

December 5th, 2019

Dear Boundaries appeal board members,

I have thought about writing this for months, staring at a screen writing and rewriting over and over. I have heard several people talk over the past few months, as well as you asking for facts and solutions. I can say it is hard to not use emotion while pleading our case to not dissolve. This is my home, my children's home, they have made life long friends here and to keep emotion out of this is just impossible.

My husband and I bought our house here in Palmyra back in 2007 about a 2 months before our oldest, now 16, started 4k. My husband works in Cudahy and has a long drive to work and home every day. Both of us being from Milwaukee knew we didn't want to live there and raise our family. Mukwonago looked like a nice place to us, right next to the expressway. Then we thought about the school, both of us moved out to Palmyra when we were young. We are both proud graduates of Palmyra-Eagle High School, we loved the small school aspect compared to what we were used to at MPS. So when we finally decided where to settle, we chose Palmyra. We wanted the same small classes, and personal attention for our kids that we received. We ended up putting an offer on a nice house with a big yard right across the street from Palmyra Elementary. It was everything we wanted for our family.

I want to make clear if this district dissolves I can not send my youngest to school 10 minutes away, or farther. My 10 year old has a genetic disorder called Prader-Willi Syndrome and requires lots of care. She has temperature regulation issues, and runs at 96*, this can cause major issues during the winter months. I don't have time to spare if she drops and goes into a hypothermic episode. Having her right across the street from our house has made all the difference. I am able to quickly get her home to raise her temp back up without it becoming a serious medical issue. Along with that she also has lots of learning, physical and behavioral issues, the staff here is trained and she has a long standing relationship with them. She is thriving in her current environment. I am not about to put her in a whole new school with people she doesn't know or understand her. Nor do I need to raise her anxiety in a whole new atmosphere with new kids and adults. This is simply not an option for me.

I also have a Junior and Freshman, I am saddened by the idea that my 16 year old may not graduate a panther next year. She has worked so hard her whole academic career. She is top of her class, with straight A's. Both my high schoolers are advanced, honor students, who not only do symphonic band, but chosen to join jazz band. This has offered them many amazing opportunities, like trips to New York City and New Orleans. They also are huge volunteers and have been in the district musicals ever year since 3rd grade. My oldest has been leads the past 2 years. They have been very lucky to be a part of this district, so I ask how is this truly fair to them and their peers? I honestly can not understand why anyone would support shutting down a district, and displacing hundreds of kids who are happy and thriving. I am terrified of the emotional/social damage this all is causing.

I have no definite solutions, but I do think we deserve time to work together as a community to find one. I think all communities involved deserve time to ask questions, and understand the ramifications of what dissolving this district means. There are no definite promises out there about taxes, or buildings staying open. Only speculation, no real concrete answers. This to me is just not good enough, we need time to discuss and look over all options, as do the communities any of this would affect. If we lose this now we will never get this back. This is our property and I sure do not wish to lose local control of it. So I plead don't dissolve our school district, give us a chance. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
LaDina Rutkowski

719 W Wisconsin St
Palmyra, WI 53156
262-613-7652

*attached is a letter from my 5th grader
who asked to say something.

Form
PLEASE ^{VO DO RUT} SAVE
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PUT A

I LIKE TO
PLAY
WITH MY FRIENDS
AT SCHOOL



My name is Jennifer Samuels speaking in favor of dissolution. We have lived in the Town of Eagle for 18 years. We chose to move to Eagle because it put us across the street from family. The school district was not a positive "selling point" for our home and we knew this information when we made this decision. The positives of being near family outweighed any negatives.

When our daughter was old enough to attend school, we made a decision to open enroll into the Mukwonago district. There were many factors that played into that decision and as a person who typically does not broadcast publically everything that I do, I find it challenging that I have to defend my very personal decision to complete strangers. We were NEVER contacted by PEASD to inquire as to why we open enrolled out – not once in 13 years. We had family members that had attended in the Palmyra Eagle district and did not have good experiences. We had a nephew who was attending Prairieview Elementary at the time and since we were providing our own transportation, it made sense for our family to transport both kids at the same time. Our family had an amazing experience with both our kids at Prairieview – it was a Blue Ribbon school. We felt like a family there also – a rural district does not have the corner market on that. I firmly believe that you receive out what you put in. Our children's teachers went above and beyond if help was needed. As parents, we have amazing relationships with the teachers, staff and principal – those relationships still exist now long after our kids have attended that school.

