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Hi, I'm Teagan Koutsky a 7th grader at PEMS,

I want to thank everyone for giving me a chance to speak, and I don't know where I would be without the teachers here at PEASD. To start off, I just want to say I have not one bad thing to say about this school. I have been in this school district since 4K at Palmyra Elementary, and this is my 9th year.

It is heartbreaking to hear all the people from other school districts or people that want to dissolve our school, and trying to take our 2nd home away. Many people might think it's easy to just close our school, but think about all the students who will be hurt through this process. This might be their last year stepping foot in this school, and it's not fair how this is affecting us, so please hear all of us out.

I also have younger siblings who are being affected by this, one of them is in 4K currently and the other one is going to be joining our school district next year through 4K. As being their big sister, I don't want them going into a bigger school district. I don't feel safe putting them on a bus for 1 hour or more just to travel to another school, when currently we only travel 4 minutes to get to school.

It's not fair to us, as students, to take away our school because this is our school and home. I wouldn't want it any other way. You might tell me these are just kids, but no; they are family and this is not just a school, it's our home. To many people are trying to close or school, but all they are doing is hurting our family. Think about someone one day coming into your house and taking your family

away or breaking them apart. That is how we feel. Just think about putting yourself in our shoes or putting your own children in our shoes and how this would feel.

You may think that we are just kids, but we want to keep our little school and want our home back to the way we use to be. Stop trying to take our school and home away from us! Now that you know how I feel, I would like to give another solution to our problems. If we are not able to keep our schools as Palmyra Eagle, we should keep it as just Palmyra. It could end up helping us a lot. Lots of kids who live in Eagle would open enroll into Palmyra and give us more money to stay open. Thank you for letting me speak and please consider what is happening before you take away our school and second home.

# Panther Academy Charter School Proposal

### Mission Statement of Panther Academy Charter School:

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

### Community Need:

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

### Educational Plan:

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

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



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

**Other considerations:**

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

**Possible geographic arrangements:**

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

**Possible savings:**

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

**What we would need:**

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

**Conclusion:**

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

**Submitted with respect:**

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Hello, my name is Belle Peterson and I am a 7th grader and Palmyra Eagle Middle School.

I would like to thank everyone here for listening to what I have to say. First off, I have been going to this school for two years now, and this year it will be my third. Even though I haven't been here for a long amount of time, this school has made such a big impact on me. The way everyone gets along amazes me, and I love coming to school everyday. Also, when I first came here all the kids and teachers were so kind and welcoming to me, and now it feels like I've gone here my whole life. So I would really, really love to keep the district together and remain as Palmyra Eagle school district. That is the main goal of many people. But, almost every single person who is in favor of dissolution that stood up and talked tonight and many other nights, said that dissolution of the whole district was our only choice. No. It is not.

There are so many more options. I'm not trying to offend anyone, this is just my perspective. Most of Eagle has made it clear that they do not want to be a part of Palmyra-Eagle School District. I know many people from Eagle that do want it to stay the same, but the majority of the "no" votes are coming from Eagle. So what I am declaring as an option is that we let the people who want to be a part of Mukwonago, be a part of Mukwonago School District. Then our district would just become Palmyra School District. We could sell Eagle Elementary to help keep our district open. I also personally know many kids that live in Eagle who want to continue as students in our school district, and would open enroll into Palmyra School District, which would provide us with more money to stay open.

It would mean the world to me if Palmyra-Eagle was able to stay open, and I really hope that is the way this all turns out. I think it would be the best for all of us. I'm trying to give a solution, so the Eagle citizens that want to dissolve our district would agree to a solution. I'm really praying that nothing has to change, but I've found out that is not the way life works. This doesn't mean we should give up. All I want to do is keep my school together, as much as I am able to. I hope and pray that you are able to see past my age and really understand what I am saying. If Palmyra-Eagle school district dissolves completely, things like this are only going to keep happening. Like we heard whitewater say, "they don't want us, and they don't have the space for us." So please understand where my peers, teachers, other citizens and myself are coming from. Dissolution is just setting us up as a community for another tragedy. As well as the communities around us. Whitewater doesn't want us, KM is going through the same thing. If we shut down, other schools in our area will possibly shut down to.

It could also separate friendships, and even worse, it could most likely split up mixed families that the kids may have to go to different schools. One of those families would be mine. All we want is what is best for us kids, our schools, our community, and the other communities around us. I understand that it may be hard now, but I know if we keep our minds open, that we will one day, maybe even today, be able to save our district. Thank you for your time.

