

Most Central residents vote yes for D86

With a few exceptions, referendum's support and opposition split along boundary lines

By Pamela Lannom
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A quick look at the map tells the story. Most of the support for the failed \$166 million referendum Hinsdale High School District 86 placed on the Nov. 6 ballot was in the Hinsdale Central attendance area, with most of the opposition generated in the Hinsdale South attendance area.

In Hinsdale, the referendum passed in 14 out of 15 precincts in Downers Grove Township, with yes votes outnumbering no votes 59 percent to 41 percent (see sidebar). The measure passed in all four precincts in Cook County, with a 54-46 margin. The measure had similar support in Clarendon Hills, with about 54 percent of voters saying yes.

Hinsdale resident Kari Galassi and a handful of other residents urged the school board Monday night to ask voters to approve a similar referendum in April.

"Please give us that opportunity," Galassi said. "I can tell you that you have my full commitment. I personally plan to work even harder the next six months. I'm insufferably competitive, particularly when it affects my children and my community, and have no intentions of losing a second time."

She chastised those who voted no, including the Fill South First group, and called the plans of other opponents for a country club victory party (which was later canceled) "despicable, deplorable and downright tasteless."

"You are not celebrating anything other than that — hurting our children," she said.

According to screen shots emailed to The Hinsdalean, Burr Ridge Trustee Zach Mottl and members of Do Better 86 had planned to host a celebration Friday night at Butterfield Country Club. The group campaigned against the measure, calling it "unfair, wasteful and unaffordable."

The referendum's strongest opposition came from Burr Ridge, where it passed in only in a single precinct — and only with 50.6 percent of the vote. In the other nine precincts, it failed by an average 3-1 margin. Mottl and Burr Ridge Mayor Mickey Straub were both vocal opponents of the referendum. Straub announced his resignation Tuesday.

Several speakers Monday were from

Maercker Elementary District 60, where the measure failed in nine of 13 precincts. Three of those precincts were part of the former buffer zone, where families could decide to send their kids to Central or South. The new attendance area boundary line approved in September runs through District 60, and some speakers at the meeting suggested the referendum would pass if it did not.

"Dividing the community is not a good way to get your vote," one father said.

Danielle Gimino noted that many District 60 parents did vote yes because they care about their kids and are passionate about the referendum.

"If you got everybody else who voted no from that community going out and rallying for D86 like they did for D60, we could turn this around," she said, referring to a successful \$28 million referendum District 60 passed in March. "Please make our community whole again because then we can help make D86 whole again."

The second strongest area of opposition to the referendum was in Darien, where 64 percent of the voters and all but two precincts voted no.

Mary Collins, parent of two Hinsdale South students and one graduate, said she is thrilled to have her kids at South, but perception is reality.

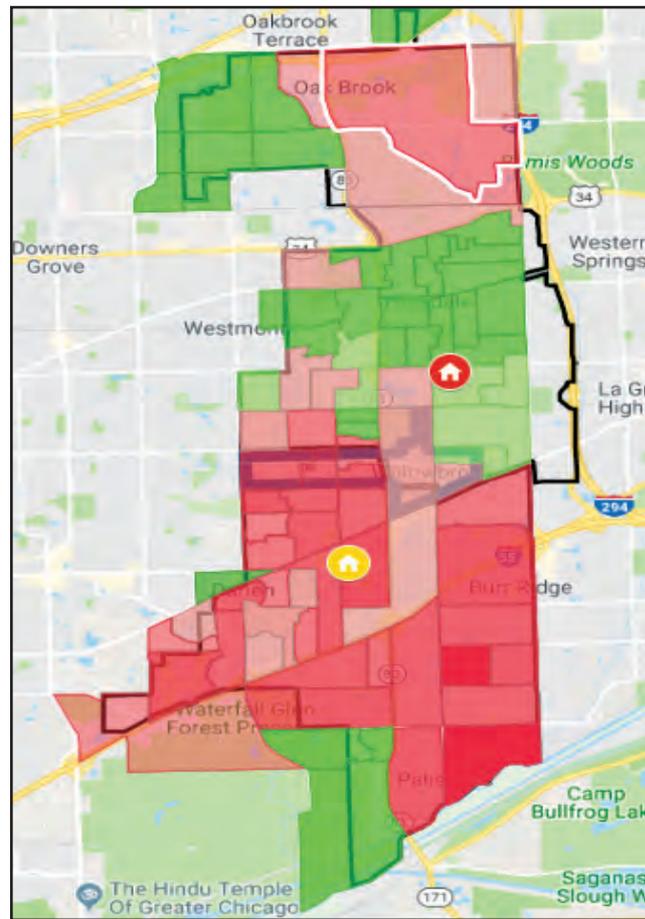
"Unfortunately there are a lot — not everyone — a lot of parents and students from Hinsdale South that have the perception that we are considered less than those at Hinsdale Central," she said.

