolution
Attachments: PEASD Support Letter.docx

Good Morning,

Please see my attached letter supporting Palmyra-Eagle Area School District.

Thank you,
Jaime Ramlow

Members of the School District Boundary's Appeal Board:

My name is Jaime Ramlow and I am writing you to show my support of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District. I come from a long line of PEASD graduates. My Father and Mother graduated from the district in 1968 and 1966 respectively. My two older brothers graduated in 1986 and 1990. All five of us actually had the same high school history teacher.

My husband is a graduate of Kettle Moraine High School. When it came time to start a family and purchase a home we decided on Palmyra. My husband did not want our future children to attend Kettle Moraine, not because it wasn't a good school. He wanted them to have more opportunities than he had, he wanted them to be more than a face in the crowd.

My daughter graduated from PEASD this past year and is currently attending Carrol College as a direct admit nursing student. She is carrying a full load and also working part time while maintaining good grades. She attributes her success in school to two particular teachers at PEASD. She has said they prepared her so well.

My son is a freshman this year. After the April referendum was voted down we had some difficult decisions to make. As it was a transition year for him, we thought it would be best to enroll him into a high school that would be open for the duration of his high school years. This was one of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make. We actually sold our home in Palmyra this past August.

If not for the current situation facing PEASD, I would never have entertained the idea of open enrolling. It truly is a wonderful district. All the teachers really knew my children – not just their names, but really who they are.

Those for dissolution cite many different reasons. A few examples I have heard over the years are:

1. Our buildings are terrible and in ruins – this is simply not true. Over the past eight years I have been to many surrounding districts as my children competed in athletics. In fact, in my opinion our high school/middle school is one of the nicest in the surrounding area. Also, these same individuals who have complained about our facilities are the same individuals who have continually voted no to referendums to improve our facilities. Furthermore, how do they even know what our facilities look like when they haven't even been in them?
2. We don't properly educate the students – we have many many successful graduates from PEASD. Our graduates have been accepted to Ivy League Schools, D1 Schools, etc. We have doctors, lawyers, engineers, therapists, etc. Eagle elementary was even rated a 5 star school.
3. Bullying – there is just way too much bullying at PEASD. Let's be honest, bullying happens everywhere! I don't believe there is any more bullying at PEASD than anywhere else.

It is no secret there is a social media page that is dedicated to the dissolution of the district. I believe everyone is entitled to their own opinions and have every right to choose what is best for their child(ren). However, what I take issue with is these individuals embracing others that have done what they say PEASD has. So bullying is ok with them as long as it is pushing their agenda?

Two of the most vocal individuals on the pro dissolution side are ex-employees of the district that were both relieved of their duties. One of the individuals is an absolute bully. She emotionally and verbally abused girls she coached. This individual has zero ties to this district with the exception of being an ex-employee. She does not live in the district, is not an alumni, her children never went to this district. Yet, this group is giving her a platform to speak on? Why? Because she wants to see the district dissolved.

I fear what dissolution would do to Palmyra. Schools are the heartbeat of a community. What happens to Palmyra with no school? It will become a ghost town.

Many surrounding districts have stated they don't want to take Palmyra on. I think redistricting Palmyra into Whitewater is detrimental to Whitewater. If this happens, you are going to put Whitewater into the exact same position Palmyra was in with the open enrollment numbers to Mukwonago. If individuals wanted to go to Whitewater schools, they already would be there. This is one of the main reasons I open enrolled my son this year. I did not want him going to Whitewater if PEASD were to be dissolved.

The citizens of Palmyra have spoken. They want to keep their local schools. I urge you all to please find a way to make that happen.

If PEASD were to stay open and depending upon the circumstances, I would consider open enrolling my child back into the district.

Those of us in favor of not dissolving have been accused of making decisions on a purely emotional basis. How can this not be emotional? These are our children we are fighting for and they deserve better than this.

Thank you,

Jaime Ramlow

Elkhorn, WI

262-443-1242

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Jodi Dooley <jdooley@peasd.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 9:26 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Letter from a Parent and Employee of the District

Dear School District Boundary Appeal Board,

My name is Jodi Dooley and I am parent of four students in the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District, a Special Education Paraprofessional for the District, as well as a resident of the Village of Palmyra. I guess I don't know what more to say that you have not already heard over and over by my fellow community members, parents, and colleagues, but I wanted my voice to be heard too.

We are a blended family with me being from Milwaukee and my husband from Waukesha, WI. When my husband and I were married, his children were attending school at Eagle Elementary School and my children were attending a large elementary school in Waukesha, WI. There was such a difference in environments and atmospheres between the two schools that I knew we had to make the move closer to Eagle so my children could benefit from the small school atmosphere as well. We found a house to rent in the Mukwonago School District and chose to send our kids to PEASD.

My youngest son has special needs. He has been diagnosed with Autism, PTSD, Major Depressive Disorder, and ADHD and was hospitalized the summer before we started in the district. They were ready and prepared for him before school started and Eagle Elementary got the IEP process going the first day of school. The small class sizes and very personalized attention has been wonderful for my son. The kids in his class know him and accept him for who he is. This past spring, my son was chosen from his class to go to the Interpretive Reading Competition! This is something that may not have happened at a large school where there is a lot of competition. He was so proud and declared that he was going to act in middle school. Now that he is in middle school he auditioned for Beauty and the Beast, the district musical, and received a speaking part with a microphone! This was an opportunity that he could only have gotten in a small school district. He is very unsettled about leaving as change is very difficult for him as well as other children with Autism. I do not feel that it is in his best interest to change schools at this time.

Two years ago we made the choice to purchase a home in Palmyra because of our love for the community and the School District. We have made our home here. Our kids can walk to and from school and practice giving them a sense of belonging in our community.

I feel like there has to be a way to save our district even if it is only Palmyra. Ours is just a small success story, but one that I feel matters.

Working with the teachers and staff in this District has been inspiring. I have finally found what I love to do in life because of the students and staff in the District, so I have chosen to go back to college and get my degree in Special Education! Everyone has been so supportive and encouraging, that is my dream to one day be a Special Education teacher at PEASD.

I humbly request that you do everything in your power to keep this District and this Panther family together.

Most Sincerely,

Jodi Dooley

405 Northwest Street
Palmyra, WI 53156
262-271-3992

Jodi Dooley
Special Education Paraprofessional
Palmyra-Eagle High School

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid." ~Albert Einstein

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Kenneth Dooley <kdooleyii@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 9:22 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: A good and honest fix is needed!

I am not one to normally write something to have it be open for people / the public to scrutinize or anything. However, this is where I stand regarding this issue with our school district's fate.

I am all for saving as much money as possible and letting things go that want and need to go. Our communities have spoken and there is a clear line of who wants this district to remain open and who wants it to be dissolved. I work down at the Port of Milwaukee but have been lead to live in the village of Palmyra. It is just the way everything has worked out as a blended family. Wherever I lived I wanted to bring business from that community out to the Port of Milwaukee. I never knew that this would become this big of an issue after deciding to purchase a home in the village of Palmyra. I knew what my taxes were and where they were going to support. I was supporting my community by living there and raising children there. I am a stakeholder who will feel and see the ramifications of people, parents/members of this school district's community buying houses in this school district and then doing a 180 and "choice-ing" out. This "choice-ing out" has had unintended consequences on the financial situation of this district and districts like ours. Whatever their reason is their justification for being a slice of the wedge that is tearing apart these two communities and this school district. The fear and anxiety that our kids have been on display by their actions and reactions to their legitimate feelings of losing their friends have been a point of topic and talked about every time a vote has come up and to the meetings, we have to date. Our kids are uncertain of where they will go. As adults we do not even have the answers to that nor do we make the ultimate decision. They hear "rumors, scenarios" of how other districts who would "have" to take them are considered to be a burden. Other than Mukwonago who only wants Waukesha county kids. This whole process has put a price tag on a child and their education and who does and who does not want them. Discouraging as a parent to deal with, abandonment from a child's perspective.

With that, I do not want to turn this into an emotional response/ argument. If the numbers work to keep our school district open minus Eagle keep it open. If the numbers do not work then keep our buildings open and utilized, I bought my house in a district where my kids can walk to school and back home, not to be bussed 20 minutes one way. This can and more than likely will have a financial impact on the resale value of my own house. To leave resources not used will hinder our community. Money and land that have been donated by local businesses to have the resources we have now (football, track and field, and baseball diamonds) will go to waste and then later on the generosity of those businesses can and will be hindered from freely giving again. Thus community morale and pride in their local school will go away. The schools will look different and be called something different next year Yes, it will be a very small district if kept open but a district that can grow again.

We need to do what is best for the children of our communities and with the resources at hand that is already here. I did not get to vote on Whitewaters referendum (not a resident) nor do I want the financial burden of theirs nor Mukwonago's and be forced into voting again for another financial referendum in the immediate future because our kids were forced/ placed upon them in their care. They (Whitewater, Kettle Moraine) have expressed they can not afford to absorb our community. I do not doubt that the other districts will make proper preparations to welcome the kids into their district but, the feeling of abandonment is already here and very present in our kids'

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

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lives. Find a solution, and or a workaround to keep our school's properly funded without skyrocketing our property taxes. Let the people go that want to go and offer fix's of "choice-ing out" to our state representatives and make it to where a school district is not financially penalized due to situations exactly like ours.

God Bless,
Ken Dooley
405 Northwest St.
Palmyra, WI 53156
262-271-5053

~A man's family is always his first and foremost mission and ministry.

~Christ did not come to take away challenges, but to change us on the inside and to empower us to deal with problems from God's perspective.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: sue fischer <smfischer14@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 2:23 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolution of PEASD

Dear SDBAB members:

When looking at the seven factors that you, the school district boundary appeals board, are to take into account in regards to your decision there are a few things you must consider:

#1 The geographical and topographical characteristics of the affected school districts, including the estimated travel time to and from school for pupils in the school districts.

In regards to this, the students in Palmyra and possibly in Eagle will have increased bus times if they have to travel to any of the other surrounding districts to attend middle school and high school. Although the distance from PEHS to WWHS is only 11.6 miles or a 20-minute drive with bus stops these students will possibly be on the bus for an extra 30-60 minutes depending on routes. Drive times to Mukwonago and East Troy would also be increased by about the same amount. In most cases, the students from PEASD will be the outer most portion of any new district and therefore will most likely be the first ones on the bus in the morning and the last ones off at night.

If these students drive to school, we are now taking the statistically most "at-risk" drivers and giving them a longer commute to and from school thus increasing the risk of accidents, injury or even death.

#2 The educational needs of all of the children residing in the affected school districts, the educational programs currently offered by each affected school district and the ability and commitment of each school district to meet those needs and continue to offer those educational programs.

Looking at this we have several factors that come to mind. First, the educational programs offered Agriculture and FFA are two programs that Mukwonago High School does not offer. We offer Tech Education classes that are more trades oriented and not engineering oriented. Mukwonago does not have 4K on-site and we do.

With a large part of our population as special education students, we have some concerns if there needs would be met at a larger district. In our school. not only do they get smaller class sizes, but also more one on one help during our 4th-hour resource or 9th-hour flexisched.

Statistics show that students who are involved in extra-curricular programs perform better on standardized tests. They are more well rounded and are better prepared for, not only college, but also the workforce and trades. If our students are now living farther away from their school the travel time alone may discourage them from participating. The bigger schools do not have as many "spots" on the team and this too would most likely result in decreased participation in extra-curricular activities and thus possibly decrease their academic success.

#3 If territory is proposed to be detached from one school district and attached to an adjoining school district, whether the proposed detachment will have any adverse effect on the program currently offered by the school district from which the territory is proposed to be detached, including both curricular and extracurricular aspects of that program. Not sure how this would impact the students other than the above-mentioned issues

If we give Eagle to Mukwanago this will impact the classes offered at PEHS and PEMS. We would most likely lose programs or elective classes due to scheduling restrictions and/or loss of staff and funding that goes with those students. Foreign language, music, Art, Agriculture, and other elective classes may not be offered. Having just 1-2 Math or Science teachers means smaller classes might not be offered like AP Calculus or Medical Terminology. Extracurricular programs will also be affected. We

currently field three levels of teams in many sports and if we lose the Eagle portion of the district to Mukwanago we will most likely only be able to offer 1 in most sports.

#4 The testimony of and written statements filed by the residents of the affected school districts. The testimony has overwhelmingly been in favor of not dissolving the current district. Many more people have spoken in favor of keeping PEASD alive. A few have spoken against keeping the district most citing incidents that happened years ago, only a few that had reasons for recently leaving the district. While several cited taxes would be too much to stay in their current homes we all know that even if taxes initially fall in Mukwonago or other districts, the addition of students, busing and the possible need for additions to an already full middle school and high school will most likely result in higher taxes at some point. In Whitewater, the mill rate was predicted to be 11.30 with the east-west plan causing much higher taxes for the Palmyra residents.

#5 The estimated fiscal effect of the proposed reorganization on the affected school districts, including the effect of the apportionment of assets and liabilities.

In the plan that was proposed by Mukwonago and Whitewater, the debt would have to be taken on by both Whitewater and Mukwonago, Whitewater does not know how that will change their taxes but most likely they would go up even more.

#7 The socioeconomic level and racial composition of the pupils who reside or will reside in territory proposed to be detached from one school district and attached to an adjoining school district or in a school district proposed to be dissolved; the proportion of the pupils who reside in such territory who are children at risk, as defined under s. 118.153 (1)(a); and the effect that the pupils described in this paragraph will have on the present and future socioeconomic level and racial composition of the affected school districts and on the proportion of the affected school districts' enrollments that will be children at risk.

Looking at the demographics of the surrounding districts Mukwonago only has 12.2% economically disadvantaged 11.94% of students with disabilities, and .36% ELL/LEP PEASD has 31.47%, 15.6%, 2.86% respectively. These are not even close. The racial composition is another disparity with PEASD Having a Hispanic population of 12.22% compared to Mukwonago at 4.84%. The students who would be put into the Mukwonago district would be put in a district with a completely different racial, socioeconomic make-up. This could be a major disadvantage to the students and make them very uncomfortable and possibly cause them to become children at risk. The size of the other districts is another concern. A student who currently chooses to attend PEASD because it is a small school atmosphere will be completely overwhelmed when they are forced to join districts that are 2.5 times the size of PEASD (Whitewater) and 6.55 times the size of PEASD (Mukwonago).

The results of any referendum held under s.117.10.

The people have spoken and two things are clear. Most of the residents of Eagle do not support a school in Palmyra, but the residents of Palmyra clearly do.

Plans are in the works for looking at ways to make our district unique.

A 4 day a week school only adds about 1 hour to the day but saves money in less transportation costs, utilities, etc. It could also draw in students from surrounding districts putting us on the plus side of OE. This unique school would most likely draw teachers to open positions as well.

A charter school that focuses on the trades, agriculture, environmental and progressive education trends could also draw more students and teachers to the district.