There are so many more reasons outside of simple open enrollment for the downward slide of this district. You have heard from many other supporters of the dissolution of the district as to those reasons. Open enrollment was a great option for us and I realize that many people in the district feel that the families that chose to open enroll for a myriad of reasons were the destruction of the district. I also have seen the selective use of DPI information taken out of context on the Eagle and Palmyra, Together Forever FB page to make it appear that residents ABUSED open enrollment when we were well within our legal rights. Please listen to the statement made on the FB page – See #1 of attachment. Now listen to the FULL statement (See #2) from DPI Bulletin 14-01 Feb 2014. This provides a very different position when the full statement is provided. DPI states in the Bulletin that "planning ahead can allow the family to live WHERE THEY WANT AND HAVE THEIR CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL IN THE DESIRED DISTRICT." This is not the abuse of Open Enrollment law. While individuals may not like the law as it stands, it is the law.

Additionally, there was a picture of a sign on the Eagle and Palmyra FB page that states "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about". This Community has spoken – TWICE – the community voted down the April referendum for \$11.5 million. The community stated that we did not want to be taxed for that amount over the next 4 years for a school district that was going to come back in 4 years and ask for additional funding yet again just to keep the doors open. Opposition of dissolution said "we don't think that people really thought that the school district would dissolve if we voted the referendum down in April". I find that statement challenging as everything was laid out in the flyer that was sent out by the School District including

times to ask questions of the Superintendent and the School Board. We attended one of those sessions and asked questions. We were told that no more cuts could be made, that resident enrollment has been decreasing (whether or not the students are educated in the district) and that housing development is limited within the district boundaries including unbuildable land – state forest and farmland. We made our decision – the district is no longer viable. Then we were asked to answer ONE single question in the November Advisory Referendum. “Should PEASD dissolve?” – those in opposition to dissolution tried to keep this quiet in comparison to the April referendum. There were no banners posted everywhere to VOTE YES to save our district this time. But there was a group of activists that said we will get the information out to VOTE DISSOLUTION AGAIN. That effort worked. Again, the community voted to dissolve. We respectfully request that you honor that decision. Also please consider that the Facebook page entitled Eagle and Palmyra, Together Forever really does not stand behind that motto. Individuals opposed to dissolution would tell you – let Eagle go back to Mukwonago and let us stand on our own. People who still want their kids to go to school in Palmyra can open enroll in.

There are many individuals that are still frightened to provide their thoughts and opinions in a public forum. They are concerned for the repercussions for their businesses, their personal property and their children. I respectfully ask the SDBAB to take this information into consideration also as you are discussing your decision. Sometimes, we have to make very difficult decisions and say no – the time has come for this district to dissolve and allow our tax dollars to be better utilized for the kids of this district.

Let’s also discuss the children that no one has yet talked about to this point. There were many questions asked regarding children transitioning if the dissolution is completed. The SDBAB asked neighboring districts if counselors would be available, if the kids could stay together in groups and a variety of other questions. I believe that these questions carry validity and we should ensure that children have support during transition times. However, no one has talked about the children whose families made decisions for the 2019-2020 school year to attend outside PEASD. These kids made a transition without being pampered and having any special programming in place. While I am sure that the schools they attend are making sure their needs are met, these kids have not been earmarked as special cases with special attention. We go to church with these families, I will not name them and they have their own reasons for not speaking out publicly. One of the kids spoke with my husband who had asked him how he was doing in his new school. He replied, “I have always gone to a small school but I am really enjoying going to a little bit larger school. I love it here – I have some of my friends with me and I am making new friends.” There has also been discussion about not being able to compete in athletics, clubs and activities. We know another family that has a child that was able to tryout and made the dance team in their first year at the new school. Neither of these families chose to attend Mukwonago. The opportunities are still available to kids – they may not make varsity or first string immediately. That is the reality of life. Perhaps looking at the larger picture of being part of a team should be at the forefront. Being the “star” is a rarity – being part of a team is priceless. The lessons and skills learned can be carried into every aspect of our lives. Leadership skills will live with you forever. Learning how to support your teammates, how to interact with your peers, learning to win

graciously, learning to lose while maintaining team pride, coming together to support causes – all of these components are possible in other schools and communities – not just at PEASD. The kids of PEASD can take all that they have learned through their experiences here and provide another perspective to new friends that they will make – whether it is in high school or beyond.

While no one likes changes, it is a reality in our lives that will continue to exist. One of the best things that can happen is learning to embrace change and to find a way to help that change enrich not only your life but the lives of those around you. Every person has unique gifts to offer the world and the world is looking for those individuals who are willing to step outside of themselves and share their gifts, experiences and wisdom.

Thank you for your work on this board to this point and in the weeks to come.

Jennifer Samuels
W346S7075 Sprague Road
Eagle, WI 53119
Town of Eagle Resident



Eagle and Palmyra, Together Forever, Palmyra-Eagle @EagleandPalmyra

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Eagle and Palmyra, Together Forever, Palmyra-Eagle

November 16 at 2:20 PM ·

There were many great supporters that have spoke at the first two public hearings. We wanted to share, for the benefit of those that missed it, this well-researched information presented by Kari Timm - PEASD HS Principial.