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Hi I'm Teresa Guevara a 7th grader at PEMS,

I want to start off saying, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and telling you my perspective of what I feel with what is happening in our school district . I've been in this district for 5 years now. Palmyra-Eagle School District is an amazing school district and I feel we receive an amazing education. If a student is struggling, the teachers are there to help and I've improved in my worst subject. I know lots of fantastic teachers and wonderful students, I personally love walking these halls everyday. I like small schools because I can have 1 on 1 time due to use having small classes. It's fun and our grade is so close with each other, and I don't want to break our friendships up. I also wanna say my volleyball team wasn't too big or too small and they were amazing girls that I still wanna play with until Senior year, and my amazing coaches Mrs. Anderson and Ms. Vic they both helped us improve they didn't have any doubt. When I said "I couldn't" they had faith, it will be easier with a decent sized team it's easier to have 1 on 1. This is my second home and I'm not old enough to vote and after all of this, it's affecting us. We just want our voices to be heard, but I have an amazing opportunity to hopefully be able to fight for my second home and stay with my Panther family. I just don't think it's fair that we have to just stand around and be scared about losing our school and the people we love. It's not fair how the adults decide for us, so please put yourself in our shoes. It is hard knowing we might not be able to walk these halls next year. No school is the same as Palmyra-Eagle and if your thinking to yourself, "how would she know that," well I have been to other schools in the area and those school's don't compare to Palmyra-Eagle. The other schools don't have fun activities such as, Friendsgiving where we got to be together as a Panther family while we

ate Thanksgiving dinner with the staff and the other students. The staff provided the food, and they took the time to personally make everything turn out for all the students. I have not one bad thing to say about Palmyra-Eagle, and it's heartbreaking how some people can say things to close our school down. This whole situation is sad that people want to take away the school and the staff, coaches and friends I love. I want to graduate as a Panther. I could go on and on about this , but I'm gonna end it here. All I ask, is please understand where many of us students are coming from, and don't take away our second home and Panther family.



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## Referendum Speech

Hi, my name is Presley Koss and I'm a seventh grader at Palmyra-Eagle Middle School. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and tell you what I have to say about our school.

First off, I have been going to this school since 4K, and this will be my 9th year in this school district. I have nothing bad to say about this school, and instead about the way everyone gets along in this school amazes me. My teachers have taught me so much and if they wouldn't have taught me how to write and speak, I wouldn't be here today.

Imagine yourself in our shoes, and your in middle, elementary, or high school and you hear your schools are going to shut down. The news and the feeling wouldn't be fun, would it? No one should be going through this, so why are you putting us through it? It's not fair, and think about all the kids that you are hurting and affecting. Those who go along calling us "brats" and saying "we're just trying to keep our stupid school

gets bullied a lot and she doesn't like going to school there. She just doesn't feel welcome in her own school.

This proves why I don't want to go to Mukwonago or any other school I want to stay right here. Nothing can compare to Palmyra-Eagle, and no school is as cool and as fun as it is here. I'm most worried about going to a different school and having no friends there. I don't want to be sitting at a lunch table all by myself, so please help me, and so many other kids school open.

You wouldn't want it to happen to you, so why are you making us go through it. Everyday we walk into school not knowing if we're going to step foot in here next year. It just breaks my heart to hear my second home might not be here next year. It's just not fair to be scared and worrying about our school staying open.

My solution for this situation, is our school district should just be Palmyra and not Palmyra-Eagle. This would allow those students to attend this school district which means so much to them, and those in Eagle to continue to attend Mukwonago, which they also desire.

This would allow us to have more open enrollments from those in Eagle who would like to continue to attend our school district and help us to stay open.

I could keep going on and on about why we should leave my school open, and solutions on how to keep our district open, but I am deciding to leave it here.

Remember to always bleed purple!

Thank you for your time tonight.

Mrs. Anderson and Ms. Vic, I now know how to play volleyball and I enjoy it. Thank you! They have pushed me and helped me to get better at this sport.

This school has made a big impact on my life, and this is my education your taking away from me, along with my second family. We all heard Whitewater say they don't have space for us and they do not want us, and the only two schools fighting for us are Mukwonago and East Troy.

The people and teachers here at Palmyra-Eagle are very helpful and they are always there when you need help . Hearing all these people from other schools say bad things about our school impacts us, and I'm not ok with that.