As a staff member of the district for 34 years and a person who is working with community members to come up with a plan, I feel that you must vote not to dissolve the Palmyra-Eagle School District. Give us a chance to save our district and turn this district into one of the best in the state of Wisconsin.

Susan Fischer
Palmyra-Eagle HS/MS teacher
N7643 Bayshore Dr
Elkhorn, WI 53121
262-742-3304

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Rick Lehman <rlehman51@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 9:41 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PESD Position

I am a resident of the School District of Jefferson.

Facts and Figures Regarding Jefferson

Let me first start, however, with some information and background about Jefferson.

1. We experienced a net loss due to open enrollment reaching figures of nearly \$700,000 net loss per year. Our district lost millions of dollars over the course of several years.
2. A variety of efforts have allowed us to turn that around, thereby experiencing a net gain of students in recent years.
3. However, we are still a declining enrollment district.
4. The socioeconomics of Jefferson are similar to that of PEASD with approximately 40% free and reduced.
5. It is difficult for many of our families to financially support their needs.
6. We attempted three operations referendum over the past five years. The first one (non-recurring) failed, the next one (non-recurring) passed, and the most recent one (phased-in recurring) passed.
7. We are in year number one of the phased-in recurring operations referendum with an additional \$775,000 for our district. This is not easy considering our demographics.
8. Please remember that number of \$775,000.
9. This operations referendum was advertised to maintain our current programming. We did not build in extra.
10. We told our public what our financial advisor, Baird, estimated the mill rate would be at with the referendum dollars included, and we have been able to deliver on that promise to our public.
11. As we forecast next year's 2020-21 budget, we have a \$58,000 surplus. This is clearly not a lot. Our budget continues to be very tight.
12. I was at a workshop in Madison a week ago today. I sat with two superintendents who told me their fund balances were at 70% and 90% of their budget. This is nice for those districts. I do not want to call out those districts, but I find this to be an abuse of taxpayers' dollars. The SDoJ does not believe we should be able to hold local taxpayers' dollars hostage.
13. The SDoJ has a board policy stating that our fund balance must not drop below 10% and not be above 20%. The SDoJ Board of Education assures we remain within those reasonable confines.
14. Our district is long and skinny. We can travel 5 miles to the South and be in Fort Atkinson. We can travel 5 miles to the north and be in Johnson Creek. We can travel 7 miles to the west and be in Lake Mills. However, we can travel from Jefferson 14 miles east and still be in the SDoJ. Our largest hub is Jefferson with another hub in Rome/Sullivan. In between is mostly farmland and swamp (not neglecting small Helenville).

SDBAB Criteria #1 - Geography and Bus Distances

The geographical and topographical characteristics of the affected school districts, including the estimated travel time to and from school for pupils in the school districts. It appears that the most natural territory redistribution would go to Mukwonago and/or Whitewater. However, it is reasonable to see that a small sliver of territory could be redistributed to the SDoJ. Looking at a map, this could be roughly 5% of the current PEASD territory configuration. This might be, at best, 5-20 students. It appears some of these students open enroll into the SDoJ already, so the net gain in student membership is negligible. The bus travel time and distance from the northernmost portions of the PEASD to Sullivan Elementary School are reasonable at less than 30 minutes of bus drive time one way. The time on the bus for these same areas of the PEASD to Jefferson

Middle School and Jefferson High School would likely be more than one hour (two hours per day) which is greater than what the School District of Jefferson School Board Policy allows. As such the cost to transport these students would likely be enough to move our currently forecasted budget as flat for the 2020-21 school year. In other words, the “surplus” of \$58,000 could reasonably be used up just due to transportation. Transportation is one factor influencing our decision to request the SDBAB deny the request of dissolving the PEASD.

SDBAB Criteria #2 and #3 - Educational Needs of the Children

The educational needs of all of the children in the affected school districts, the educational programs currently offered by each affected school district, and the ability and commitment of each school district to meet those needs and continue to offer those educational programs. Do we have “room” for students to attend Sullivan Elementary, Jefferson Middle and Jefferson High schools? The answer is definitely, “Yes.” As mentioned, although we have a net gain in open enrollment, we are still experiencing declining enrollment overall. We have the space. Additional students would not negatively or adversely affect educational programming for the SDoJ. The students would be welcomed to our fine academic programs, fine arts, athletic teams, clubs, and organizations. However! I am basing these next comments on some reasonable assumptions. If the SDBAB decides to redistribute territory to neighboring districts, and if the SDoJ were to be assigned approximately 5% of the territory, and if 5% of this territory equates to 5% of equalized property value, then is it reasonable to assume the SDoJ would be assigned approximately 5% of the \$13 million dollars of PEASD debt. These are a lot of IFs, but this entire dissolvency process is loaded with many IF factors. Five percent of the \$13 million dollar debt is \$650,000. This is nearly all of the money (\$775,000) we passed in our current operations referendum. If you throw in some voucher students, it is reasonable to draw the conclusion that our community passed an operations referendum to pay for PEASD debt and voucher students. It is reasonable to ask the questions:

- Would Jefferson have to pass a one-time operations referendum to pay off the PEASD assigned debt?
- Would we have to layoff staff to pay for the newly assigned debt?
- Would we have to cut academic and/or extracurricular programs to pay off the newly assigned debt?
- Would we have to delay maintenance and projects to pay off the newly assigned debt?
- Would we have to use a portion of our fund balance, built up over many years through the careful use of our resources, to pay another’s debt and then have to borrow for our cash flow needs, incurring additional expense?

This could result in cuts to our programming causing an adverse and negative effect on the education of the children we serve. As such, the stance of the SDoJ is to deny dissolvency.

SDBAB Criteria #4 - Testimony and Written Statements

The testimony of and written statements filed by the residents of the affected school districts will be a consideration of the SDBAB. This statement I am verbalizing here this evening is not only from me, but on behalf of the board of education of the SDoJ. Additionally, I suspect the SDBAB will receive similar stances via electronically submitted written statements from Jefferson stakeholders.

SDBAB Criteria #5 - Estimated Fiscal Effect

1. As mentioned earlier, assuming debt from the PEASD could reasonably negatively and adversely affect the SDoJ. 2. As mentioned earlier, the additional (likely few) students may only marginally help the SDoJ while considering there are some who already chose Jefferson through open enrollment. 3. As mentioned earlier, the additional transportation of students may result in a financial constraint. 4. If the SDoJ picked up more students than we predict or estimate, is it possible that this negatively affects our district through current hold harmless exemptions as experienced through the state funding formula. 5. Sometimes adding one student to a grade (for example 4th grade) changes the student headcount for that grade from 21 to 22 students. Other times it may go from 29 to 30 students necessitating hiring another teacher. This is unpredictable. The SDoJ would like more than a year to prepare for this. 6. Is it possible the SDoJ would pick up a student(s) with significant special

education needs necessitating increased paraprofessional help, pupil services staffing, transportation needs, or various needs based on IEPs. The SDoJ needs more than a few months to plan for this.

SDBAB Criteria #6 - Referenda Held

The results of any referendum held. It is realized that the PEASD held an advisory referendum and 53% of the voters supported dissolvency. I am confident that given the influencing factors and concerns shared that if the SDoJ had held an advisory referendum regarding the dissolvency of the PEASD, and the reassignment of debt to the taxpayers of the SDoJ, the residents of the SDoJ would have voted to deny dissolvency of PEASD. The residents of the SDoJ are paying on their own debt for ACT32 energy efficiencies, construction debt of the newly remodeled high school, and our recently passed operations referendum. Asking our residents to assume debt from the PEASD is unreasonable.

SDBAB Criteria #7 - Other Appropriate Factors

The SDoJ supports any of the following: 1. Keep the PEASD operating for the 2020-21 school year. 2. Allow Eagle to detach and join with Mukwonago for 2021-22. 3. Allow Palmyra to stand on its own as a smaller district starting 2021-22.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Yours in education,
Rick

--
Rick Lehman

"The greater danger for most of us -
not that our aim is too high and we miss it,
but that it is too low and we reach it."
~Michelangelo

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Tanya Ball <ballt@sdoj.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 9:27 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle.comments@dpi.wi.gov

Please review the facts and figures regarding the Jefferson School District:

1. We experienced a net loss due to open enrollment reaching figures of nearly \$700,000 net loss per year. Our district lost millions of dollars over the course of several years.
2. A variety of efforts have allowed us to turn that around, thereby experiencing a net gain of students in recent years.
3. However, we are still a declining enrollment district. SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JEFFERSON 206 S. TAFT AVENUE, JEFFERSON, WI 53549 MARK D. ROLLEFSON. ED.D., SUPERINTENDENT PHONE: 920-675-1013 • FAX: 920-675-1020 rollefsonm@sdoj.org • www.sdoj.org
4. The socioeconomics of Jefferson are similar to that of PEASD with approximately 40% free and reduced.
5. It is difficult for many of our families to financially support their needs.
6. We attempted three operations referendum over the past five years. The first one (non-recurring) failed, the next one (non-recurring) passed, and the most recent one (phased-in recurring) passed.
7. We are in year number one of the phased-in recurring operations referendum with an additional \$775,000 for our district. This is not easy considering our demographics.
8. Please remember that number of \$775,000.
9. This operations referendum was advertised to maintain our current programming. We did not build in extra.
10. We told our public what our financial advisor, Baird, estimated the mill rate would be at with the referendum dollars included, and we have been able to deliver on that promise to our public.
11. As we forecast next year's 2020-21 budget, we have a \$58,000 surplus. This is clearly not a lot. Our budget continues to be very tight.
12. The SDoJ has a board policy stating that our fund balance must not drop below 10% and not be above 20%. The SDoJ Board of Education assures we remain within those reasonable confines.
14. Our district is long and skinny. We can travel 5 miles to the South and be in Fort Atkinson. We can travel 5 miles to the north and be in Johnson Creek. We can travel 7 miles to the west and be in Lake Mills. However, we can travel from Jefferson 14 miles east and still be in the SDoJ. Our largest hub is Jefferson with another hub in Rome/Sullivan. In between is mostly farmland and swamp (not neglecting small Helenville).

After taking these facts into mind, I suggest the following:

1. Keep the PEASD operating for the 2020-21 school year.
2. Allow Eagle to detach and join with Mukwonago for 2021-22.
3. Allow Palmyra to stand on its own as a smaller district starting 2021-22.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tanya Ball
SDOJ Board Member

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Lisa Cheesman <ldcheeseman@ymail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 8:27 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Written Testimony against Dissolution
Attachments: Written Testimony.docx

To the Board,

I would like you to read over my attached written testimony. Thank you for your time and all that you are doing for our children.

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Lisa Ireland
W352S7299 State Road 59
Eagle, WI 53119

Written Testimony against Dissolution

Lisa Ireland

W352S7299 State Road 59 in the Town of Eagle

We Are Against Dissolution

We moved to the Town of Eagle 2 years ago this month. They keep saying this town is a community but honestly if I could pick up my house and land and move it I would.

I don't know much about school boards and the decisions that they have to make. I don't know much about Village boards and if they have anything to do with a school in their district. I would think that the Village Board should somewhat support the school in their district. But one of our Village of Eagle trustee's was the main person heading up the Vote NO for the referendum and the Vote YES to dissolve groups. His family open enrolls to Mukwonago. He is putting the accusations about vandalism out there to his following and it spreads like wild fire. Yet there are no incidents reported to either police departments.

I was approached by a man before the referendum vote I was friendly, listened to what he had to say and kindly said thank you and walked away. These are some of the things he had said to me: If the referendum doesn't pass Eagle will be put into Mukwonago school district. Our property values will go up because we will have 5 star schools. Our taxes will go down and our houses will sell quicker. He knew things about my property which is public information but who takes the time to look that information up to come and try to get votes.

The other half of Eagle won't help coming up with a solution. They want to be put into Mukwonago School District. We have been told our children's opinions and their feelings don't matter in this situation. We have a new neighbor building a house next to us his kids go to Mukwonago he currently lives 2 minutes away in Mukwonago. He told me he bought the land next to me to build on because 3 acres of land in the Town of Eagle cost less than an acre of land in Mukwonago. So the open Enrollment problem is just going to get worse if nothing changes.

Don't get me wrong I don't want PEASD to dissolve and I don't want to live in Mukwonago school district. But I do know that the school district is not going to win this war between the Eagle residents that go to PEASD and the ones that go to MSD. The Mukwonago open enrollment families are looking for a way to get put into the MSD and will do whatever it takes to get what they want.

If there is a way to keep PEASD together please find it. We love our school district! We are losing great teachers because they don't know what is going to happen. They have families to provide for and I understand what they are going through.

Some of the solutions that I have heard from make sense even though I don't like the idea. I don't know the fancy words so bear with me.

1. Putting Eagle into Mukwonago school district and Palmyra into Whitewater.
I know that my family and some others will open enroll into East Troy school district over going to the big schools.
2. Putting Eagle into Mukwonago and keeping Palmyra by itself.
You will definitely have to count on at least 75% of the current MS/HS PEASD families that live in Eagle to open enroll into Palmyra instead of going to Mukwonago. I am not sure how the elementary families would divide up if Mukwonago actually kept Eagle Elementary as is.

So with these two options my children would prefer #2. They will still have a sense of being in their current school with hopefully most of their great teachers and staff. I think the benefits of #2 would help PEASD as follows:

- They wouldn't have to pay out nearly as much open enrollment fees to other school districts and would also be able to collect the open enrollment fees from the Eagle families that do not want to go to Mukwonago.
- They would save money by MSD taking over EES and only have to operate 2 schools. If the elementary school gets full they could move 6th grade to the middle school.

Thank you for your time and everything that you are doing for our children. I'm sorry that our school board wasn't more helpful but from what I seen they didn't seem like they are as experienced as some of the other area school boards.

Sincerely,

The Ireland Family

Lisa and Duncan Ireland

Our 3 children are Nevaeh a Junior, Duncan III a Freshman and Landon a 5th grader.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Diane Knauer <Diane.Knauer@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 5:48 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Written Testimony
Attachments: PEASD Dissolution Document.docx

Attached, please find my written testimony comments regarding dissolution of the PEASD.

Diane Knauer
 W345S6950 State Road 59
 Eagle, WI 53119
 262-470-0993

I do not have children. I would like to take the emotion out of my argument and just present some tax, budget and educational facts from on-line sites that shouldn't benefit from presenting any false or biased information.

I am opposed to paying a large hike in taxes to provide funding to a school district and a school board that have not been good custodians of the taxes I have already paid. **It concerns me that I live in Waukesha County and my school taxes are going to Jefferson County.** I voted against the referendum. Palmyra-Eagle School District already has an over \$12 million dollar annual budget. There are only 604 students left in the entire district. Do they really need more money? Asking for \$11.4 million to keep the doors open (not to expand or improve) begs the question of what happened to the funds that I have already provided? **I am opposed to raising taxes much less raising them \$915 in the fourth year on a \$300,000 home in addition to what we already pay. Who can afford this? Who will continue to buy in the Eagle area?** Palmyra school district is already the highest in the Town of Eagle area (see chart below from <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/globalassets/treasurer/tax-rates-2018.pdf>).