"According to reports on the Department of Public Instruction website in the 2017-18 school year, 60,820 students did not attend their resident district via open enrollment, keep in mind this does not include, home school, voucher, or private school students. This led to 419,310,159 dollars changing hands from district to district. I am going to say that again, almost 61 thousand students and 420 million dollars.

As we all know here at PEASD we are open enrollment losers. But really, I would argue, the state of Wisconsin is the loser. We have more students not going to their neighborhood school than the resident enrollment of every major metropolitan school district in our state, with the exception of Milwaukee Public Schools. We have created a culture of winners and losers and the commodity we trade in is our students. My challenge is, fix it. Put the community support back in schools. If you want to live in a community you should be willing to support it, eat in the restaurants, buy gas at the gas station and send your kids to the neighborhood schools"

#1

This is a great opportunity to remind those who chose not to support your local school district. When OE laws were originally enacted in 1998/99 the first year school boards were allowed to limit OE out to 3% of the resident district's membership, gradually raising the limit to 10% in 2005/06 school year. Then in 2006/07 school year, the limit was eliminated. It is pretty safe to say lifting the cap has done more damage to public schools across the state and no doubt will be re-examined - especially if the dissolution of an entire district could have been prevented with limitations placed on Open Enrollment. So, Yes, OE is your right under the CURRENT open enrollment law, but that could very well begin changing because of the extreme manner some have abused it; Many taking advantage of this very law also fail to ignore this very important fact when purposely moving to any district with the immediate intent of Open Enrolling out. We have heard public testimony and have seen countless comments from families that moved here with no intentions of using PEASD. Looks like DPI may need to step in and look into how many students never stepped foot in our buildings. And YES OE is your right but NOT to abuse it. This next paragraph is taken from DPI website on Open enrollment:

" A child is guaranteed a free education only in the school district in which the child resides. A family cannot simply purchase or rent a home in one school district and sign their children up to attend school in another district"

.... For prospective home buyers: "If you think you know the school district in which the property is located, start there. Then verify the information by examining a property tax bill or by contacting the municipal clerk's office, which is the governmental unit responsible for apportioning tax payments. It

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Eagle and Palmyra, Together Forever, Palmyra-Eagle @EagleandPalmyra

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misinformation."

This information and much more is available at the Department of Public Instruction

https://dpi.wi.gov/.../ope.../pdf/oe_bulletin_14-01_realtors.pdf

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63

10 Comments 11 Shares

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Top Fan

Ron Butenhoff Thank you Ms Timm, our family has always appreciated how dedicated to our kids you were!

Like · Reply · 3d

4



Top Fan

Tammy Amundson Urban Thank you Ms Timm for being and advocate for ALL of the students who attend Palmyra-Eagle Middle School and High School. Thank you for setting the record straight.

Like · Reply · 3d

3



Kelley Haddon I totally agree with this. We actually choice into the district from a much larger one. The way Palmyra-Eagle has been taken advantage of with OE is disturbing. Why over the years haven't they denied OE?

Like · Reply · 3d

1



Author

Eagle and Palmyra, Together Forever, Palmyra-Eagle Kelley Haddon Once the 10% limit was removed, it became nearly impossible for the district that is losing the student to deny an OE application.

Like · Reply · 3d



Kelley Haddon Eagle and Palmyra, Together Forever, Palmyra-Eagle would the leaving families fight a denial?

Like · Reply · 3d



Author

Eagle and Palmyra, Together Forever, Palmyra-Eagle Kelley Haddon Yes, any OE applications denied can be appealed to DPI by the families.

Like · Reply · 3d



Kelley Haddon Eagle and Palmyra, Together Forever, Palmyra-Eagle that's just dumb. It only hurts the district they leave from then. It would be different if it was a student for a student as the exchange of funding would make it a wash hopefully. I hope the DPI can see and make changes for the next school year. Reduce it back and make everyone reapply.

Like · Reply · 3d

2



Write a reply...



Linda Koss Thank you great information.

Like · Reply · 1d



Kelly Dunn Thank you Ms Timm

Like · Reply · 3d

2



Marlene Fehner Great information, especially for those uninformed and those spreading misinformation.

4



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PUBLIC SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin 14-01

February 2014

Public School Open Enrollment and Tuition Waivers Information for Home Buyers, Renters and Realtors

Public school open enrollment allows parents to apply for their children to attend nonresident school districts. However, a lack of understanding of procedures and deadlines can result in disappointment for parents who purchase or rent a home believing they can choose their children's school district without any problems. Realtors are in a pivotal position to help parents achieve their educational plans for their children.

