

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



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



Leaderin Me.



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



Whitewater Unified School District does <u>NOT</u> want the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District to dissolve



If a viable plan exists outside of dissolution, please pursue it



Thank You





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

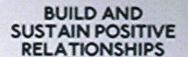
- Raised \$8,000 this year
- Support scholarships, Family Emergency Fund Whippet Booster Club, Whitewater Music Parents Association, and Rise Grants
- Friends of Whitewater Kids: Bethel House, JP Cullen, Whitewater Leads, W3, and Whitewater Community Foundation

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

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







ENSURE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL SAFETY

WHITEWATER

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

FOSTER EDUCATION AS THE FOUNDATION OF A STRONG COMMUNITY

PLAN AND MANAGE RESOURCES RESPONSIBLY