2018 TAX RATES

MUNICIPALITY	SCHOOL DISTRICT	SCHOOL TAX**	STATE TAX*	COUNTY TAX*	LOCAL TAX*	GROSS TOTAL*	STATE CREDIT*	NET PER M*	ASSESS. RATIO*	100% EQUAL*	MA LOT CRE
T. Brookfield	Elmbrook	\$10.67	\$0.00	\$2.24	\$3.99	\$16.90	{1.38}	\$15.52	95.99	\$14.90	
	Waukesha	8.49	0.00	2.24	3.99	\$14.72	{1.38}	\$13.34	95.99	\$12.81	
T. Delafield	Kettle Moraine	10.73	0.00	2.23	1.30	\$14.26	{1.91}	\$12.36	96.42	\$11.91	
	Hartland/Lakeside	9.34	0.00	2.23	1.30	\$12.87	{1.91}	\$10.97	96.42	\$10.58	
	Lake Country	7.54	0.00	2.23	1.30	\$11.07	{1.91}	\$9.16	96.42	\$8.84	
	Waukesha	8.47	0.00	2.23	1.30	\$12.00	{1.91}	\$10.10	96.42	\$9.74	
T. Eagle	Kettle Moraine	10.98	0.00	2.01	1.89	\$14.88	{1.82}	\$13.05	94.11	\$12.28	
	East Troy	10.18	0.00	2.01	1.89	\$14.07	{1.82}	\$12.25	94.11	\$11.52	
	Mukwonago	8.84	0.00	2.01	1.89	\$12.73	{1.82}	\$10.91	94.11	\$10.26	
	Palmyra	12.04	0.00	2.01	1.89	\$15.93	{1.82}	\$14.11	94.11	\$13.28	

When I go to ClearGov on-line, I can only find information for 2017 (don't know if 2018 has been audited yet), but I think it still is valuable. ClearGov says PEASD got \$5,307,715 in total state aid funding in addition to my tax dollars. Why would the state allow a school district to get so far in debt? Where are the checks and balances? This is not only my tax money, but State funding money. **These funds were mismanaged. This did not happen overnight.** ClearGov provides some startling budget information about PEASD compared to similar districts. **Several of the items related to kids' education and teachers' support are lower than other districts and several of the items related to administration are much higher than other districts.** Does the state review school budgets? <https://www.cleargov.com/>

The following chart compares ClearGov 2017 information for PEASD expenditures and Mukwonago expenditures. This information considers that PEASD has 802 students and 122 employees (about 7:1) and Mukwonago has 4916 students and 472 employees (about 10:1).

Budget Item	PEASD Funds	PEASD Compared to Similar Districts	Comment	Mukwonago Funds	Mukwonago Compared To Similar Districts
Instruction	\$4,522,267	15% lower	And they say it is all about the kids!!! If so, this category should be well above similar districts.	\$24,533,783	23% higher

Non-Program Payments	\$2,463,804	322% higher	WOW!!! This category isn't even defined. What are we hiding here?	\$1,527,343	15% higher
Other Finance Uses	\$1,367,113	52% higher	What is this? This is not classified. What are we hiding here?	\$7,067,065	3% higher
Plant Operations & Maintenance	\$1,238,183	36% higher	Why?	\$3,261,128	42% lower
District Leadership and Administration	\$1,143,047	4% higher	Not bad	\$1,871,343	62% lower
School Administrations	\$832,311	137% higher	Something wrong here. Rural school, less students. Some of this money should be going to the kids not into the pockets of the school administrators.	\$2,669,694	6% lower
Transportation	\$693,319	144% higher	Would this be lower if Eagle went to Mukwonago? Mukwonago busses are already in adjoining neighborhoods.	\$2,275,066	2% lower
Instructional Media	\$239,161	6% higher	Good. Could this be even higher?	\$2,152,412	119% higher
Support Services	\$187,337	7% lower	An area that supports the teachers so they can instruct the kids. This is where money should be going.	\$986,387	33% lower
Facilities Acquisition, Construction and Improvement	\$83,061	67% lower	GREAT		
Debt Service	\$82,120	401% higher	WOW!!! And they want more of our tax dollars to abuse?		
Instructional Support and Improvement	\$72,912	69% lower	Do we give the teachers what they need?	\$660,511	54% lower
Pupil Services				\$78,677	96% lower
Employee Benefits	\$67,702	40% lower	How do you attract and keep quality teachers?	\$7,197	99% lower
Instructional Staff Services	\$58,112	54% lower	Do we give the teachers what they need?	\$250,609	56% lower

Looking at the budgets below that I find on the PEASD website, I don't see a noticeable reduction in budget or a reallocation of funds. No attempt to make things better. Notice that the 2019-2020 budget is not on this form. Why not?

**BUDGET PUBLICATION, 2018-19
PALMYRA-EAGLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Notice of Budget Hearing
(Section 66.90(4))**

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District that the budget hearing will be held at the Palmyra-Eagle High School, Community Center, on the 23rd day of October, 2018, at 7:00 pm. The summary of the budget is printed below. Detailed copies of the budget are available for inspection in the District's office at 123 Burr Oak Street, Palmyra, WI 53156 (Door #7).

Dated this 27th day of September, 2018.
Carrie O'Neil, District Clerk

GENERAL FUND	Audited 2016-17	Unaudited 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Beginning Fund Balance	3,119,119.53	2,815,472.38	2,658,378.20
Ending Fund Balance	2,815,472.38	2,658,378.20	2,658,378.20
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Transfers-In (Source 100)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Sources (Source 200)	6,879,889.65	7,367,079.40	7,189,180.00
Inter-district Payments (Source 300 + 400)	228,303.00	165,969.50	164,792.00
Intermediate Sources (Source 500)	10,388.26	0.00	0.00
State Sources (Source 600)	5,426,138.08	4,940,209.98	4,997,436.00
Federal Sources (Source 700)	160,729.44	121,709.06	181,555.00
All Other Sources (Source 800 + 900)	38,353.72	2,125,368.54	30,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	12,743,802.15	14,720,366.48	12,532,963.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2016-17	Unaudited 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Beginning Fund Balance	10,533.84	12,381.50	12,381.50
Ending Fund Balance	12,381.50	12,381.50	12,381.50
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,806,104.95	1,817,987.02	1,917,724.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	1,804,257.29	1,817,987.02	1,917,724.00

DEBT SERVICE FUND	Audited 2016-17	Unaudited 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Beginning Fund Balance	320,890.74	259,817.51	212,510.52
Ending Fund Balance	259,817.51	212,510.52	201,087.52
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,830,456.22	1,517,698.01	2,107,748.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	1,881,329.45	1,565,005.00	2,119,171.00

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2016-17	Unaudited 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Beginning Fund Balance	250,675.25	0.00	0.00
Ending Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	425.41	0.00	0.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	251,100.66	0.00	0.00

FOOD SERVICE FUND	Audited 2016-17	Unaudited 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Beginning Fund Balance	5,333.14	5,333.14	0.00
Ending Fund Balance	5,333.14	0.00	0.00
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	350,895.93	329,885.58	323,490.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	350,895.93	335,218.72	323,490.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND	Audited 2018-17	Unaudited 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Beginning Fund Balance	14,384.34	32,137.85	29,066.00
Ending Fund Balance	32,137.85	29,066.00	0.00
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	103,143.00	106,978.00	133,800.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	85,389.49	110,049.85	162,866.00

Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses

ALL FUNDS	Audited 2018-17	Unaudited 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	17,430,422.12	18,705,721.25	17,056,214.00
Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS	1,357,113.26	1,391,188.79	1,495,744.00
Refinancing Expenditures (FUND 30)	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	16,063,308.86	17,314,532.46	15,560,470.00
PERCENTAGE INCREASE -- NET TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR YEAR		7.79%	-10.13%

PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY

FUND	Audited 2018-17	Unaudited 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
General Fund	6,761,299.00	7,219,036.00	7,016,692.00
Referendum Debt Service Fund	1,179,455.00	1,383,120.00	1,738,658.00
Non-Referendum Debt Service Fund	122,170.00	121,204.00	118,502.00
Capital Expansion Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Service Fund	98,088.00	98,088.00	125,000.00
TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY	8,161,012.00	8,621,448.00	8,998,852.00
PERCENTAGE INCREASE -- TOTAL LEVY FROM PRIOR YEAR		5.64%	4.38%

I actually hear good things about the elementary schools. The elementary schools are in our neighborhoods. Keep them open; keep the teachers working. All the bad reports I hear and read about are regarding the High School. Many Eagle kids already opt out and go to Mukwonago High school. Because of this, I am in favor of dissolving PEASD unless you can fix the budget and the education **TODAY**. **BAIL OUT ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND YOU WILL NEED TO BAIL THEM ALL OUT**. This is not a good use of taxpayers' money.

Looking at U.S. News and World Report 2019 statistics, Palmyra-Eagle High School does not come close to Mukwonago High School. U.S. News and World Report ranks 17,245 high schools nationally and 517 high schools in Wisconsin. <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/wisconsin> This information reflects how the districts are educating our children. If it is all about the kids, this information should be eye-opening. This is not just word of mouth or rumors that Mukwonago is better than Palmyra-Eagle. This is the information you find published on the internet. **This school is failing our kids.**

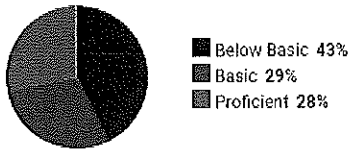
Category	Palmyra-Eagle	Mukwonago
National Ranking	10,707	1,253
Wisconsin High School Ranking	301	35
Area High Schools	6 of 7 (Watertown Metro Area)	22 of 93 (Milwaukee Metro Area)
Mathematics Proficiency	28%	55%
Reading Proficiency	30%	55%
College Readiness Nationally	5,217	1,101
Math and Reading Proficiency Nationally	12,892	1,951
Math and Reading Performance	16,050	5,115
Percentile Score on ACT and ACT Aspire	25.2% (Rated well below expectations)	88.8% (Rated somewhat above expectations)
National Percentile on College-Level Exams	71.2%	93.9%

While some might want to say that it shouldn't be difficult for Mukwonago to rank high compared to schools in the core district of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Metro Area list contains Whitefish Bay High, Homestead High, Brookfield East High, Arrowhead High, Nicolet High, Shorewood High, Germantown High, Grafton High, and on and on. If you look at the state ratings and the national ratings, this is a moot point.

Here are the Palmyra-Eagle charts:

Here are the Mukwonago charts:

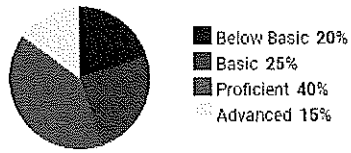
Math Proficiency Distribution



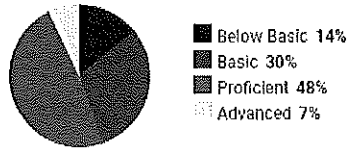
Reading Proficiency Distribution



Math Proficiency Distribution



Reading Proficiency Distribution



Where would you send your own children to prepare them for college and the real world?

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Jim and Carol Dixon <jcdixon_2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 3:49 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Letter re: Dissolution of Palmyra-Eagle School District

December 2, 2019

Dear Members of the SDBAB,

We have lived in the Village of Palmyra for 53 years. We are very much opposed to dissolving our school district because it is the heart and center of our community. It is the source of so much pride and spirit. Since 1931, the identity and history of Palmyra has been closely tied to its schools.

Thousands of former students have fond memories of being educated here. Among them are our 2 daughters who both received a solid education in Palmyra and graduated with high honors from Carroll College. One became a psychiatrist and the other a business manager. Because it was a small school, they weren't just another number that could get lost in the crowd. Their caring teachers really got to know our girls and to develop their talents. They were both able to make many lasting friendships as well.

Jim has experienced a large school system where a student could be easily overlooked. He felt cheated by the limited number of openings for sports. We both think that it's better to be a big fish in a small pond. So we worry that our Palmyra and Eagle students will not be fully accepted and effectively integrated into a large school system. Another concern we have are the longer bus rides that many of these students would need to take. It's distressing that those who want "school choice" for their children have now forced a "no choice" dictate on everyone else.

As a business owner, Jim realizes that the economy and real estate values will be adversely affected by the loss of local schools. As a former teacher and principal, Carol objects to having children uprooted from their familiar surroundings and separated from their established friendships. These are some of the reasons that we voted "Yes" in the April referendum and "No" on the November ballot.

Surely, solutions can be found that would help the Palmyra-Eagle School District survive and thrive. Some of the options to consider are a 4-day week school schedule and increased state aids for small rural districts. Dissolving Palmyra-Eagle School District is not the answer.

Thank you for all the time and effort you are putting into resolving this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

Jim & Carol Dixon

416 Zinnia Avenue
Palmyra, WI 53156
(262) 337-1477

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Jeanne <koopmanjeanne@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 2:39 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI

My husband and I are lifelong residents of Eagle WI. We both were graduates of Mukwonago High School, with me being the last class to graduate from there before Eagle switched to Palmyra becoming Palmyra-Eagle. What I like about our PE District is the "family" closeness. Everyone willing to help everyone and anywhere it's needed. I retired from working at PE in food services after 31 years. We have 7 grandchildren 2 already graduated and 5 more in the district. They love the school and the teachers and would be devastated if it closed. Our 2 children are PE grads. Living here all our lives we have watched the subdivisions popping up around Eagle, many coming from the city not even giving our school a look because they were sure with Mukwonago down the road it had to be better. Not true the PE family is the greatest. Please please help our family stay.

Ken and Jeanne Koopman.

234

Maple St.

Eagle Wi.

Koopmanjeanne@aol.com

Sent from my iPhone

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Stacy Vick <vchevygrl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 1:50 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: In favor of dissolving

Hello,

I've been a resident of Eagle for 9 years after living in Waukesha my whole life. We moved out here to start our family, to be closer to friends, a smaller community and affordability.