#2 Why Is This Important? A child is guaranteed a free education only in the school district in which the child resides. A family cannot simply purchase or rent a home in one school district and sign their children up to attend school in another district. The child must apply for open enrollment, which is subject to the availability of space in the desired school district, as well as other possible limitations. Often, though not always, planning ahead can allow the family to live where they want and have their children attend school in the desired school district. Thus, it is important to know—before irrevocable decisions are made—whether the desired result can be accomplished.

It is recommended that every parent check with the Department's open enrollment consultant or a school district open enrollment coordinator as an automatic part of planning any change in residence. [In fact, this recommendation applies any time there may be change in a student's residence: whether through a family move, a change in parental custody or placement, a change in foster care status, or any other situation where a student's residence changes.]

What To Do Before Purchasing A Home. It is crucial to confirm the school district in which the home is located. This is not as easy as it sounds. Except for Milwaukee, school district boundaries are not co-terminus with the boundaries of any other governmental unit. A school district's territory cannot be ascertained by community name, mailing address, phone number, fire number, or even by where the neighborhood children go to school. New housing developments are especially challenging, because property may be included in more than one district and, in the early stages, may not even have an address.

How Do You Find The School District In Which A Residence Is Located? It's a good idea to check at least two sources. If you think you know the school district in which the property is located, start there. Then verify the information by examining a property tax bill or by contacting the municipal clerk's office, which is the governmental unit responsible for apportioning tax payments (this information may be available on your city's or county's website). However, even if the realtor has done this, parents are

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Zach Rutkowski
719 W Wisconsin Street
Palmyra, WI 53156

December 5, 2019 Testimony to the SDBAB

My name is Zach Rutkowski. My parents moved our family to Palmyra in 1990, to get our family out of Milwaukee. I was the vice president of the Palmyra-Eagle class of 2001. I led my class into this very gym on graduation day. I graduated with high honors and 31.5 credits. In 2000, I was chosen to be the Badger Boy representing Palmyra. I was accepted to UW-Whitewater and received almost \$10,000 in local scholarships. This district served me well.

In 2007, my wife and I purchased a home for our young family here in Palmyra. I work in Cudahy, 42 miles from here, but we chose Palmyra for the schools and the safety you can only get in a small town. We chose a home within walking distance of the elementary school. It is quicker for us to walk to that school than it is for us to drive there.

My oldest daughter is a junior today, but when she was in kindergarten, her teacher realized her potential was much higher than could be met with normal curriculum. The professionals at Palmyra Elementary along with my wife and I developed an IEP to ensure she was being challenged at her own level. The IEP followed her throughout elementary school and she was placed in advanced classes in middle and high school. Last school year, she took the ACT Aspire test. Nationally, she ranks in the 99th percentile in Reading and Math, 96th percentile in Science, and 94th percentile in English. This district is serving her needs well.

My middle daughter is a freshman. She isn't as advanced as her older sister, and she has different interests as well, but she is doing great her first year in high school. Her grades are improving and she is a strong individual that does not succumb easily to bullying or groupthink. This district is serving her needs well.

My youngest daughter was born with a rare genetic disease known as Prader-Willi. She was born with extreme hypotonia and at kindergarten age, she was well behind her peers when it came to gross motor skills. My wife and I were reluctant to send her to school, but we were assured by the staff at Palmyra Elementary that she would do fine. She is now in fifth grade, surrounded by her peers in a normal classroom. The professionals at the school have been extremely accommodating to her needs. Her classmates are very supportive and bullying is not an issue for her. This district is serving her needs well.

My wife and I do not compare our three daughters' report cards. Why? Because they are all so very different from one another. I bring this up because I keep hearing about DPI report cards. You cannot compare a district like ours, with 31.47%

economically disadvantaged students, 15.6% students with disabilities, and 2.86% English learning students to Mukwonago. Their district has 12.02% economically disadvantaged students, 11.94% students with disabilities, and .36% English learning students. With our demographics here, we will NEVER measure up to Mukwonago's lack of diversity.

About a year ago, we all suddenly realized that our school board was claiming to be broke and needed to pass a referendum or dissolve. Until that question was asked of the community, I had no idea so many people hated our school district. They came up with a slogan, "Enough is Enough." The last time this community passed a referendum was about 20 years ago to renovate this high school. The last time this community was asked for an operating referendum was 7 years ago, and it failed. I'm not sure what exactly they mean by that slogan, as our mill rates are NOT the highest in the area, not even close. These people love to point out Palmyra-Eagle's debt while never noticing we have the second lowest amount of debt versus all surrounding districts. Whitewater Unified School District has over 25 million dollars of debt, while Mukwonago School District has close to 47 million dollars of debt. They say our district employees are padding their pockets. I've got news for you. They are dead wrong. State audits show no wrong-doing by our administration with respect to funds. PEASD employs 16 administrative positions, the highest paid being our superintendent who makes \$125,942 per year with fringe benefits worth \$26,103. Meanwhile Mukwonago has 65 administrative positions, where the superintendent makes \$171,392 per year with fringe benefits worth \$47,794. Whitewater has 36 administrative positions, with their superintendent being paid \$147,128 per year with fringe benefits worth \$46,362. But I am supposed to believe that PEASD is overpaying their employees.