My cousin has been going to Mukwonago for 8 years now, and she has left our school for family reasons. She wanted to stay, but she just couldn't because of family reasons. She has recently told me that she hates Mukwonago and wants to come back. She says she

open.” First off, our school isn’t stupid. Second, if this would have happened to you and your family, you would do the same thing, fight for your school. Why would we want to travel 20-30 minutes to a different school, when we could be going to our school, which is 5-10 minutes away? No child ever wants to go that far away in order to go to a different school that isn't their home school. Most certainly, parents don't feel safe putting their kids on a bus for that long of a trip in order to go to school every day.

Without this school I wouldn't have my second home, my friends, my teachers, and my family. My parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and great grandparents all graduated from Palmyra-Eagle School District, and my sister Alex Koss and I want to graduate here as well.

What I feel really sucks, is we can't do anything about it. I have been playing basketball and softball here my whole life, and I couldn't have done this successfully without my coaches and teachers here at this school. I have recently joined volleyball, and before this year I had no experience with volleyball. I can say, thanks to

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**Thank you for considering my opinion tonight.**

**I am speaking in FAVOR of dissolving the Palmyra/Eagle Area School District.**

**I am in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and I have been open enrolled to Mukwonago Area School District since Kindergarten. I am very happy at Prairie View Elementary. I love my friends there, some of whom I have known since we were babies!**

**If you approve the dissolution of Palmyra/Eagle Area School District there is a proposal from the Mukwonago Area School District to keep Eagle elementary school open.**

**In order to be responsible with their budget, it is possible that the Mukwonago Area School District will require students currently open enrolled from Eagle to re-apply for open enrollment to their current schools. In order to keep Eagle Elementary open, they need to fill that building. If this happens, I could have to change schools for my last year of elementary school. I would have to graduate from a school that I would only attend for one year.**

**That is OK. I will get to meet new friends, and can continue to spend time after school with my old friends. Things change. Life changes. In another year, I can re-unite with my old friends in middle school, and introduce them to my new friends there!**

**The same is true for the Juniors at the current high school, they can meet new friends at their new school during their Senior year, while still keeping in touch with their old friends. They can introduce them to each other, and plan where they will go to college with another group of friends in another year.**

**That is what growing up is about! Learning, and changing as we grow!**

**The Palmyra/Eagle Area School District is out of money. I hope that you will realize this and consider dissolving a district that no longer has any money left so that districts**

- with more opportunities**
- higher ratings**
- who are better at budgeting**

**can take over.**

**Thank You.**

Presentation to the SDBAB, 12/5/2019, Hayley Parsons, 262.470.7673

Good afternoon, my name is Hayley Parsons and I am a proud 2011 graduate of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District, where I attended Eagle Elementary from kindergarten through sixth grade, and Palmyra-Eagle middle and high school for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. I strongly do not believe in the dissolution of the PE district.

I want to make it clear that not once have I ever or will I ever criticize Mukwonago or Whitewater schools because they are great schools. And great options for many students but for others, including myself, I would not trade my rural small town education and experiences for anything. I know some people are probably thinking, oh great another heartfelt story or another alumni who doesn't want her school to close. But that is not my reason for telling my story. I continue to learn the impact that the early years of education has on your life and I want current and future Palmyra-Eagle students to have those same opportunities that I did.

I did not have a 30 on my ACT, I took only 3 AP classes. But I got into my college of choice UW-Madison and not only that but I was 1 of 6 freshman out of the incoming 5,027 students at UW-Madison in the fall of 2011 to receive the Theodore Herfurth Memorial scholarship for \$24,000. The scholarship committee mentioned that the reason I was selected for the scholarship was how impressed they were at all the organizations I was involved in and all my leadership opportunities throughout high school. I also received 8 additional scholarships including the Waukesha County Sheriff's Association and the WACPC. The scholarships I received funded over 80% of my college tuition. I know I would not have received the same financial support if I had been 1 of 400 instead of 1 out of 70. I walked out of undergrad with no student loans.

I have read quite a few statements and social media posts from dissolution supporters that really saddened and offend myself and other alumni. Statements that read that students from PE are not as intelligent or competent as graduates of other districts. One statement on a dissolution supporting Facebook page in response to parent post stated, "maybe she went to PEASD and that explains her ignorance." (pause) I went to Palmyra-Eagle, and I don't think I'm ignorant. To the many PE alumni that are serving as doctors, teachers, lawyers, police officers, firemen, serving our country, and working in many other incredibly important careers, these comments are extremely offensive and not accurate.