Reasons I am in favor for dissolving the current school district:

1. The voters of Eagle have voted twice now to dissolve. 1st was in April when we were asked to pass a maintenance only referendum or the district would have to dissolve (yes, most people who voted "no" understood dissolving was a huge possibility) and again in November 2019. Both times Eagle residents have voted in favor to dissolve but our votes don't seem to be taken seriously.
2. The district is broke money wise. A referendum to only keep the doors open is not a plan. It's a temporary bandaid at best. And the amount per taxpayer yearly is outrageous. It would push people out of their homes and deter new people from moving to this area. Which would only create more of a domino effect all around.
3. Mukwonago middle school and HS school are rated much higher than PEASD's. Palmyra-Eagle's middle school is barely meeting state expectations. And yet summer school was canceled. That's not ok. With the teacher to student ratio all of Palmyra-Eagle district should be off the charts and scoring much higher. Those wanting to keep the district open, this is one of their pluses but yet the state scores don't show smaller classes as an advantage. Why would a parent continue to send their kids to a subpar district when next door (Mukwonago) is a far superior one with more options, opportunities and at a lower cost to tax payers?
4. 50 years ago Eagle and Palmyra combined because they were agricultural communities. That made sense back then. Times have changed. Farmlands are up for sale everywhere. This district hasn't kept up with the changes and doesn't offer the appropriate classes to help our kids after they graduate. It's time for both communities to split and join larger districts for better opportunities and funds.
5. Part of Eagle is already in Mukwonago's district boundary. The other Eagle students, about 200 students (I believe is the current number), have already open enrolled into Mukwonago. Small towns like Vernon, Big Bend and North Prairie are already apart of the Mukwonago district and have kept their small town identities. Eagle needs to join Mukwonago as well so we keep growing and getting new families in while maintaining lower property taxes.
6. EES has a high state score card. If they were to join under the Mukwonago district EES would have more funds and more opportunities to continue improving and being one of the better elementary schools in the district. Which is a major bonus for new families looking to move out here.
7. Eagle and Palmyra are just two different communities that no longer belong together. And that's ok. If DPI handles this better than the ultimatum that the board proposed with the April referendum (give us money or we close), these two communities can begin to heal and stop having such anger towards each other. But both communities need to be looked at as separates

now and not 1 district. What's best for Eagle and the kids? What's best for Palmyra and the kids?

It's sad to see such wonderful communities fight and disagree. This whole district situation as turned very ugly for so many. Unfortunately the district has come to an end financially. It's time to dissolve and allow everyone to heal and move on to better futures.

Thank you for your time,
Stacy Wirth
909 Bedford Street
Eagle, WI 53119
262-366-1436

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Angie Yamashita <yamashita.angie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 11:36 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: In Favor of Dissolution

People keep saying that Palmyra and Eagle are so different—I disagree. I think we are 2 towns, bound by a school district, who want the very best for our children and our communities. The difference lies within how we define the “very best”.

Palmyra has stated that they desire their schools to be rural, with small class sizes and in a district that has served generations of their family. Palmyra is fortunate enough to have an elementary school, middle school and high school in the center of their community. I don’t find it odd that they are desperate to keep it. Seeing as PEASD was established in Palmyra in 1896, I don’t fault the community for having deep emotional ties to the schools. There is something sentimental about sending generations of family through the same school.

Eagle is in quite different situation geographically and historically. Eagle is in Waukesha County and many community members work in surrounding cities. We do not have a grocery store or hardware store or fast food like in Palmyra. For the most part, shopping is done in the neighboring town of Mukwonago. Many Eagle residents pass through Mukwonago multiple times a day and patronize the businesses there almost exclusively. Historically speaking, Eagle has only been a part of PEASD for 48 years, a far cry from when Palmyra founded the district 123 years ago. Just as Palmyra can’t be faulted for being attached to a school that’s housed 4+ generations of students, I don’t feel Eagle can or should be faulted to **not** be sentimental. The school district has been in our community for less than 2 generations.

The district is in dire straits financially and emotionally. There is no money left to keep the schools afloat and nearly all trust between Eagle and Palmyra has been vanquished. The only way out of this situation is through. The district must be dissolved in order for either community to have any sort of outcome that will satisfy them. Thank you.

Angie Yamashita

Eagle, WI

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Candi Olson <koehncandi7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 9:02 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Panther Proud!

Hello, my name is Candi Olson. I graduated from PEHS in 2007. Myself, as well as all my siblings and my parents and there siblings all attended PEASD, we bleed Purple. My parents and I even shared some of the same teachers, Mr. Wilde, Mr. Frehner, Mrs. Fischer; and than there's the ones who will leave an everlasting place in my heart because they were there when no one else was especially Mrs Carol Rausch who I was an office aide for for 4 years. My older brother was a football player, a wrestler and in band. I myself participated in track and was an office aide for 4 years in high school and graduates with honors. My middle brother was an athlete and made it to state in wrestling. My youngest brother is the most grateful for Palmyra- Eagle, he has been through some hard times and without the support of this school and the faculty that truly cares, I deeply wonder how it will affect him- he's only 12!

I have not lived in the Palmyra area for 3 years, but I have been following this closely. I hope that you understand that even though I base my case on mostly emotions- Palmyra Eagle deserves to be here. They fight hard for there students, they don't give up, and sometimes they are all that we have. As a community, we've been divided. Money has become more important than the well being of a small town and the need for community. Losing the school district can greatly devastate our small town pride. Money shouldn't be all that matters. Please, State of Wisconsin put our students first, please understand that there are still people who live in and support that community and have been active in it for years. The thought of coming home on vacation and not being able to show my children my school and where the start of my life began is heartbreaking to me. We need to make sure that education and the well being of students and the community are in place. I bleed purple and will always have Panther Pride.

Thank you,
Candi Olson

Sent from my iPhone

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Paige Flanagan <Paige.Flanagan@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 11:11 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Against Dissolution of Palmyra-Eagle School District

Importance: High

Hello,

My name is Paige Flanagan. I am writing to vocalize opposition of the Palmyra-Eagle School District dissolution.

I am an alum of Palmyra-Eagle High School, and I grew up in the Palmyra area my entire life.

Middle and high school are generally thought to be some of the hardest parts of people's lives, with so many personal and social changes taking place in those years. I was no exception. In fact, various personal situations caused those to be particularly challenging years of my life. To this day, I look back on those high school years and offer so many silent thank you's to the teachers who offered me patience and assistance.

Here is why the school district was so beneficial for me: the small classes, personable teachers, and a great sense of community, among many other things. The small classes allowed for one-on-one attention. I was able to ask for help and get help whenever I needed. I was more apt to ask for help because of the personable teachers at the schools. The individualized attention everyone was allowed created meaningful professional relationships with teachers/staff members. The teachers took time to get to know their students — they weren't just a number or a name. With that, there was a great sense of community in the school and outside the school that positively contributed to my education. The more time people got to spend quality time with one another in school, at school events, or in other parts in the community, the more people felt engaged and motivated to enhance their education/wellbeing/relationships, etc.

Having a close-knit community is imperative to kids' education and wellbeing. Knowledge, support, and resiliency are parts of small communities like Palmyra / Eagle - whether built in to the curriculum, beyond the school day, or on the field. Those aforementioned factors help students become strong, accomplished, and compassionate adults.

In fact, I consider myself to be a strong, accomplished, and compassionate adult. After attending Palmyra-Eagle High School, I attended a private college for my undergraduate and graduate degree to become a licensed psychotherapist (mental health therapist). I thank Palmyra-Eagle High School for helping me make that dream happen. That opportunity should be available for current and future students as well.

Please consider the negative effects a dissolution would have on the students, community members, and nearby neighborhoods and keep the Palmyra-Eagle School District open. The education and wellbeing of students depend on it.

Thank you.

Best,

Paige Flanagan, MS, LPC-IT, SAC-IT, NCC, CCTP | Mental Health Therapist | T: (414) 248-7613

Paige Flanagan
1505 Wisconsin Ave., 206A
Grafton, WI 53024
(414) 248-7613

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Mac <mac84359@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 10:22 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: School Dissolution

December 4, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the dissolution efforts started by our incompetent school board and district administrator.

As a lifelong resident of this school district I have voted against the previous referendum that increased our already high taxes in a time of declining enrollment...

This in no way means I am for the dissolution of the local school. The school needs to figure out how to balance their budget to make ends meet in the same fashion as the private sector does.

I currently have a child enrolled in the school district, and I am pleased with his education. I have nothing against the curriculum and have sent multiple of my children to the school.

The district administrator and entire school board should be removed from their positions for allowing this to happen to the district while under their watch.

How can administrative costs continually increase while enrollment decreases?

It's like the school board and administrator are the captain of the Titanic and have no common sense approach to their runaway spending.

Sincerely,
Mac Dempsey

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: James Walslager <jwalslagerjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 6:45 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Email regarding PEASD dissolution

Hi,

This email is in regards to the SDBAB hearings going on for PEASD.

I respectfully ask you to confirm the dissolution request by the PEASD board.

As a community member and taxpayer, the Palmyra community alone cannot afford a referendum or a tax increase. As communicated between the PEASD board member emails, obtained through the open records request, they as well as we know this to be fact. They know that Palmyra cannot afford to be a stand-alone district. With 30% of the population on fixed-income, and 30% of the population at or below poverty level, tax increases will make everyone suffer. The community is already looking at a \$50 to \$100 increase per month for utilities based on village board meeting communications.

The best option I've seen presented is the East-West solution, that will keep buildings opened and operating in both of the current communities, divide the debt, and not increase the mill rate for Whitewater, per their November 18th board meeting video online, stabilize the Palmyra mill rate, and lower the mill rate for the Eagle/Mukwonago community.

We voted twice already and hope you will affirm the dissolution request.

James Walslager

Palmyra

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Martens, Courtney A., R.N. <Martens.Courtney@mayo.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 5:53 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Cc: 'sfischer14@gmail.com'
Subject: My PEHS experience

To the SDBAB,

I sit here at my desk at the Mayo Clinic reflecting on my time in the Palmyra- Eagle Area School District. The thought of PEASD no longer existing makes me very sad for the kids who are currently attending and everyone who's lives were impacted by it, including my own. I would not be where or who I am today without the experiences I had in this small school district. There are those that have the erroneous impression that a small school limits a person's choices and opportunities in life; I, however, know firsthand that this is not the case. In this small school I was many things, I was a 12 sport athlete, I was an honors student and valedictorian, I was an artist, I was a band participant, a volunteer, and many other things. I was allowed the privilege of many opportunities others at bigger schools are not simply due to the sheer volume of students, and because of that I was able to get into my dream school and eventually my dream job. I graduated with a near 4.0 in the School of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin- Madison and then locked down a job at the #1 hospital in the country 3 months before graduation. I wouldn't have been able to do it without the support I received from my teachers who knew me by name and cared if I succeeded in life. I learned how to be a team player, a hard worker, a quick learner and how to ask questions when I needed help because of the one of a kind culture at PEASD. That culture allows kids to feel supported and valued as the individual they are. It allows kids to feel safe in their environment and to be whoever they want to be. That says a lot for what we hear about other schools in the state and country, not many are so lucky. To get rid of this environment would be a tragedy in a world of hostility, where kids do not feel safe at school.

I am a 3rd generation Martens to have attended PEASD, this school district is more than just that to me. My father, who spent his whole life in Palmyra, was so proud to send his girls to this school. All three of my sisters will have attended but sadly my youngest sister, Allison, may have to be ripped from her friends, her teachers, her sports teams, etc., for her senior year. Not only will this impact the community of Palmyra but the surrounding schools that will have to make major changes to accommodate the influx of students; potentially giving those teachers less one on one time with their existing students, increasing class sizes, less playing time for those students in sports and participation in other activities, transportation to school, just to name a few. This will be putting financial and logistical stress on these school districts, destroying not only the community in Palmyra but the communities of these schools. In my opinion there are absolutely no benefits to this dissolution.

Please do what you can to keep PEASD alive,
I bleed purple for life,

Courtney Martens, RN BSN
3043 Towne Club Parkway SE
Rochester, MN 55904
920-728-1482

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Tlc L <tlc41108@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 3:51 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Dissolution
Attachments: Letter to DPI.docx

Please see the attached letter asking for the school not to dissolve.

Thank you
Carrie Loftin
122 S. 8th St.
Palmyra, WI 53156
414-333-6211

December 4, 2019

Hello,

I am against the dissolution of Palmyra-Eagle Schools and my request is to please do what is necessary to keep our school community alive. I no longer have children at the school but the small-town experience that we have had makes me proud to be a Panther.

When I first moved to Palmyra my son was in 1st grade. I was concerned that he would be missing out on things you can experience from a bigger school and even contemplated sending him to a neighboring district. After a long discussion, we decided to give the small school a chance, although the big-time school could possibly offer more at the school, it also has more opportunities for bad behavior. Believe me, I know. My husband and I grew up in West Allis and attended the big schools. I experienced **way too many things** that I pray my children will never have too. I am thrilled that we made the right decision to stay with our community school. Not only did my son have the best experience, we also made many lifelong friends.

I have the experience of the big school and being just a number and forgotten in the crowd. I've made my fair share of bad choices without notice. How can you know a student when you have so many in one single class? I also have a daughter that went to a big school. We didn't take advantage of any extracurricular activities. It was a big place and we just prayed we could make it to graduation. No special attention from any teachers, no opportunities for healthy social activities. Granted, that is on us to find and participate in but it's harder when you're trying to find your place with the cliques in the big schools. Now at the age of 31, my daughter has been to WAY too many funerals for people her age that have died from a heroin overdose. I'm pretty sure the number is in the upper 20's. I know drugs can happen in any community, but again, the smaller the population, the more people you know, the more likely it is to stop it before it is out of hand.

All these beautiful children in Palmyra and Eagle have been listening to how the school they go to is inadequate. How unfair is that? Adults are bashing each other over this and losing friendships. These adults are not setting a good example, and our children are hearing the bashing on how 'stupid' our children are. If adults are acting badly, how are you making your child feel? Think of the 5-year-old that is excited to begin her new life at school and all you hear is how there are bullies and you can't learn anything. How horrifying that must be.

Any bullying is inexcusable and unfortunately goes on everywhere. Go to a big school, there are more students and more bullies. In a small school it's easier to keep an eye on things that are going on, and hopefully is stopped before extreme situations happen like, school shootings, mental and physical abuse, rape and-God forbid-suicide. Drug problems with prescription drugs and heroine are a bigger concern in the big city schools. When the population increases, so does the opportunity of bad choices and negative social actions. In one day just this week, 2 schools on the same day had an active shooting situation.

Bullies are everywhere, even at the jobs that we go to every day as adults. There is no tolerance for bullying in schools and that needs to be addressed everywhere you go. However, if anyone felt they were bullied at Palmyra, I'd love to hear their story if they went to a big school. I am not trying to make an excuse and say that it's OK. Since it is a topic of discussion that continues to be brought up, I wanted to add my thoughts on it.

If a piece of a neighboring community doesn't want to be a part of the Palmyra-Eagle school district, there is no need to bash the intelligence of students, families, and staff. There are better ways of asking for your wants and needs and it's not up to them to tell me where to send my child for their education. School is also about social skills, being involved in your community, and molding into adulthood. My son is now attending UW Whitewater and is doing fantastic! A parent can only do so much when your child is in school associating with the other students and staff that will have a big impact on their life choices. The number of children in Palmyra that go onto college is another reflection of the great works of the small-town school.