These facts don't seem to matter to people who want our schools to close. Most of these people live in Eagle, which we have learned from the last two referendum questions. They thought a great solution to dissolution would be for Mukwonago to take the Waukesha County students and Whitewater to take the Palmyra students. This would lower Eagle's taxes while at the same time, causing Palmyra citizens to pay more! Not only that, Mukwonago School District would keep the most underutilized school in our district operational, while Whitewater would not feasibly be able to keep any school in Palmyra operational. This is not a solution. Mukwonago School District stated as a result of this dissolution, the mill rate there would go up almost a dollar. How is this fair to the citizens already paying taxes to Mukwonago? Would this not 'tax them out of their homes?' This adopted stance by the people against PEASD seems to be quite selfish. They keep bringing up bullying but I'm convinced this has little more to do with anything except money. Their money.

All the while they blame the open enrollment situation here on bullying, many of them have been active bullies on social media. PEASD supporters have been referred to

as a "Clown World," the "Palmyra Mafia," a "Crazy Train," "Sleazebags," "Special," and "Inbred." Look it up if you'd like. They're on facebook under the page Eagle Wisconsin Taxpayers. One would think by the name of the page that they are inclusive to Eagle taxpayers, but in actuality they will accept anyone who is against PEASD and delete and block the supporters. Two interesting commentators on the page are a fired teacher and a fired coach who don't live in this district at all. One of the administrators of this page apparently owes the State of Wisconsin over 11,000 dollars in unpaid income taxes. But nonetheless they've titled their page Eagle Wisconsin Taxpayers. Try not to believe everything you read on the internet, especially social media. People tend to spin things in the direction they want you to think. Another facebook page actually took out paid ads on facebook to advertise the vote against PEASD before the November 5 non-binding referendum.

When you look at the reduced state funding amounts per student after dissolution, the higher mill rates in the districts surrounding Palmyra, and the fact that a fifteen year old building and many many acres of beautiful athletic fields and nature preserves are to be lost, dissolution is not an adequate solution here. It would be in the best interest of all the taxpayers involved to deny dissolution. We would then have a two year process to consolidate or reorganize and the respective districts would receive additional state funds, not less per student.

Please do what is right, not what is easy and find a way to deny this dissolution because it is in the best interest of our children's educations.

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please note the intent of this this letter is to propose ideas for further consideration to avoid dissolution of the PE school district. This is a brief outline to describe the situation, background, assessment, and recommendation of one family based on data, the current status of the Palmyra Schools, the value of keeping a school Palmyra and the surrounding communities.

S-

Palmyra residents have shown they do not want the school district to dissolve, or at least they do not want to the lose a school within Palmyra or its surrounding communities.

B-

It must be acknowledged there is a divide between some of the Eagle area residents and Palmyra residents which is not supporting the children within Palmyra-Eagle School District, the community, or the local Palmyra Schools. It also must be noted that choice of most Eagle residents appears to be Mukwonago School District; resulting in Palmyra and the surrounding communities forced to come up with another solution.

A-

Currently there are very limited surrounding districts able to obtain the needs of the children in Palmyra-Eagle. The current Palmyra Eagle school board has not proposed potential solutions which would avoid dissolution; there are solutions to avoid dissolution. The Palmyra Elementary School facility is out-of-date. The Palmyra Middle School/High School facility is in good condition, can be maintained, and can hold more students. In addition, the Eagle Elementary building is in good condition and can be maintained.

R -

There are many potential solutions which can result in Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade staying in Palmyra, allowing Eagle the choice to Mukwonago they desire, and keeping a school within the community.

There are many individuals with solutions to propose that should be heard and considered.

Potential solutions I have been informed of include:

1. Selling off the Palmyra Elementary building, to a known interested buyer
2. Moving all grades to the Palmyra Middle School/High School; and if needed into the Eagle Elementary School along with the Palmyra Middle School/High School.
3. Refinancing current loans
4. Consolidating resources and efforts to keep a school within this community

Please note schools that are contributing to society and developing children that contributing to our world should not close. Schools that are not able to produce functioning members of society need another solution, choice, or to be closed.

Palmyra is not a school that should be closed.

Teach for America goes into school districts that are in desperate need of resources and assistance. Generally, these are major urban cities. This level of assistance is not allocated to rural, county communities. Yet given the current state of many local districts and schools within

Wisconsin maybe a broader answer should be considered. Maybe choice is not the best legislative bill for rural communities, or any community in need for that matter.

