

# Presentation to the School District Boundary Appeal Board

Regarding the Dissolution of the  
Palmyra-Eagle Area School District



Whitewater Unified School District  
does **NOT** want the  
Palmyra-Eagle Area School District  
to dissolve



## OUR BELIEFS

- All school districts should have the wherewithal to exist
- All students deserve access to a high-quality public education
- Our students should not suffer as a result of a dissolution
- Parents and students know what's best educationally for themselves
- If a viable plan exists outside of dissolution, please pursue it



## About WUSD

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## MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

- **Mission:** Whitewater Unified School District inspires and empowers students to achieve excellence in a safe, innovative educational environment.
- **Vision:** Every student, every day, in a unified way.



## BACKGROUND

- Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth Counties
- Approx. 137 square miles
- Resident students = 2,080
- Enrolled students = 1,962
  - 600 students at Whitewater High School
    - Capacity approximately 750
  - 400 students at Whitewater Middle School
    - Capacity approximately 500
  - (3) Elementary schools ranging from 210 to 390
    - At or near capacity for most grade levels, with a number of elementary students transferred to non-attendance areas



## BACKGROUND (cont.)

- Approx. \$27 million operating budget
- Passed \$23.5 million capital referendum in 2016 to update and enhance our existing buildings, not add capacity
- Reliant on community-approved operational referendum since 2007
  - 2019-20 is first year of this four-year cycle
  - 64% voted in support



## WUSD STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

	District-Wide
Stu. with Disabilities	18.3%
English Learners	15.6%
Free/Reduced Lunch	42.7%
White	63.2%
Other Races	36.8%
Attendance	93.9%
HS Engagement	81%
HS Trusted Adult	75%



## ACADEMICS - DISTRICT REPORT CARD



2018-19



2017-18



2016-17



## WUSD ACADEMICS

- AP Courses: 9
- Dual-Credit Courses: 3
- ACT Score Avg.: 19.9
- K-8 Gifted & Talented/Advanced Learner Opportunities
- Comprehensive high school
  - Agriculture, Tech Ed, Fine Arts, Business Ed, etc.
- Virtual school consortium with CESA 2 (JEDI)



## EXTRACURRICULARS

- Robotics Team
  - Two World Championship appearances
- FFA
  - National Award Winner
- FBLA
  - National competitor



## EXTRACURRICULARS (cont.)

- Award winning performances
- Best Communities for Music Education



## EXTRACURRICULARS (cont.)



- Fall Sports
  - Boys' Soccer, Cross Country (both), Football, Girls' Swimming, Girls' Tennis, Girls' Volleyball
- Winter Sports
  - Basketball (both), Boys' Swimming, Gymnastics, Wrestling
- Spring Sports
  - Baseball, Softball, Boys' Golf, Track (both), Girls' Soccer



## INITIATIVES

- The Leader in Me
  - First Wisconsin school to participate
- Lakeview Loves
  - Weekly bags of food sent home

LeaderinMe®



## OUTSTANDING STAFF

- 12 Herb Kohl Foundation Teacher Fellowships
- 44% of teachers with master's degrees or higher
- 2015 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year
- 3 National Board Certified teachers



## If Dissolution is Likely





## IF DISSOLUTION IS LIKELY

- Potentially-impacted districts should be included in further discussions
- Dissolution should not be affirmed without a plan for valuing and apportioning the assets of PEASD
- We want to make hiring decisions in compliance with WUSD Board Policy



## POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS

- Residents moving out of existing PEASD boundaries (population decline)
- Additional open enrollment out making it impractical to operate a building
- Palmyra community sentiment towards Whitewater
- Disproportionality of assets
- Absorption of debt and related complications



## POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS (cont.)

- Potential incompatibility between curriculum and programs
- Student participation in extracurriculars



## Conclusion

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If a viable plan exists  
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please pursue it



# Thank You

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# ACHIEVEMENTS

## 2018-19

### JERRY AWARD WINNERS

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

- Outstanding Musical
- Outstanding Leading Performance (Lauren Harkness)
- Outstanding Leading Performance (Weston Lema)



### ROBOTICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

Ferradermis - Whitewater High School

- 2018-19 was the third year of existence
- Won the Wisconsin Regional Competition
- Qualified for and attended the FIRST Robotics World Championship
- Second time qualifying for world championship

### NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

- Laura Grochowski - Lakeview Special Education
- Paul Majors - WHS Agriculture
- Mike Tamblyn - WHS Math (*former*)
- Tony Tautges - WHS Science (*former*)



### NATIONAL FFA WINNER

- Jakob Gmur (2018 graduate)
- National proficiency award in diversified horticulture
- Second WHS student to receive this award



**BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUC.**

- Recognizes outstanding efforts towards making music education part of the curriculum
- One of 527 schools in the nation
- 2012, 2017, and 2019

**HERB KOHL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
TEACHER FELLOWSHIP**

- Sandra Ramirez - Washington EL Teacher
- 12 WUSD teacher recipients since 2008

**STUDENT EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP**

- Nick Kuzoff - 2019 Graduate



**GOLF FORE! WHITEWATER KIDS  
5TH ANNUAL EVENT**

- Raised \$8,000 this year
- Support scholarships, Family Emergency Fund Whippet Booster Club, Whitewater Music Parents Association, and Rise Grants
- Friends of Whitewater Kids: Bethel House, JP Cullen, Whitewater Leads, W3, and Whitewater Community Foundation



**SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Over \$1.3 million awarded
- Trade-Up Scholarship started by Connor Laue, Alfonso Valadez, and Jake Walton



**PLAYGROUND UPDATES**