I read a comment about the money spent on Post Grad and Post Prom activities and how it could have gone to better use like books. I volunteered time for fundraising and donated money for that. Imagine the great memories that were made during the time the kids spent with each other.

I wish I had that when I was in high school. We had parties at our prom and graduation. I would have loved the opportunity to spend an evening with friends staying up all night in a safe environment and not at a wild party.

Before the school and community were blindsided with the news of the needed referendum, my husband and I talked about selling our house and moving out of the village. Our son was a senior and we technically are done with living around school schedules. We are across the street from the park and around the corner from the school so our house would be ideal for a growing family entering school. We decided that we love the community and want to remain part of Panther Pride so decided to stay until we retire. If there is no school, who would want to buy our house and live in town?

Not to mention, my husband has been a basketball coach for the last 9+ years and although our son is now moved onto college, we love the small school and want to continue to help make a difference in some of the lives a coach can touch. The excitement of attending events continues even after you no longer have children in the school.

We look forward to the Memorial Day parade with the high school band and the homecoming parades and watching the happiness in the kid's face when they are part of something. Without a school, what will the parades be like in a small town?

My son was in the plays all through grade school which helped him build friendships from grade school all the way up to the high school students. It gave him the confidence to be in front of a crowd and excitement when my 4th grader could be friends with the senior in high school. When my shy little boy in grade school was friends with the high school boy that was successful in everything he did, it made my son want to be like his new role model. He attempted and succeeded. We were in Walmart in Whitewater recently and a family from Palmyra that we don't even know stopped to tell him how they loved watching him in basketball, asked him about the golf team, and congratulated him on going to state for Track. They even knew that he is now attending UW Whitewater and is part of the college Track team. They were true fans of him. I don't know if that would happen in a bigger school or community, but it felt pretty amazing for both of us.

My son is more than just an athlete. He was part of the Math 24 club in grade school. (which makes him crazy good at math now). He was in the plays in grade school, in band in middle school, involved in the church with friends that he was in school with. He played football, was on the golf team, played baseball all through grade school, basketball and Track. I'm pretty sure he wouldn't be a part of all those things in a bigger school. At least not in depth as he was in Palmyra.

My son went to the state track meet in La Cross that is hours away. One of his teachers and the principal showed up to support and cheer him on. It brought tears to my eyes! She knew him on a level like no other. If he was having a bad day, she knew and talked to him, if he was having a great day, she let him know that she could see his joy. I have never experienced the love from a teacher to her students, and that can save a child's life.

If there is no school, the businesses will also be impacted. When you live in the middle of nowhere and you come from another town for a play, a sporting event, band competition, art shows, you use the gas stations in town, you go to the local restaurants, and the kids all go to Subway after school. The people in the community without their own children that want to be the bus driver to take the kids to the games because they enjoy them will no longer have that opportunity.

I'm not sure if any part of my story will have any kind of impact but it was something I needed to share. I can only add my request to please make some hard financial, staffing, and other changes, whatever that may be, to keep our small community together and alive with the school. I've read so many letters with so many valid points like the extra time busing your kindergartener that can be so scary for a parent and a child. It's not just a school, and it won't only have an impact on the children. It's about the small-town family that sticks together. For the people that said Palmyra will whine and cry and put too much emotions and feelings into their plea to save the school, if you remove the love for your community, emotions and feelings, what kind of world do you want to live in?

It's sad that Scott Hoff continues to ask to dissolve. Shouldn't the school board fight for who they represent? The first change in keeping the school alive will have to be the school board that has absolutely no faith.

I'm sure you are aware of what benefits you get with both the big school and the small school. We all have our trust in you to make the best choice for everyone involved.

Thank you,

Carrie Loftin
122 S. 8th St.
Palmyra, WI 53156
414-333-6211

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Alaina Ford <alainaloreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Letter to DPI
Attachments: dpiletter.pdf

To whom it may concern;

Please see the letter attached.

Thank you,
Alaina Ford

11/21/2019

To whom it may concern;

My name is Alaina and I am a proud graduate from PEASD in 2005. I no longer live in the PEASD community but, I feel compelled to write this letter to you all to voice my concerns over the dissolution of my former school district.

The accusations of PEASD being a terrible school district to raise a family and where students receive a subpar education is not only hurtful to those of us who received an education there, it is untrue. I was privy to attending both Palmyra and Eagle elementary schools. I started my schooling in Palmyra for kindergarten and first grade, went to Eagle for second through early fifth grade, and completed fifth grade through senior year back at Palmyra. As a former student, I can tell you, test scores ARE NOT everything. The teachers and staff at PEASD make the school and its students thrive.

Our teachers and the school staff genuinely cared about us, as people, not just what we could score on a test. I moved to the Eagle side of the district in second grade due to my parents divorcing. The school counselors were there for me and my younger sister where other adults were not. They helped us cope, to manage our emotions, and work through a life event like we needed. Some of my fellow classmates were going through the same home-life situation; some of those people are still good friends of mine to this day because of those sessions. The time these professionals were able to devote to us will not be so readily available in a larger school district. The larger school districts simply have too many students to allow their staff to spend the time needed to help their students cope with life-events such as divorce.

PEASD not only taught me academically but they taught me how to be a good, charitable, community minded person. In 2003 I started running the blood drives at the high school with Mrs. Froehlich. I continued to run the blood drives until the year after I graduated. In 2011 I started to run blood drives at my financial institution office in Waukesha until 2016. We still host blood drives a couple of times per year but, I no longer host them. I am still a very active member of my communities, 15 years after graduation, because of what I was taught in school. I am an active member of a Lions Club, I serve as a Board of Director on a sub-committee for the Village of Big Bend, I volunteer with my local chamber of commerce, and am a passionate volunteer for the Relay for Life organization.

PEASD also taught me what it means to genuinely care for people because of the compassion showed by my teachers throughout all of my years in PEASD. I've been out of school for a long time and my best friends, who were my best friends on the day of graduation, and many, many years before, are still my best friends. Our school not only gave us the education we needed and deserved but taught us

11/21/2019

invaluable lessons of people, of friendship, and now I fear our future generations won't be given the same opportunities we had in a small community school district that I personally loved so much. This makes me really sad for current and future students.

I'm asking you, as a former student, to not only look at the test scores. Look at the community, look at the alumni who are thriving in the world today. We are proof the education system of PEASD works. Some of us are bankers, some of us are doctors, some of us are lawyers, some of us are nurses, some of us serve in the armed forces, some of us manage and run our own companies and those are just examples from my graduating class. Think of all the good other classes put out into the world too.

ALL school districts have bullies, ALL school districts have students that excel and students who don't learn as quickly, ALL districts make a bad decision here or there regarding funding, NO school district deserves to be closed down completely. Without a school in Palmyra, I am fearful of the economy for the local businesses. What would prompt a family to move to the community if they have to ship their children over 20 minutes away for school every day? If I had young children, I would choose a different community to live in.

Please consider the good PEASD students have done and will continue to do in the future with what we've learned from our school and please, consider the community before you choose to shut down our school.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alaina", written in black ink.

Alaina

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Jamie Skelton <jdskelton7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 2:58 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for keeping our elementary and secondary school system operational in Palmyra. I am a long term resident of Palmyra, having grown up in the area, attended Palmyra schools and chose to live in Palmyra, where I send my child to school. After attending Palmyra schools, I continued my education at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater.

When my husband and I bought our first home in Palmyra in 2001, we fully intended to remodel, sell and move elsewhere, however, as we became more involved with the community and later, the schools when we sent our son, we realized that there was no better place to raise a child than Palmyra and no better situation for him academically.

Our son happens to have special challenges, having been diagnosed with ADHD at the age of 8. His teacher, the support staff and administration has been enthusiastically involved in assisting us in finding solutions and options to help our son achieve his academic goals, while also addressing his emotional needs and social skill sets that are often impacted by ADHD. I am aware of children in other districts with similar challenges who have not received the type of attention and support that my son has received, including the day to day mentoring, academic assistance and attentive encouragement that have been key in his demonstrated success.

I, too, was educated in Palmyra and I remember how wonderful it was to be able to attend a community school, where I was not just one of hundreds of children, but instead, a known and recognized community member – young and still in school, but still a member of something bigger than myself, but not so big that I felt lost or disconnected. Thankfully, my child is benefiting from a similar scenario where he is known to all of the teachers and staff, as are his peers. My son and his friends also know that after school, they can readily connect with a teacher, a staff member or a fellow student in a setting that is based in their community, close to home.

I have additional concerns regarding transportation and the disruption the scheduling will bring should a change occur. If we are required to bus our children to a neighboring district, my son will have to board the bus at the time he currently wakes up for school. As you may be aware, multiple studies indicate that not getting enough sleep is associated not only with health risks, but also with poor academic performance. Bussing him to a neighboring school we mean he will have to wake up at least 1.5 hours earlier than he does currently in order to board the bus on time, embarking on a minimum 45 minute ride to school. If Palmyra schools are closed, we will have no choice but to drive our son to school, significantly impacting our family's morning obligations and driving for at least 30-40 minutes each day, each way. This is unacceptable when the alternative is to keep our Palmyra schools open and operated by excellent teachers and caring, knowledgeable administrative staff. The proximity of the neighboring schools to our community will discourage student and parents alike from extracurricular activities and social events that have been historically recognized as critically important in the development of well-rounded young people.

The affect will not be limited to just parents and students – the community itself will be impacted as well. Studies have demonstrated that rural communities with school systems have higher housing values and better infrastructure. I am concerned for Palmyra and the potential affect this might have on our close knit community both in terms of the identity of our town, as well as our finances. The bond we share as a community has been fostered by our town's ability to provide residents with everything they need – from housing to groceries to church services to fulfilling their educational needs. I believe that by alleviating basic services, such as educating our youth locally, we run the risk of discouraging

potential new residents from considering Palmyra as a place to raise a family, be connected, grounded within our town – and ultimately, to pay taxes, to help support and subsidize our community.

We strongly urge you to work toward a solution to keep our schools operational.

Thank you,
Michael and Jamie Skelton
W268 Pine Dr.
Palmyra, WI 53156
262.510.3360

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Holly deBack-Walslager <marketingsolutionsbyholly@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 2:38 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Approve to Dissolve PE
Attachments: DPI SDBAB letter.pdf

Hello,

Attached is a copy of the testimony I gave at a recent hearing. Please review my submission & testimony and move to approve the dissolution of PE so we can move forward in what is best for ALL students currently residing in the PE district.

Thank you,

November 14, 2019

RE: PE Dissolution

In favor of Dissolution & the east west solution being offered by Whitewater & Mukwonago

Dear SDBAB board,

This testimony/letter is in regards to the dissolution process you are in charge of. As a constituent of the PE district, I felt it my duty to share a few facts and information, amongst the half-truths and emotions that are rampant. I come before you to represent the many students and adults who were (& still are) bullied at the hands of the PE clan. First thank you for the hard job ahead of you, we trust you will do what's in the best interest for ALL STUDENTS, including the 409 resident students that currently open enroll out of PE. I implore you to dissolve the district, so that the two districts offering to educate the students, while keeping schools OPENED in both communities & taking on the 12 million in debt is a win/win for EVERYONE. We will still have a local community school in both communities; businesses and organizations will still be frequented and supported against popular spin & belief.

We need to look at this challenge in front of us as a business, not the emotion filled district that has been holding us hostage for years with miss-managed funds, missing funds (money was donated by a local business for a program that was never implemented, where did it go?), nepotism, half-truths; and even lies according to the open records obtained; as well as excessive bullying by the adults & students alike.

Living in Palmyra & being one of the approximately 1/3 in favor of dissolution in Palmyra (Yes, we voted twice already, and I understand this is the "process" we now must do, but please make sure to consider the previous two votes of the constituents when rendering a decision) I myself have been bullied since last year, when I started asking questions in regards to the referendum. You see I was originally a yes vote for the April referendum, because "it was for the kids" I was told, and of course we want to support the students. Then I saw a vote no sign & wondered why? I quickly was told to be quiet & that my questions and opinions didn't matter as I was not on the "right side" any longer. I have emails, VMs, security camera footage of the bullying, slander, and vilification. I have receipts for car repairs after having my personal property vandalized & more. I have also had a federal offense committed against me (also on video & recording) in an attempt to silence me. Most recently I was fired from my volunteer job (have the recordings & letters to that affect as well) & then an email was sent out to the community telling everyone that I quit. You see once I started asking questions, I was a threat to the status quo, I canvassed & tried to educate people in Palmyra on the consequences of a yes or no vote for the April referendum & how it would affect the 30% of retired people living on fixed incomes & the 30% living at or below the poverty level in Palmyra. While canvassing & talking with others in the community I learned more about the community and heard story after story by parents of students that had to leave the district because they were bullied beyond repair while those in authority turned a blind eye. I heard a story from a parent who said his daughter was bullied so bad she had to drop out & since it was mid semester, with no option to open enroll or transfer, she had to get a GED which limited her post-secondary education options; mind you this was a student from quite a few years ago. The student was blamed when they struggled in school, as was the parent, according to what they shared with me. I even heard a story of student that tried to commit suicide because of this bullying. At a recent SDBAB hearing I heard similar testimony of a past PE student who also said that her pleas for help to staff fell upon deaf ears, and the bullying continued & escalated. THIS is the underbelly of PE! Fall in line or we will make your life horrible. **This is a HUGE reason why many of the 40% open enroll out.** I can't even imagine what some of those students (WHO the school is required to educate & PROTECT) have had to endure. Based on my experience the adults have taught the younger generations very well! I even had the spouse of a school board member try to intimidate & slander me on digital and then tried to back paddle when called out on it, such great behavior from our role models for students. All these things have been allowed to happen for too long & it is time the DPI steps in & does what BEST for ALL students, not just the ones in control. Speaking of the 40% OE out rate, those in favor will say it is because of the failed referendum, but it was approximately 35% prior to that. With a state average of 2% what the heck is going on in this district? And why are there so many sealed records? Teachers having inappropriate relations with students, and more.

As far as quality education, why does the middle school have a failing grade of 60% according to the recently released DPI report cards? The report says "meets few expectations", reflect what I just said earlier about the bullies, that might help answer that question. The district as a whole was just given a 3-star rating by the DPI (NOT the 4-star rating the propaganda machine is pushing out, or trying to deflect by conveniently not sharing the WHOLE TRUTH). Both Whitewater & Mukwonago are higher rated schools than Palmyra.