No matter where the school parents should be involved, resources should be used and redistributed wisely, and appropriate representatives should be in place. Currently the only one in place for Palmyra is parents being involved, there is work that needs to be completed, and there are individuals willing to do it.

25

Good evening,

My name is Ally Czeshinski. I'm currently a Junior here at Palmyra-Eagle High school.

I moved here from the Mukwonago school district when I was in first grade. Sure the transition was hard but it has been proven to be the best decision my parents and I ever made.

When I was little I was diagnosed with a speech impairment. I attended Rolling hills elementary for kindergarten and was put into a large speech class. Due to the large class size, my speech still suffered. They did try to give me one on one speech classes, but it was always during recess or other fun times of the day. I was never allowed to have a normal kindergarten day. I was really nervous when I started school here but was quickly made to feel at ease. Because of the smaller class sizes, I was able to receive individualized speech classes. They were also able to schedule it at times during the day where I didn't miss out on any of the fun.

Smaller class sizes proved to be an even greater benefit when I was in 8th grade. Since the teachers knew me so well, they asked me if I would be available to help them out on their cross country team. I had never ran before or even consider doing it. I said yes only as a favor to my favorite teachers and friends. They must have seen something in me that I didn't know was there. But quickly found out the running was my thing. The beast was unleashed.

Leading up to now, I have been able to run at the cross country state meet every year so far as well as one year with the track team. I hold a record for the 3rd fastest girl in the 5k in school history. I'm also the only student in school history that has gotten academic all-state all three years.

If I had stayed at Mukwonago, i would have just been a number and not Ally the baby faced assassin. They would have not been able to see my potential as a student and an athlete.

I truly believe with all my heart this is where I was meant to be. My wish is to Graduate as a proud Panther.

Thanks so much for your time

24

December 5, 2019

To: Wisconsin Department of Instruction
Palmyra Eagle School District Dissolution Board

I am a resident of the Village of Eagle and am in favor of the dissolution of the Palmyra Eagle Area School District. This district is no longer productive or financially appropriate for our community and needs to be dissolved.

I can understand that closing the district will be an adjustment for the few remaining families who still attend PEASD, but this is something that needs to be done. This should have been done years ago. We have all heard from many of the students and parents who support PEASD that they want one more chance and they will do whatever they can to keep the district open. However, they have all known about the financial and academic downfalls for years and chose to do nothing. Why weren't drastic measures for change done years ago? They could have attempted to fix these problems over the last 10+ years, but they chose not to! Enough already. We have passed the point of "one more chance" or "trying something else." This district does not have enough money and will never have enough money. This community has not and is never going to approve a referendum to give the school district more money. Even after all the attempts the district has made to plead with the members of this community for money, we have still said NO. So where is the money they are desperately begging for going to come from? Is the State going to step in and give them the millions of dollars they need to survive one or two more years? Even IF they did, this still isn't going to fix the problem. It would only be a band aid to help float them through for another year or two at most. The members of this community were very clear when we voted down their referendums. The fact remains families are not choosing to put their students in PEASD, no matter what is promised. Further, the ripple effects from bailing them out would be catastrophic for the State. Once money is given to one failing district, every school district that is failing will come asking for money. It's a flood gate that will only lead to more financial hardship on all the tax payers and is one they shouldn't have to take on. Yes, change is hard, but this situation has been over dramatized by a desperate group of people who have become more obsessed with getting their way, than what is best for the students. THE KIDS WILL BE FINE. They are children and they will adapt to their new surroundings. At some point all these students will have to face

change when they leave for college or when they move away as adults. This is not a new concept. The problem is that the students will leave, and our community will be left with a catastrophic financial burden.

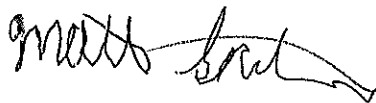
The children are being given the opportunity to attend a better school where they will be better prepared for the world, they live in. Isn't the point of school, to educate the children and help prepare them to become functioning members of society. What better opportunity for community growth than to prepare our students for their future.

No longer having our communities associated with a failing school district is another benefit to this resolution. Having families want to move to our communities because they know we have good schools, will only draw more people in and help them communities grow. Raising taxes to an insane amount and still having a failing school district will do nothing for our communities. PEASD supporters saying that closing the district is going to be the downfall for our communities is wrong, keeping the district open with a poor school system and insanely high taxes is what will be the demise of these districts!

Please listen to the majority vote, the tax payers who said no more. We have said it many times, and we will keep saying it, dissolve this district! Allow all community members to move on with their lives and know their kids are being educated properly and will not be forced to leave their homes because of an insane tax increase.