I currently work for the WI Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife technician and environmental educator at the MacKenzie Center in Poynette Wisconsin. My PE teachers would smile hearing that because of my love of animals and nature since I was a kid. In my past four years as an environmental educator I have taught over 40,000 WI school students, and no that is not an exaggeration. I watch every single day how the relationships the students have with their teachers make all the difference in a student's experience with learning. A relationship I was able to form because of the close knit community of this district. I also currently volunteer over 15 hours a week as a high school coach in the small rural Lodi School district because I know what community support can do for a student and I learned that from my time at Palmyra-Eagle.

I wasn't great at sports, or the best actor or musician but I was afforded the opportunity to be involved in over 20 different extracurricular school activities throughout my time at PEASD. All the skills I use for my job today come from moments and experiences from my time in those organizations. When I'm standing in front of 160 plus 4<sup>th</sup> grade students teaching outdoor education classes, I'm using the skills I learned from MCing dozens of high school assemblies. When giving presentations to volunteer group board members or members of the state

legislature, I'm using skills I obtained representing at FFA conferences, student council meetings, and National Honor Society banquets. When I'm writing my monthly newsletter for the DNR I use the skills I learned as the executive editor of the PE high school yearbook. When teaching my high school athletes a new workout routine, I'm thinking about my time as a 3 sport, 12 time varsity letter, athlete. We need to remember that school isn't always about the numbers. And education isn't just leaned in a textbook.

I truly believe that individuals working together can make a positive change in a community. I wish all of you parents in support of dissolution or who school choice would be using all this energy to create an awesome school district that you moved into. I'm not naïve, I know this is going to take a lot of work and a lot of hard decisions. I know very dedicated individuals, who don't even have any students in the district but have spent hundreds of hours in meetings, fighting for local schools and for the interests of all students, which is not dissolving the PE school district.

Last week I was accepted into graduate school to pursue my Master's in Education at UW-Madison. I would not be who I am without the education I received from this district and I will be using these experiences to inspire the next generation. Do not take this away from other students.

Thank you.

Hayley Parsons

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I AM HERE AS A DAD (FATHER) AND  
A GRAND PA.

MARRIED WITH MY WIFE SONJA  
WE HAVE HAD 3 SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN.  
THAT COMPLETED EAGLE/PALMYRA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT ALL GRADUATED  
AND WENT ONTO COLLEGE

NOW WITH 6 GRAND CHILDREN  
THERE IS A BLACK CLOUD HANGING  
OVER THIS SCHOOL DISTRICT!  
BECAUSE OF ALL THE UNCERTAINTIES,  
BAD RUMORS AND UNKNOWNS!

MY WIFE, I, MY CHILDREN AND  
MY GRAND CHILDREN DESERVES BETTER!

I HAVE LIVED IN EAGLE FOR THE  
PAST 45 YEARS.

THROUGH ALL OF THE YEARS I HAVE  
SEEN MANY FAILED SCHOOL REFERENDUMS  
AND NOW A PASSED REFERENDUM TO  
CLOSE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT!

WHY I ASK? IT IS BECAUSE OF ALL THE SAME REASONS THAT HAVE COME UP IN THE PAST!

RESIDENTS THAT DO NOT CARE AND ARE SHORT MINDED AND THEN THERE ARE THE SAME OLD EXCUSES OR REASONS.

I LISTENED TO NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS TO HEAR WHAT THEIR POSITION WERE!

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THEIR COMMENTS:

- ① WHAT DO I CARE I DO NOT HAVE ANY CHILDREN!
- ② WHAT DO I CARE MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY IN MUKWONAGO SCHOOL DISTRICT!

③ WHAT DO I CARE MY CHILDREN ARE ALL GROWN-UP AND DO NOT LIVE IN THE AREA ANY MORE!

④ WHAT DO I CARE MY CHILDREN ARE IN ANOTHER SCHOOL!

PEOPLE THAT VOTED YES ON THE REFERENDUM TO DESOLVE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, DO NOT HAVE ALL OF THE FACTS. AND THEY GET SCARED BECAUSE THEY ARE TOLD THAT YOUR TAXES ARE GOING TO GO WAY UP IF YOU VOTE NO!

A LOT OF THESE PEOPLE ONLY GET THEIR SOURCE OF INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL MEDIA.

YOU CAN NOT BELIEVE ALL WHAT YOU READ ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

THROUGH ALL OF THE YEARS I HAVE SEEN A LOT OF GREAT BY PRODUCTS (CHILDREN, YOUNG ADULTS) COME OUT OF THIS SCHOOL DISTRICT - CLEAN - BRITISH - HARD WORKING AND VERY IMPORTANTLY DRUG-FREE - THIS SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS DONE "SO MUCH" GOOD - PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE IT! AGAIN WE DESERVE BETTER!

Don Malek