Let's talk about MORE facts, the fact Palmyra can NOT afford a district on its own (see my above statistics on the poverty level and the % on fixed income in Palmyra.), which is what some in Palmyra are now pushing. We cannot afford another referendum, or more tax increases. Palmyra is NOT one big happy community. The approximately 30% of us who voted against the referendum can't go to local businesses, we don't get waited on. We can't go to school football games or plays, or support a bake sale, we are not welcome. This to is a community divided, I personally have been told by some of the very letter writers to move, I don't belong here & I'm not wanted here. But they have no problem wanting and taking my money for the school or dam repair in the community. As far as NOT being able to afford a district, contrary to other untruths being shared that the mill rates are 9.9% for PE, and that the taxes will go up if assigned to Whitewater is NOT true. The mill rates were just obtained (the paperwork was SIGNED on November 7, 2019 by Carrie Ollis, PE school board member, MORE trying to hide the truth) and it is 11.21% for PE, and LESS than if we are forced to stay opened & endure referendum after referendum just to keep the doors opened. PE is spending over \$13 million in their budget to educate 604 kids, that's an average of 21,000 PER student vs a 12,000 state wide average & they don't have enough? That is excessive, and now PE wants a bail out from the government? NO dissolve & let's move forward in healing.

In closing districts and lawmakers involved with the east-west solution plans are trying to be prepared with funding and solutions to help ALL students. Contrary to the Whitewater presentation on November 21, if you go to their website & watch the school board meeting dated November 18, 2019 you will hear the board openly discussing they have a solution, but don't want to offend the Palmyra people who they have seen in action & want a smooth transition. They even speak of transferring some current Whitewater district students to a Palmyra building should they obtain Palmyra students and a building. The east-west solution is a win/win for everyone. This solution will also keep the mill rate under control for everyone in the Palmyra area & it will lower for Eagle should they be assigned to Mukwonago.

We did not create this problem, and those who scream we don't care, we do. And we are looking for & offering viable solutions, not just screaming (and interrupting others while they testify) save us or "we're not leaving". You may be sad about dissolution, we all are. I am very sad at the way the young people are being bullied and scarred, used as weapons for an agenda of those who don't want change, and don't want to give up control, or secrets. Truth is PE cannot afford its \$3 million in OE annually and \$12 million in debt. Stop throwing more money on a lost district! PE has the highest taxes around and the worst academics per DPI records.

The sooner people start working together for the sake of ALL students, the better funded and educated our students will be. Not having any school aged children, I was not in the loop of the current situation of our district, and based on history I believe as many others do that that is how the district likes it. This is how they passed the 2012 referendum, by not telling the constituents, but only promoting it to the local Palmyra school families.

Please accept my oral & written testimony as evidence pertaining to the dissolution hearings. And ss. 117.08 to 117.132, you are required to weigh **the educational welfare of ALL of the children residing in all of the affected school districts**, please dissolve this district so we can move forward in building a strong future for ALL students in the area.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly deBack

Palmyra Community Member & PE Elector

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: LAUREN ROSCIZEWSKI <LAUREN_ROSCIZEWSKI@pba.edu>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 8:30 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle Area School District

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my position of being strongly against the dissolution of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District. Being a 2011 graduate, the education I received from the school gave me the foundation of knowledge I needed to end up where I am today. I was allowed to explore my interests and being a small school, I was able gain a knowledge base outside of academics that arguably made me more successful. By participating in sports, I became an employable team player. By participating in band and choir, I was able to develop my creative talents. Lastly, by participating in FFA, I developed my style as a leader. The biggest benefit of going to a small school was in the fact that I had opportunities to develop skills being at a larger school would not have offered. I feel for those students who may be denied such opportunities if the district were to close its doors, especially as they have no say in this matter. After all any decision made affects those who were too young to voice their opinions in an election.

One of my other concerns about the district closing is the number of people such as myself who will not return to the community. The state of Wisconsin as a whole is experiencing "Brain Drain", and is not able to retain educated individuals. The communities of Palmyra and Eagle could both benefit from an expansion of local health services. As a health professional and with the previous comments being made about the quality of education at Palmyra-Eagle, I cannot help but feel that a number of my former community members feel as though the education I received during high school was subpar. Why would I, or any other person in my position, want to provide services to an area where the institution who have given us the formidable knowledge we required, returned to a community that would not support the tradition of molding successful human beings. Closing the school district would be detrimental to both Palmyra and Eagle cutting off the institution so vital to the towns and their businesses. Closing the school would also add to the "Brain Drain" problem of our state as people will not choose to return home to begin raising families in their hometowns.

I strongly feel that Palmyra-Eagle Area School District provides children with an exceptional education both academically and otherwise. I strongly believe that having a school is vital in keeping both communities running and attracting the services they both deserve. With the closure of this school district we will only be contributing to a problem our state is already experiencing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lauren Roscizewski

2220 N Australian Ave

West Palm Beach, FL 33407

262-470-9732

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: curtrr@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 8:17 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dissolve PEASD

In addition to all the already stated reasons to dissolve the PEASD, I would like to bring an additional item to DPI's attention. As has already been pointed out, many area residents fall into the financially disadvantaged, or retired/fixed income categories. Please consider that this community is just not able to bear the financial burden of a school district that continues to drown in red ink. Many of us have worked a lifetime to reach retirement. To keep this failing school district in operation will place an unbearable tax burden on many of us living on fixed incomes. In my personal case, the additional tax burden would cut deeply into what little discretionary money we have, and we would have to forego some of the things that we worked so hard to have just to pay the taxes. Other people just won't have enough to pay the increased taxes and will be forced to sell their homes. I can't help but wonder though, who would buy a home that has the property taxes of a \$500,000 home in a place such as Brookfield, on a modest rural home in Palmyra or Eagle? The only way I can see is to sell their homes well below what they are really worth. Given all this, we are in favor of dissolving PEASD. Thank you for considering this. If you vote to dissolve and subsequently establish new district boundaries, please keep us in the Mukwonago district. We live in Waukesha county, and prefer that our tax dollars go there.

Thank you

Curt Reid

W399S7248 County Road Z

Eagle, WI

53119

262-470-1836

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: jennbilliam08 <jennbilliam08@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 8:15 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Possible Dissolution

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to share our stories. It is with your help as educators that our children are given the tools they need to succeed. I am forever grateful for having the educators we have in our life so thank you for the work that you put in everyday to make a difference in young peoples lives. My name is Jennifer and I am a proud Palmyra-Eagle graduate. I also have a child who is attending elementary school here and is excelling in both reading and math. I am against dissolution.

I am not sure where to start today. There are so many thoughts swirling around in my head and most of them stem from a place of hurt and anger. I've always been taught it is never wise to speak off of your emotions. But as you can see, it is hard to remove the emotions from this situation.

2019 has been one of the toughest years for the families and students of PEASD. As the board tasked to make this tough decision, you are removed from the emotions that have been felt by so many on both sides of this situation. It may be difficult for you to place yourself in our shoes but I am urging you to please do so for the remainder of this letter.

PEASD is beloved by many but sadly, has also been viewed as a district that isn't worth saving. It has been literally painful to hear others testimony against our district. I would say the vast majority (not all but definitely the majority) of citizens who voted no to the PEASD referendum, and subsequently voted yes to the dissolution, are mostly comprised of people who do not have children in our district, or choose to open enroll their children out of the district without ever setting foot in PEASDS buildings. It is disheartening to me that there are individuals that believe in the importance of having their right to school choice their children elsewhere, but also believe we should have our right to send our children to Palmyra-Eagle taken away because they don't want to support the community they chose to live in. As you are making the decision on this dissolution, shouldn't we also look at what is truly best for these students that actually attend this school?

This year, we have heard a lot of people throw around the word "facts". Unfortunately, a lot of those "facts" were not facts at all. I would like to list 3 things that I believe you will agree are "facts" regarding this situation.

#1. The outcome of this decision will directly affect the children and the families of those children that currently attend Palmyra-Eagle School District.

#2. The outcome of this decision will directly affect the community, including but not limited to its small businesses and its local organizations such as the library and the food pantry.

#3. Based off of the results of the advisory referendum, roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of Eagle would like our beloved district dissolved. However, roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of Palmyra do not want to see its schools dissolved.

Because of those facts, it is pertinent that not only do we look at what can be done to create the least amount of negative impact on the students, families and community, we also consider that you please listen to the citizens and a. help us find a solution for Eagle, while b. Finding a way to save Palmyra schools. Logistically, this may be easier said than done, and unfortunately, I am aware that there are only 3 ways to do this currently, one being consolidation, two being territory transfer and three being dissolution. Hearing us speak without knowing the logistics of how this works is probably frustrating for you as the board. You're hearing all of our testimonies

about this district and begging you to save it, while understanding that the logistics of actually making this work may be difficult. But for our children, I am begging you to please try.

As Beau Taplin in "The Path" said "What a terrible waste of a life it is, to always take the easy path, to never know what it is to risk everything for what you love. " In Palmyra, we love our school. We love having the ability to give back to our community through the blood drives the school holds, or through stuff the bus for the Palmyra Food Pantry. Our community being so rural depends upon the donations and help that come from this school. In Palmyra, we love the ability our children have to work one on one with their teachers and receive the compassionate help some of the students may need to thrive (where being in a larger district may hinder that help needed by so many children), we love the family we have where everyone knows everyone and looks out for each-other, we love the fact that our students are children with a name and not just a number even decades after graduation, we love the sense of teamwork and bonding our children receive by being able to play sports and not have to worry about not ever seeing the football field or not even making it past the tryouts. We love the fact that this is the ONLY school in this area that can offer all of the things Palmyra offers in the capacity of a **PUBLIC** school setting. Bigger is most definitely not always better. If I want the class sizes or the one on one attention we receive here for my child, the only other place our local children can get that in my opinion, is private school or possibly a charter school, especially when you reach the High-school level.

This public school is special beyond belief. And it breaks my heart that there are many in our district that have failed to see it for what it is truly worth. Test scores **DO NOT** make a school. To insult all of the PEHS graduates intelligence by insinuating we are a subpar school district is not okay. You have heard testimony these past few weeks that show you the difference this school is making in this community and to its students. You have heard testimony from parents explaining to you how their children's lives have been changed by this district. You have heard testimony from students with tears in their eyes, about how much they love this school. With all due respect to Whitewater, if we as parents wanted to enroll our children in Whitewater we could. If we had no choice but to become part of WWUSD, not only do we as parents already work in other communities but then we also must travel for all extracurricular activities, parent-teacher conferences, holiday concerts, etc. to another city. If this scenario happens, we lose out on precious family time. By the time we get home, we still have to work on homework, eat dinner, take showers and family time ends up falling on the list of priorities. Children need family time. Children thrive with family time. Not to mention the hit our local businesses will take. The reduction of families with children moving into Palmyra due to the lack of a school district. The extra time my child will spend on a bus versus being home. These are all detrimental to my family and to our community. Perhaps it will even discourage parents with travel concerns or money struggles to even enroll their children in extracurriculars.

Every school has bullies, every school has people who love it and people who hate it. But we must look at the good the school has done for the majority of students here and for our community as a whole. It would be more of a negative than a positive for the community, families and the WWUSD to let Whitewater absorb Palmyra. We love our community. We love our school and to lose it would be an injustice to the children that attend this district. After all, as educators I am sure you can agree, the students should come first in this decision. We are fighting with tax payers who do not support our right to give our children the public education we want so badly for them to have in a SMALL district. Sadly, for many, money is the contributing factor. Did our board make mistakes? Quite possibly. But that is why you are here. You get a firsthand look at what cuts can be made that maybe the board did not support in order to keep our students where most families that are sending their kids here, want them.

It terrifies me to think about the fact that a community where the majority of the citizens who voted yes to dissolve, do not even have children that attend school in PEASD, may have the power to take my choice to send my child where he is thriving, away. Would my child be able to thrive in another district? Of course, but to what impact on our family? On our community? On the other district's community? On the special education students or the poverty-stricken families in this area? I understand that money is the issue here, so please I beg

of you, as educators, help us work towards a solution to allow Palmyra to have its schools and continue educating the 600+ children that want to be here. The 600+ that love this school and legitimately want to find a solution to help.

Thank you so much for your time today and for giving us this opportunity to voice our opinions. I'd like to end with a quote from Brad Metzger, "When you believe in something, fight for it. And when you see injustice, fight harder than you've ever fought before." What a true injustice it would be for Palmyra, for the students, and for the public schools in the state of Wisconsin to dissolve this school. Thank you.

Jennifer T.

Village of Palmyra

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Juli Miller <julisinger@charter.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 12:16 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra-Eagle Area School District dissolution

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your time and the dedication to the education of our young people you obviously care about in taking on this momentous task.

My name is Juli Miller. I am a resident of Palmyra, in favor of a solution, rather than dissolution. I am a 1973 graduate of Palmyra High School (prior to the name change, but count many of the students that joined our school from Eagle as my friends to this day).

As you have heard from many others, I am concerned about the negative effects that dissolution would have on our students, their families, our community, and businesses. The school represents the life-blood of our community. It is the focal point of many of our community activities. Its loss would wreak havoc on our local economy, housing values would drop, traffic through our stores, gas stations, etc. would plummet, and Palmyra would potentially become a ghost town.

Yes, keeping the schools open will cost more money, but no matter how the District would be divided up, the debt would follow and add more to the mil rate of whatever new District would be the recipient of our students. I am not in favor of paying higher taxes. I have no children, grandchildren, or other family in the school system, but am aware of the fact that there were others in my situation when I was a student, paying for me to get an education. My education at Palmyra afforded me opportunities that allowed me to continue my education, sing with the Florentine Opera, Bel Canto Chorus, and Conservatory Singers in Milwaukee, work in varied fields of endeavor, and, for the last 30 years of my life, finish my career as Vice President and Branch Manager of First Citizens State Bank here in my hometown.

I would like you to add my voice to those who ask you to find a way to keep our schools open.

Sincerely,
Juli E. Miller
222 Taft St.
Palmyra WI 53156
(262)495-4790

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: jenandbilly08 <jenandbilly08@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2019 8:38 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Dont take away our schools

William T

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Shelley Elmlad <yoooperz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 11:52 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Dissolution
Attachments: PEASD Emails via Open Records Act - notes.pdf

My husband and I voted down the referendum in April and voted yes to dissolve PEASD in November, and I am **100% for dissolution** because PEASD fails as an effective school district on several levels:

- Finances and human resources were handled foolishly and irresponsibly at PEASD. I can't trust the PEASD board to handle tax dollars in a professional or even common-sense manner.
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A citizen recently took advantage of the Open Records law and received pages of emails between the PEASD board members. I read all the emails, which you can find here, and created a document with highlighting conversations regarding finances. I am attaching that document for your use. PEASD board members seem to be in denial or let finances not be a priority then discussed how to spin PR around a referendum.

Below is information from some emails supporting my reasons for wanting PEASD dissolved:

-As enrollment dwindled, staffing remained at unnecessary levels.

-One board member, who eventually quit in frustration, presented ways to make cuts and save PEASD. She notes the cuts should have been made years ago.

-Other districts the size of PEASD combine positions to keep staffing down and stay within budget. A board member recommended this, but was ignored.

-PEASD had chances to cut positions and allocate duties among current employees when administrators left, but instead hired replacements.