Enough is enough, dissolve this district.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Griffith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matt Griffith

Eagle resident, concerned parent and tax payer

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December 5, 2019

To: Wisconsin Department of Instruction
Palmyra Eagle School District Dissolution Board

I am a resident of the Village of Eagle and am in favor of the dissolution of the Palmyra Eagle Area School District (PEASD). As a member of this community I feel that PEASD is no longer economically or academically beneficial to the members of this community.

We pulled our daughter from the PEASD district 10 years ago when she was in the 5th grade. At the time we chose to school choice her out because we felt PEASD was failing her academically. The new principal of Eagle Elementary at that time we felt was more concerned with advancing her resume than focusing on her job or the children. When we voiced our concerns to her she refused to even consider anything other than what she wanted. We, like many parents, were ignored, pushed aside, and flat out denied additional academic help for our children. The final straw came when our daughter's 4th grade teacher told us she taught at her own level, and if your child falls below or above the level she teaches at, it wasn't her problem. She further stated the children had to adapt to her level. We learned this was a common theme at PEASD. For our family and many others, that wasn't acceptable. We open enrolled our daughter into Mukwonago School District and have never regretted our decision. They greeted us with open arms and went above and beyond to meet our daughter's academic needs.

When our first daughter started the 5th grade at Rolling Hills she knew none of her new classmates. In the years that followed, we began to see more and more students from PEASD. Years later when our second daughter started at Section Elementary, she was one of many students from the PEASD district. Many PEASD supporters accuse parents who choice their kids out of never having set foot in a PEASD school. That is simply not true. Many of us have had our kids in the PEASD district and that is why we chose to move them. PEASD supporters like to blame this financial disaster on the families who choice out their children, but we had no alternative. I don't doubt having almost half of the district school choice out has taken an impact on the district financially. But why did over 40% of this district leave PEASD? You can't have that many families leave for no reason. There was, and is, many problems with how this district has been run. PEASD supporters have now turned their back on the very administration they fought so hard to defend

just a year ago. This is a desperate attempt on their part to say whatever they can to have the community and the DPI think they can “fix” the problem. The only solution that is financially best for all communities is for this district to be dissolved and the approval of the East-West consolidation approved.

PEASD supporters state they don't want their choice taken away from them, but they're asking you to take away our choice. The community shouldn't have to lose their homes due to outrageous taxes, so the children can continue to attend a second-rate school. PEASD refused to seriously look for any resolutions to their academic and financial problems over the last 10 years while they were drastically losing students. In the ten years since we left, NEVER ONCE did anyone from the PEASD district call, send a letter or question us as to why we removed our children from the district. Never. Our community has given the district multiple years and chances to fix the problem and they chose to do nothing until their bank account was empty. Now they are asking for one more chance because they say they're making changes. No matter what they claim to be “changing,” they cannot change the fact that they are MILLIONS in debt, have no money for the next school year, and most importantly families are not sending their children to the PEASD district. We the community have voted and made our choice clear with our votes, we do not want this district to continue.

PEASD supporters say they are a family, where teachers know their children. They imply this is only possible at PEASD. This is a ridiculous statement to make on their behalf and is only an attempt to pull at the heart strings of the community members and the DPI Board members. Our daughters over the years have attended Rolling Hills, Section Elementary, Parkview Jr. High and Mukwonago High School. In each of these schools the teachers have made us feel part of “a family.” A building does not make a family, it's who is in the building that does. The students will still be together, just in a different building but together as a “family.” The supporters of the dissolution are not cold and heartless, we are merely realistic in dealing with this financial nightmare. Many students have spoke, and the students are entitled to their opinion and feelings, but the reality is they are kids and they are not paying the taxes. The kids will graduate, go to college and move away, but we will be still be left with the taxes and debt. Unfortunately, we now need to make a decision not based on emotions, but on the financial wellbeing of the communities.

The PEASD district has deceived and misled the members of this community for years. They clearly stated they were millions of dollars in debt and had no money for next school year. Now that the DPI is involved they are back pedaling and implying they can make it through. Why, because they want to ask for just enough funds to get them through till they can propose ANOTHER referendum and try to force the community into paying. We as a community voted and said NO to their referendums. Two times the majority of the PEASD District has clearly stated we do not want this district to continue. PEASD may not like it, but they asked, and we answered, and most of the community has said NO MORE. Enough is enough.

It's clear this is not a united community and hasn't been for a while. This district should never have been formed in the first place. Afterall, we're not even in the same counties! The Palmyra community turned their backs on Eagle when Eagle stopped following them quietly and started to question the issues they had with the school administration. The PEASD School Board made it very clear last April to ALL the members of the district that if they didn't get the financial referendum the school district would dissolve. Look at the flyers they mailed out. Check the minutes from the school board meetings. Facts are facts: their state academic ranking is below the average; the families they have lost will not return and they continue to lose students. Still, their biggest problem is that half of their community has no faith in them and no longer wishes to put their children or money into this sinking ship. How many times do we need to vote to dissolve this district before our voices are heard?

