

NEWS

New D86 referendum total: \$139 million

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The Hinsdale High School District 86 Board has added \$10 million to the amount of the referendum on the April 2 ballot to relocate a six-lane, 25-yard pool at Hinsdale Central and update the auditorium at Hinsdale South.

Board members voted 6-0 at a special meeting Saturday morning in favor of a \$139,815,983 ballot question, up from the \$129.9 million figure approved last month. The increase includes \$5,147,600 to move Central's pool and \$5,193,015 for South auditorium improvements.

Board member Nancy Pollak proposed the new plan, concurring with comments board member Keith Chval made at the Jan. 7 meeting about limiting future options if Central's pool is rebuilt at the existing landlocked site.

"I agree," she said. "I think we need to close the pool in its current

location. Trying to fix it limits the community for the next 60 years."

South's pool also would be rebuilt but at its present site, and the pool dimensions would be the same at both campuses. Board members decided to keep them identical in the wake of the failed \$166 million referendum in November that revealed strong opposition to plans for a larger pool at Central.

Pollak said Monday that a Central community member called her with the idea about relocating the pool. Further discussions with other residents in both schools' attendance areas led her to believe there would be support for moving the pool and for adding \$5 million to South's list of projects to improve the auditorium there.

"It just seemed like a really good compromise to present both of those together instead of just coming at it with one increase for Central," she told The Hinsdalean. "We're faced with a community problem and we

need community solutions."

Board member Bo Blackburn said moving the pool's footprint will help preserve opportunities for all users, including those with physical challenges who take adaptive physical education.

"It lets us at least plan for an expansion possibly sometime down the line to give these students opportunities to grow and learn and gain the life skills they need to survive," he said. "And, as a performing arts kid, my heart is for the auditorium."

Board member Kathleen Hirsman noted building in a new location will eliminate the need to discontinue use of the pool during construction.

"I think the benefit so outweighs the relatively insignificant increase in the spend," she said.

The referendum is expected to cost \$576 a year for the owner of a \$1 million home, including \$44 for the additional \$10 million approved Saturday.

The board also eliminated a clause

in the wording that will appear on the ballot referring to proportionate spending based on student population.

Board President Bill Carpenter said the board was inundated with questions about the meaning of the phrase.

"We realize if there's that much confusion, it wasn't well written," he said. "We don't want any wording that could be confusing or misinterpreted."

The new amount does not include any funds to renovate the space where the current pool is.

"That space would be there in the future if that was needed and that became something to do, the board would have that flexibility," Superintendent Bruce Law said.

Jennifer Planson could not attend the meeting as she was out of the country.

Monday was the deadline for the board to adopt a resolution for the April 2 ballot.

Out with the old — HMS begins to bite the dust



With the new Hinsdale Middle School opening last week, crews begin the next phase of the project — demolishing the old HMS. While several Bobcats took down interiors walls on each floor, a

large excavator was outside the building removing and sorting the debris. Weather permitting, the demolition should be complete by late February. (Jim Slonoff photo)