-A former principal handled the curriculum duties as part of his job. Now PEASD has two librarian/curriculum positions that receive \$20,000 EACH in stipends/extended contracts.

-A few years back when there were more students, one person was the superintendent and principal at PEASD. Now there's a superintendent, three principals, an assistant principal and many other admin professionals.

- Neighboring Kettle Moraine School District has over 4,000 students and 8 schools. KM has one principal and 1.5 FTE associate principals. Compare this to PEASD's three principals and an assistant principal with a student body of around 600.

-\$2.1 million projected deficit for 2020-2021 academic year.

-A citizen told Scott Hoff that he felt PEASD was dishonest in not telling the public that the district debt would be less to the taxpayers after dissolution because it would be spread across multiple districts and more households. Hoff acknowledged this deceit in an email to another board member, saying he "simply chose to omit a full explanation to voters."

-No student who left PEASD via open enrollment came back.

-Hoff asked the board not to non-renew any administration positions in return for other cuts, then those cuts were taken off the table.

-One board member asks another how to reply to a citizen to say that PEASD is not failing financially. (PEASD is definitely failing financially)

-A high number of Eagle residents initially received no information a referendum. This could have greatly skewed the vote.

Conclusion

At the November 21 evening meeting in Palmyra, an SDBAB member asked Scott Hoff if he ever spoke to the Mukwonago Area School District about a solution to PEASD's problems. Hoff said he did not speak to MASD because PEASD couldn't be sold, resulting in a round of applause. There's been too much emotion involved in running this school district for far too long, which impeded the board's making difficult but necessary spending cuts. I feel for the kids who have been taught their lives would be ruined by switching to another school district instead of being taught resilience and embracing possible opportunities. However, the cards have been dealt through years of financial mismanagement and now we must deal with the consequences. Eagle students would be better served in the Mukwonago school district.

Yes - Dissolve

Shelley Elmblad

818 Melbourne Rd, Eagle, WI 53119

262-757-8337

Document	From / To	Date and Time	Subject	Summary
Eddy 1 of 1	Hoff to Eddy	9/26/19 10:37 am	question	Hoff canvasses board members to meet with Mukwonago Area School District outside of dissolution process/hearings. Board never met with MASD per Hoff's public answer at the 11/21/19 SDBAB meeting in Palmyra, stating PEASD couldn't be bought so didn't meet with MASD.
Hoff 1 of 5	Hoff to Ollis	9/24/18 11:48 am	Re:	Hoff says: The question will have to be laid out as "do you want your own district or not - then we have to live with the outcome. We would have been bankrupt 3 years ago if we let the group (that wanted to split off to Mukwonago) be successful.
Hoff 1 of 5	Hoff to Ollis	9/24/18 11:01 am	Re:	"Without putting everyone into a panic, there is going to have to be some real thinking of (if) this doesn't pass of how feasible it is to remain open as a district. At -750k, we would still be short if we cut every administrator in the district."
Hoff 1 of 5	Hoff to Board and principals, superintendent, PR person and other PE staff	11/4/18 4:40 pm	some light weekend reading	Hoff's letter for the front page of the PEASD upcoming newsletter: "Please understand the importance of this referendum: If it does not pass, the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District will be faced with dissolving after the 2019-2020 School Year." <i>Hoff blames the problem on declining enrollment, does not acknowledge poor financial and human resource management.</i>
Hoff 1 of 5	Hoff to Enriquez of Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel	11/16/18 2:06 pm	Re: referendum	Projected deficit for 2020-2021 is \$2.1 million.
Hoff 2 of 5	Thomas to Hoff	11/20/18 1:17pm	Re: Referendum / School Choice	Answer to questions and open-enrolled-out parent (name redacted) asked: "Things have been done to limit school choices out, but once someone has decided to leave, history tell us that very few find their way back, regardless of the circumstances."

				"Each person's situation is different and should be respected even if it is different from our own."
Hoff 2 of 5	Hoff to PEASD board members	11/21/18 8:41 am	Legal update	<p>"We do have to alter our long term debt message. According to legal counsel, there will be no additional line item for remaining long-term PE debt on PE people's tax bill if dissolution happens."</p> <p>"We have stated nothing incorrect to the public, since the taxpayer will still be paying the debt one way or another. We can stay with the message that the taxpayer will still be pay on the buildings... but we should not be using the long term debt line item comment any more."</p>
Hoff 2 of 5	Hoff to Wilde	11/21/18 9:19 am	Re: Information	<p>Hoff acknowledges mass exodus of regular and special ed students. "This was one year arfter the mass exodus that contained regular and special ed students that now cost us a fortune."</p> <p>"I would not say it out loud, but if a vote is being held hostage over one administrative position that someone does not like in place, I would argue they are not really in favor of a small school." - Not everyone makes a small school a priority over other factors.</p>
Hoff 2 of 5	Wilde to Hoff	11/26/18 12:16 pm	Re: information	<p>"We still have a lot of people on staff that are not in the classroom on a daily basis." "And looking at that list, if people didn't think we were top heavy before, they will now. Obviously they all have job responsibilities that need to be done, but consolidating some of these positions should be looked at and at least considered."</p> <p>"...if Sharon is not our "business manager" but is a comptroller - what kind of contract and salary is she under?... I want to make sure I am educated when people are throwout out comments about our business manager working 4 days a week and making 6 figures. Again, I did not say this was accurate, and you brought her position up, but his is what the community is saying and questioning."</p> <p>I got a call from a community member who has been a HUGE backer of our district and her kids all went through our schools... however she said she cannot vote for this if we aren't going to make cuts at the top. She said many of the cuts we have made and listed in the slideshow directly impact kids - summer school, tech ed, FACE, bus routes, etc."</p>

				<p>"I am looking for options, and fresh ideas that show the community we are fiscally responsible." "I get the fact that you keep saying cutting one administrative position won't save the district, but neither did cutting summer school or FACE or bus routes - but they all help."</p>
Hoff 2 of 5	Wilde to Bloom	11/26/18 7:25 am	Re: Information	<p>"Yes - many think we are top heavy in administration and non-teaching positions, including myself, but if you read my email my one suggestion I made for an option actually allowed us to keep all of our current staff and not get rid of anyone." I do feel there are other options available to us that should be discussed as a board that could be a financial savings to the district." "The suggestion I made allowed everyone to remain employed by PEASD although in different capacities."</p>
Hoff 2 of 5	Wilde to Hoff	11/21/18 8:25 am	Re: Information	<p>Wilde notes KMSD with over 4,000 students, 8 schools, over 500 special education students and almost 100 on 504 plans - and KMSD has one director of student services and an assistant director for a 300 to 1 ratio. There is one principal and 1.5 associate principals (the other .5 is the AD) for 1,100 students at Kettle Moraine High School.</p> <p>"I just feel like this should have been potentially been a discussion (cutting or reassigning positions) and we should have at least considered options, as you state you would provide to us." ".... no one wants to see anyone lose a job, which is why I made the suggestion I did, because we are going to have to make cuts even with the referendum - and my fear is if we do not look at these things - we will not pass the referendum. That is what the community is saying - and we are not listening."</p>
Hoff 2 of 5	Ollis to Hoff	11/27/18 9:09 pm	Re: fb questions	<p>Ollis lays out objections voters have to PEASD:</p>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board rushed through contracts with teachers on the eve of Act 10 and shot themselves in the foot. 2. This board has been fiscally irresponsible and we are using kids as pawns. 3. This is a failing district and has been for years. 4. Why can Mukwonago make their district work at \$8.62 per \$1,000 and PE cant at \$11.05 per \$1,000 5. Small school = small opportunities / big school = big opportunities 6. Could we ask SP or Generac for help? 7. Eagle kids will just go to Mukwonago and Palmyra kids will just go to Whitewater right or can we chose which school we want our kids to go to? 8. Pe is going into more debt because of this. 9. The school district is to far gone and this referendum will not get it back on its feet. 10. This money is only going to pay and maintenance and not improving the district offerings. 11. The district is sacrificing quality with all the cuts made. 12. Why hasn't the district cut an administrator. Back In the day the district admin was also the high school principal. Why do we need assistant principal? <p>--</p>
Hoff 3 of 5	Hoff to Thomas	12/3/18 3:40 pm	Re: DPI Phone Conversation 12.3.8	<p>"He (a concerned citizen, name redacted) also said we didn't state that the debt would be diluted by the tax base that acquires it, which is correct. Simply chose not to. Leads to an interesting debate from neighboring districts about their willingness to absorb our debt, even if it is diluted from dollars to dimes. I truly wonder if all three buildings combined and fully furnished are "worth" \$14 million to cancel out the debt. But that won't be our call."</p>
Hoff 3 of 5	Hoff to Ollis, Bloom	12/24/18 8:35 am	Re: FB Taxpayers legal options	<p>"The district cannot support the referendum, nor can it create a committee to do so. It can share facts, not opinions. Individual members of the board acting as private citizens can form committees or be part of anything they want." -in response to Carrie Ollis question about Eagle, WI Taxpayers Facebook group possibly engaging in "potentially illegal" posts (sharing of opinions and fact finding re: referendum).</p>

<p>Hoff 4 of 5 Pages 11 and 12</p>	<p>Wilde to Hoff</p>	<p>4/8/19 1:43 am</p>	<p>Re: Requests</p>	<p>These two pages demonstrate how some wasteful spending and possible savings were brought to the PEASD board's attention by board member Amy Wilde, but were ignored.</p> <p>-Hoff asked the board not to non-renew any administration in return for other cuts (which now can't happen)</p> <p>-Wilde says, "As a district in financial straits, we do not have the luxury of these extra positions, nor will we have students to teach it to in another year." This refers to the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>-Responsibilities could have been allocated among administrators to reduce the positions and save money.</p> <p>"When we look at FTEs from other districts our size, all of these positions were combined and people wore multiple hats. We should have been doing this for many years already in PE and we may not be in the position we are in."</p> <p>-Carrie O. told Wilde that she never realized how grossly overstaffed PEASD was until Wilde got on the board and questioned staffing levels.</p> <p>"I do not understand how as enrollment declined we did not cut positions."</p> <p>"For example, when (redacted name) was promoted to principal, her previous position of AP (assistant principal) should have been cut."</p> <p>"... we had another chance to cut that position when (redacted) left, but again we hired another person..."</p> <p>-Wilde expresses being upset at Hoff saying in front of a filled gym that the board did all it could to cut costs and PEASD is running on bare bones. Wilde says she's embarrassed because that is not the truth.</p> <p>-Two librarian/curriculum positions: \$20,000 EACH in stipends/extended contracts. Former principal did the curriculum duties and it was part of his job with no additional compensation. Eliminate the \$40,000 stipend and use the money for maintenance. Could outsource a .1 or .2 librarian.</p> <p>-Current financial situation can't be blamed solely on funding and open enrollment, many additional cuts should have been made years ago.</p> <p>-Where one person used to be the superintendent and principal, PEASD now has a superintendent, three principals and an assistant principal and many other admin professionals.</p> <p>-Several board members brought up concerns about keeping the curriculum positions last spring, but nothing was done about it.</p>
<p>Ollis 2 of 3 Page 4</p>	<p>Ollis to Hoff</p>	<p>1/10/19 3:57 pm</p>	<p>Public Presentation Palmyra-Eagle Area</p>	<p>Costs to taxpayers: 4 years recurring referendum = \$891 / \$100,00 property value.</p>

			School District 2019 Referendum	4-year noncurring = \$894 / \$100,000
Ollis 2 of 3 Page 4	Ollis to Thomas	1/10/19 8:38 am	Re: referendum	Ollis asks Thomas for opinion on replying to a citizen with the claim that PEASD is not failing financially. This was a misleading statement.
Ollis 2 of 3	Ollis to redacted name	1/13/19 11:31 pm	Mailer on referendum	This page shows how PEASD was ineffective at communicating the referendum. A citizen requested a separate mailer so all PEASD residents could be informed.
Ollis 2 of 3 Page 14	Redacted to Hoff	12/30/18 12:32 pm	Information Booklets on Referendum	Citizen explains Eagle residents along Hwy 50 and country road LO did not receive any information about the referendum. (While this was remedied, many in Eagle received nothing regarding the second referendum in November 2019)
Ollis 2 of 3 Page 18	Redacted to Ollis	1/14/2019 7:54 am	Mailer on referendum	Another person reporting people in Eagle did not receive referendum information.
Wilde 1 of 2	Wilde to Bloom and Hoff	11/8/18 8:40 am	Teachers	Teachers were not made aware of upcoming referendum, resulting in some panic among the educators.

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Shelley Elmblad <yooperz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 11:52 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: PEASD Dissolution
Attachments: PEASD Emails via Open Records Act - notes.pdf

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Yes - Dissolve

Shelley Elmblad

818 Melbourne Rd, Eagle, WI 53119

262-757-8337

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Amy Legan <mrslive4jc1@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 11:46 AM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Palmyra Eagle

To whom it may concern,

I am FOR the PEASD dissolving.
I want to be moved to the Mukwonago Area School District
Amy Legan
409 Pleasant St
Eagle, WI 53119
414-322-3477

I think it's in Eagle's (town and village) best interest to move all Eagle resident students to the MASD. Most of the students are school choiced there anyway. Including my 11th grader who attends to Mukwonago High School.

Hopefully the Palmyra students will be welcomed to a neighboring district like Whitewater or Jefferson.

Thank you

Amy Legan

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Angela McKee <amckee@peasd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 10:59 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: DPI Palmyra-Eagle Dissolution Note

To Whom This May Concern,

Hello, my name is Angela McKee Krechel, and I can say I am fully against Palmyra-Eagle School District closing. I am basing this statement on raising two children and my own life experiences with schools within a few of the involved school districts. My family moved to Mukwonago when I entered second grade. At the time, I was a military kid that moved quite often. I went to a different school every year up to second grade, when my parents chose to purchase a home in Mukwonago. Mukwonago was then known as a smaller and more rural village. By no means would I consider Mukwonago rural any more; much of Mukwonago's farmland has been sold for business development and housing. I graduated from Mukwonago High School with a class of 500 and a school size of 1200. I can honestly say, I never felt like I "fit in," because I did not attend Mukwonago schools from kindergarten. There are many "home-town" names and families with money that live within Mukwonago; most of them made the sport teams without effort. If you did not have one of those names, clothes of the right brand, or parents that had money, good luck making new friends and getting on the sports teams.

Now, I know and understand that each child is unique, and adjusts to new situations differently. However, both my younger sister and brother both attended only Mukwonago schools and they shared the same feelings I did; we could not get out of the "prison" (Mukwonago High School) fast enough. I can not recall a single happy moment while attending Mukwonago schools; other than, we were able to start college early to escape the high school situation. I met my husband many years after graduation and he graduated from Mukwonago as well. I never even knew he was in my school, and he was only a grade above me. He and his youngest sister graduated from Mukwonago. However, his other two sisters ended up dropping out of Mukwonago High School due to emotional stress at school, the high number of students, and behaviors of the student body. I know other families with the same Mukwonago experience.