It's been implied the Palmyra community will crumble if the students attend another school district. Palmyra has UW Whitewater with over 10,000 students, Generac Power Systems with over 300+ employees, Standard Process with over 300+ employees and numerous other businesses within 10 minutes from town. They have 10,000+ college students traveling to and from school right in front of their businesses each week! This is well beyond the business opportunities the Village and Town of Eagle has, and yet Eagle has continued to grow. The Palmyra community and the Subway will be fine. It survived prior to the founding of the PEASD district and it will survive long after the dissolution of the district.

No one is saying this will be an easy transition for the families, but the children will be fine. Although the surrounding districts may be "bigger" than PEASD, they are still small in comparison to MPS or even the Waukesha School District. Mukwonago, East Troy, Kettle

Moraine, Whitewater, Elkhorn, these are our communities. Where we shop, work and carry out daily life. The children will adjust to their new schools, they will thrive, and many will be fortunate enough to be do this WITH their friends by their sides. We must remember the display of tears and sadness although understandable, is not the feelings of the majority. The supporters of the dissolution may not have had as many speakers, but our voices were loud and strong at each referendum vote and further with our choice to remove our children from the PEASD district. The majority have spoken multiple times and voted to dissolve this district. This community does not want to continue this district.

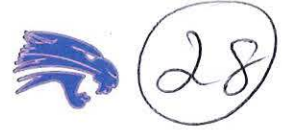
We the supporters of the dissolution of PEASD respectfully request you continue with the dissolution of this district and move forward with the East-West consolidation for the good of all communities involved.

Thank you,

Kim Griffith
Village of Eagle Resident and Concerned Parent



PE FFA Alumni Association



12/05/2019

DPI School District Boundary Appeal Board (SDBAB)

Palmyra-Eagle.comments@dpi.wi.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Palmyra-Eagle FFA Alumni Association, we would like to voice our support in maintaining a small, local school district in our community. Our group believes that a school district like Palmyra- Eagle allows our community's children the largest opportunity for extracurricular activities, agricultural education, leadership opportunities, and the potential for community funded scholarships. We believe that the more opportunities students in our community are exposed to, the more successful they will be in their future careers, and the bigger impact they will have in their community.

Our mission statement reads: "The P-E FFA Alumni Association is open to everyone interested in supporting and promoting agriculture, agriculture education, and our local FFA Chapter." FFA is an intracurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership, and happens to be the largest youth organization in the world. The Palmyra-Eagle Area School District (PEASD) is the one of the few school districts left in Waukesha County with an active FFA Chapter. We believe that through supporting our local Palmyra- Eagle FFA chapter, we are doing our part as community members and FFA alumni to create not only future leaders in the agricultural industry, but also future leaders in our community. While FFA and agricultural education provide students with in-classroom learning opportunities, it also opens the door for out of class room learning activities such as: leadership conferences, livestock and meat judging competitions, soil judging competitions, career workshops, and field trips to world renowned livestock shows such as World Dairy Expo and the Midwest Horse Fair. Not only are these learning opportunities, they also expose our students to potential career opportunities, and help to build lifelong teamwork, critical thinking, and leadership skills.

This past year, we have provided over \$7,000 to our Palmyra- Eagle FFA Chapter to help relieve the financial burden that comes with these activities. We also fund scholarships for graduating seniors going on to pursue a degree in an agricultural field, cover the cost for students to attend National and State FFA Conventions, and pay FFA dues for every student enrolled in an agricultural class to ensure that every student who wants to take such a class may do so.

The best part is, every cent of this funding is raised in our community through annual fundraisers and donations from members and local businesses. We currently have 45 active members and several sustaining and lifetime members who have pledged to donate money annually to ensure support for our students. Over the past 5 years we have impacted over 100 FFA members with our support. While not all of these students have gone on to pursue an agricultural related major or career, every one of them has gone out into the world better equipped to handle what life throws at them.

In the best interest of our students, we are still looking forward and planning for the future. We will continue to plan for our annual fundraiser in March and help the active FFA

chapter in any way we can. We are confident that this community is capable of putting its best foot forward and supporting a local school for our students.

We believe that by maintaining a small, rural school district like Palmyra- Eagle in our community, our group can offer more support to our students, making more learning and personal growth opportunities possible. In turn, our community and the ones that our students eventually call home, will be filled with strong leaders and more well-rounded individuals.

Sincerely,

Tyler Troiola-President

Nick Kau- Vice President

Tom Novak-Secretary

Dave Carpenter- Treasurer



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