My family now resides in East Troy, and my daughters attend the East Troy School District. My oldest started with 4K in East Troy at Dubek Elementary and is now in middle school. I have to say, my experience has not been any better here than when I lived in Mukwonago. The only difference is, I am now a parent and also have a younger child with special needs; who started in 3K. My oldest, non-special needs, child has dealt with bullying issues since kindergarten. Not once have the incidences been recorded (per the law), even though I had talked with the principals, counselors and teachers during these occurrences. Similar situations have occurred with other families I know as well. Without school support, I as a parent have taught my older daughter to self-advocate through these bullying situations. She now knows the steps to take if another incident were to occur. The word is getting out about more kids coming to their middle school next year, so she also comes home with concerns on having to share her locker with another student (locker sharing) if more kids are added to her school. Other students at her school are worried as well. She also mentioned, her Language Arts class already has 60 students with two teachers, and she can not imagine having any more students added to her classes.

As for my youngest daughter with special needs, we ended up facing our own challenges with the East Troy District with her education since she has turned 4 years old. She began early childhood at age 3 within the East Troy School District. We were challenged by the District when we chose to put her in the appropriate grade for her age last year since the special education group held her back without our input. East Troy District was adamant she had to repeat Early Childhood (half days) because she was developmentally delayed, even though she was 4 years of age for the fall of 2018. They then wanted to wait and enter her into half day 4K in the spring of 2019. This meant she would have to repeat 4K when she was 5 years old next year. After having the state mediation division involved and two advocates helping us from two different groups, we were finally able to get our youngest enrolled into all day 4K classes in the morning and afternoon starting in March of 2019. She is currently still in all day 4K for this year as well, as agreed upon in mediation. No parent should have to fight so hard for age-appropriate education to be offered to their child; special needs or not. The school was only willing to work with us after we got the state and our advocates involved. Even with our concerns

addressed and an IEP in place, we still found out more recently there are still issues happening. Now we will have to set up an emergency IEP meeting to discuss the violations occurring with our daughter's IEP.

I currently work for Palmyra-Eagle School District at the middle school. After working in other school districts (including Mukwonago, East Troy and New Berlin), this is the one district that I have felt and seen heart-felt staff, students and community. As a new teacher, I often worried about finding the "right school" where I felt like I could stay and belong for the long-haul of teaching. In working with other schools, I have never had the feeling of wanting to stay for a long period of time for my teaching career. I feel if Palmyra-Eagle School District closes, a large group of my students would get lost within the larger school Districts and emotionally experience very rough times. Currently, my classroom involves a large number of students with special needs and several students who are experiencing behavioral issues due to their home-life situations with low-income families or school stability issues. In becoming a teacher within the Palmyra-Eagle District, it has helped me to be a better teacher and stronger individual overall, due to working with such a diverse student body. This school has showed me the true meaning of "heart" with giving back to the local community throughout each month, and banding together in unity when times get rough. I know breaking apart this school district would be like breaking the heart of the community and may even force many families to move to reduce driving time to designated schools.

I have questions as an educator and citizen, and would like to share possible ideas that I am not sure have been presented as solutions for our district. First thought, have we thought about alternative sources for energy through companies like WE Energies? I know New Berlin just partnered with WE Energies for solar panels and Fort Atkinson has windmills. This is a good way for us not only to be self sufficient in energy for our schools, but also for our community. Have we considered becoming a 4K-12 school in the middle and high school building? I know at the meeting they mentioned not having smaller toilets available, but my daughter is 5 years old, attending 4K and is using a standard-size toilet with a step stool. Is there a possibility we can combine classrooms for grades, such as 1st and 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 5th and 6th? I know there are some districts that are successful with this method and can cut down on the number of staff in some ways to save money; Eagleville school currently does this very successfully. I do wonder if there have been any unannounced visits made by DPI to the surrounding school districts who are wanting to add more students, to observe classroom sizes and see if there is sufficient room to add more students without additional referendums in those districts. If it is a planned visitation, you may not get a true picture of current situations. Perhaps, ask students how they would feel if multiple new children were to be added to their schools.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this letter and using it in consideration of keeping the Palmyra-Eagle School District open for our students and the community.

Sincerely,

Angela McKee Krechel

Angela McKee Krechel

To the School District Boundary Appeal Board:

I think it's time to offer the viewpoint of a senior citizen from the Palmyra community. My husband and I started our education in a one-room school in the Palmyra School District, and we graduated from Palmyra High School in 1961. I am one of five children in my family who graduated from Palmyra High School. All five of us earned a Bachelor's Degree in college; three of us earned Master's Degrees, and one of us went on to earn two doctoral degrees in medicine. The Palmyra schools, even though small, did a great job of educating us. I doubt that any children choosing out of Palmyra-Eagle schools will fare any better from their education than we did.

It is my firm belief that it is not the size of the school that determines success. It is having quality teachers, having an adequate school facility, and having strong leadership from the School Board and the school administration. It appears that in the wake of school choice and due to state cuts in school funding in Wisconsin, there was a lack of foresight coming from the latter two. That should not, however, preclude the good possibility that we could remedy that and go on to succeed as a school district, with or without people who wish to choose out.

Another consideration is that because we have a small community it is vitally important that there be a school here. The repercussions of having no school would have a negative effect on businesses, churches, job opportunities, and the quality of life for the population as a whole.

My husband and I pay school taxes on two properties, and we have never begrudged that, even though it helps pay for education for students from two communities. Previous taxpayers paid for our education, and we owe it to society to pay back so that others may be educated and become productive members of our American society. The future of our country depends upon the education and success of our school children.

We do not envy the heavy responsibility of the Appeal Board. What is determined about the future of our school district may become precedent-setting throughout Wisconsin, as there are many small communities whose schools are having financial issues. It is our hope that there will be solutions found that will enable the School District to continue to operate, whether it is as a standalone Palmyra district or as a combined Palmyra-Eagle district.

Most sincerely yours,
Sally Mason
W2296 Piper Rd.
Whitewater, WI 53190 (mailing address)
Palmyra Township

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Christine Poulson <poulsch@masd.k12.wi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 8:03 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: perspective of a 1954 Palmyra graduate

To Members of the Designated Board,

I served on the Palmyra School board as treasurer from 1960-1966. During that time, along with the help of the school secretary, we were able to receive school aid checks. We always felt that those checks were equally distributed by school and student on a very fair basis. My understanding is that today, aid is not distributed on that same criteria, but based on test scores and other academic achievements. I believe residential taxes should be collected from people and delivered back to their local school district in a fair and equal manner.

There has been a lot of blame thrown around our district. I ask, how do you cope with unequal state aid, school choice, and other tasks of keeping our school going? I have not seen local legislators clambering to understand our issues and offering their help. Good faith would be a great support, rather than *who you can consolidate with*.

To my knowledge, 2019 was the first floated bond request for operating money. I wish to give credit to those that have worked tirelessly, trying to keep our school system alive. Perhaps if we have erred, it's that we have sat on our wallets and did not commit to what needed to be done.

As a 1954 graduate in a class of 36 students, and someone who has chosen to educate my own children and grandchildren here in this community, I firmly believe that given the opportunity and with the proper restructuring, we can and will survive. Like countless other small school districts across this state who are forced to "regroup" and take on a *new normal* due to legislation and unfortunate circumstances, I believe if we become a K-12 building, using our beautiful Middle/High School facility, we too can overcome this and continue to thrive.

Thank you for your time and guidance.

Howard D. Poulson
N795 Tamarack Road
Palmyra, WI 53156

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Jodi Dooley <jdooley@peasd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 8:03 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Letter from Palmyra Resident

Dear School District Boundary Appeal Board,

My name is Jodi Dooley and I am a parent of four students in the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District, a Special Education Paraprofessional for the District, as well as a resident of the Village of Palmyra. I guess I don't know what more to say that you have not already heard over and over by my fellow community members, parents, and colleagues, but I wanted my voice to be heard too.

We are a blended family with me being from Milwaukee and my husband from Waukesha, WI. When my husband and I were married, his children were attending school at Eagle Elementary School and my children were attending a large elementary school in Waukesha, WI. There was such a difference in environments and atmospheres between the two schools that I knew we had to make the move closer to Eagle so my children could benefit from the small school atmosphere as well. We found a house to rent in the Mukwonago School District and chose to send our kids to PEASD.

My youngest son has special needs. He has been diagnosed with Autism, PTSD, Major Depressive Disorder, and ADHD and was hospitalized the summer before we started in the district. They were ready and prepared for him before school started and Eagle Elementary got the IEP process going the first day of school. The small class sizes and very personalized attention has been wonderful for my son. The kids in his class know him and accept him for who he is. This past spring, my son was chosen from his class to go to the Interpretive Reading Competition! This is something that may not have happened at a large school where there is a lot of competition. He was so proud and declared that he was going to act in middle school. Now that he is in middle school he auditioned for Beauty and the Beast, the district musical, and received a speaking part with a microphone! This was an opportunity that he could only have gotten in a small school district. He is very unsettled about leaving as change is very difficult for him as well as other children with Autism. I do not feel that it is in his best interest to change schools at this time.

Two years ago we made the choice to purchase a home in Palmyra because of our love for the community and the School District. We have made our home here. Our kids can walk to and from school and practice giving them a sense of belonging in our community.

I feel like there has to be a way to save our district even if it is only Palmyra. Ours is just a small success story, but one that I feel matters.

Working with the teachers and staff in this District has been inspiring. I have finally found what I love to do in life because of the students and staff in the District, so I have chosen to go back to college and get my degree in Special Education! Everyone has been so supportive and encouraging, that is my dream to one day be a Special Education teacher at PEASD.

I humbly request that you do everything in your power to keep this District and this Panther family together.

Most Sincerely,

Jodi Dooley

Jodi Dooley
Special Education Paraprofessional
Palmyra-Eagle High School

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid." ~Albert Einstein

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Abby Gajewski-Schwoch <abbygajewski@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 4:50 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: written statement for SDBAB

To whom it concerns-

I am writing to you today as a proud PEASD alum, class of 1997. I was deeply saddened by the outcome of the April referendum and the potential dissolution of the district. You see, my brother and I both attended PEASD from kindergarten through high school graduation and had fantastic experiences as students there. My parents and brother's family still currently reside in Palmyra; one niece is currently a kindergartner and the other will be school-aged in a few years. It breaks my heart that they may not get the same opportunity for a quality education in the same small, tight-knit community oriented district. You see, while the education that we received at PEASD was fine enough, it was the actual experiences that made our time there exceptional and shaped who we are as adults.

By being in a small school we were afforded the opportunity to participate in MANY extracurricular activities which created a well rounded experience, where as there would have been far more competition and potentially less opportunity in a larger district. I was able to participate in 3 sports each year all throughout high school, lettering 8 times. I was able to serve as yearbook editor, president of my class and be part of clubs such as DECA. All of these opportunities provided the opportunity to learn life skills and core values such as teamwork, prioritization of commitments, that hard work pays off and leads to success, all while being supported by other parents and the community as a whole.

While at PEASD, we formed life long friendships and there's many classmates who 20+ years after graduating I am still in regular, close contact with. I'm fortunate to say that I'm still in touch with former teachers and coaches as well, simply because there were so influential in my youth and truly outstanding people. That is so much harder to come by in larger schools. In fact, about a year into dating my husband (who is a Brookfield Central alum and part of the highest ranking Elmbrook district), he shared that he was so impressed by and slightly jealous of the close bond, genuine friendships, and a Cheers-like "everyone knows your name" environment whenever we were with my former schoolmates. My point here is that bigger isn't always better and that there is so much support and genuine caring that occurs in smaller communities. That also has clearly been demonstrated in PEASD community with the support and rallying around the PEASD students since April. The supporters of keeping this district together have literally put their blood, sweat and tears into this effort and would move heaven and earth to keep the remaining students together in the district. That is truly exceptional.

Additionally, I've paid close attention to the media, social media, and other information shared in public forums leading up to and following the referendum. It has been made clear by all of the neighboring districts that absorbing the students from our district will pose significant challenges within their existing schools and budgets and could potentially have a negative impact on their existing students. With that, NO ONE wins. I also am of the personal opinion that there's been some misunderstanding or misinformation within the voters that didn't support the referendum regarding the entire financial picture and what dissolution means in the grand scheme for their taxes. I do not believe dissolution will result in a cost savings in the long run, and that may have been a large motivator in their vote. Also, there is the potential negative impact to the overall local economies of both Palmyra and Eagle, when students and their families would be spending more time (and money) in the cities of Mukwanago, Whitewater, Jefferson, etc. and less in their local towns.

In summary, I cannot say enough about the positive community experience that I had while at PEASD, the solid foundation that it provided me both in terms of education and core values, and the life long friendships that it afforded me. Since leaving PEASD, I've earned a BS from UW-LaCrosse and have enjoyed a very fun and successful career in the healthcare industry, currently as a Director of Global Marketing at Hologic. I cherish my Panther Pride and sincerely hope that my nieces and all students of PEASD are given the same opportunity to complete their education in the current district and go on to pursue where ever their dreams take them.

I hope that the DPI takes all of this into consideration and chooses to keep the district in tact.

Respectfully,

Abby Gajewski-Schwoch

Sullivan, Diane M. DPI

From: Heather Austin <heatherrfrank@googlemail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Palmyra-Eagle.comments, DPI
Subject: Heather (Frank) Austin Testimonial

To whom it may concern,

If it weren't for the Palmyra-Eagle School District my life would look very different. I credit the teachers and staff with steering me down the path that has led me to college, a career and eventually my husband and family.

This is my story.

I came to Palmyra at the end of 8th grade, moving from Waukesha where there were over 400 kids in my grade to a P-E where there were less than 400 kids in the school. Everyone knew everyone, the students, the teachers, the faculty. It was and continues to be a tight knit community. As an outsider back in 1994, it was shocking but I quickly grew to love that tight knit, small town-feel. Because of the small class sizes and overall student population I was afforded the opportunity to play multiple sports, participate in multiple clubs and get the in-classroom attention I needed when I struggled (hello Chemistry...I never would've passed without Mr. Falk). At a larger school I never would've been co-captain of the cheerleading squad or made varsity in any sport, I wouldn't have been president of student council or even thought to try out for the school play. The faculty encouraged me every step of my 4 + years in the P-E school district and I couldn't be more thankful for the experiences and life long friendships I've made.

I credit PEHS with not only preparing me for college but helping me achieve my goal of getting into Marquette University where I graduated and met my husband.

The teachers and faculty as well as my peers from PEHS helped shape who I am today and guided my future. I literally would not be the person I am nor would I have achieved all I have without our school and our community.

Please do not dissolve our district. I may live a state away but my heart is always in Palmyra. Once a Panther, always a Panther.

Best,

Heather (Frank) Austin, Class of '98