Plans to use referendum funds to build Central a new 10-lane pool while refurbishing South's existing six-lane pool only furthered that impression, she said.

"Things like that are points I heard from a lot of people who voted no," she said.

The board asked administrators to report at Monday's meeting on the cost of a phone survey to get more information about why people voted no.

Board member Nancy Pollack said she is not interested in giving up. This referendum came much closer to passing than the \$76 million question 74



District 86 posted this map on its website, d86.hinsdale86.org, showing the level of support and opposition throughout the district for the \$166 million referendum. The interactive map is available under BoardDocs for the Nov. 12 special meeting.

By the numbers

Total	Failed 48/92 precincts No 17,461 Yes 14,731
Hinsdale, DuPage	Passed 14/15 precincts Yes 3,752 No 2,570
Hinsdale, Cook	Passed 4/4 precincts Yes 810 No 692
Clarendon Hills	Passed 6/8 precincts Yes 1,897 No 1,608
Oak Brook	Passed 7/12 precincts Yes 1,556 No 1,509
Burr Ridge	Failed 9/10 precincts No 2,502 Yes 979
Darien	Failed 14/16 precincts No 3,545 Yes 2,000
Former buffer zone	Failed 7/8 precincts No 1,807 Yes 721
District 60	Failed 9/13 precincts No 2,950 Yes 2,256

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Board looking to cut \$3 million a year from budget

By Pamela Lannom
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Hinsdale High School District 86 Board members began the work Monday night of determining how to pay for \$45 million in life-safety, security, accessibility

and classroom improvements following the failure of the \$166 million referendum last week.

Board members agreed they would like to complete that work over the next five or six years, a time frame recommended by administrators.

"We think if we put those on a five-year timeline, that we can possibly get to everything before they fail," Superintendent Bruce Law said.

Available resources include proceeds from about \$16 million in bonds the district could sell without going to referen-

dum and the \$2 million a year the district usually spends on summer construction projects, for a total of \$26 million over five years. That leaves a shortfall of \$19 million, or at least \$3 million a year over six years.

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OBITUARIES

Ellen M. White

Ellen M. White, nee Smith, 98, of Burr Ridge passed away Nov. 12, 2018, surrounded by her loving family.

Ellen was born and raised in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood. She was a longtime parishioner of Our Lady of Peace and St Ailbe parishes and a proud graduate of Mercy High School class of 1938. She was a Willowbrook resident before moving to King Bruwaert.

Ellen was preceded in death by her husband, Sydney Alec White; and her brothers, John (the late Ruth) and James Smith.

She is survived by her children, Sara (Robert) Donovan of Hinsdale, Sydney (Ardith) White, Lisa (John) Hilarides and Mimi (Rob) Young; her grandchildren, Tim, Mike, Nellie, Emily,

Sydney, Lucy, Grace and Tom; her step-grandchildren, Laura, Cy, Bree and Denae; and her 14 great-grandchildren.

Visitation is from 3 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 S. Grant St., Hinsdale, with a eulogy service at 6 p.m.

Friends and family will gather at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 19, at the funeral home before proceeding to St. Isaac Jogues Church, 306 W. Fourth St., Hinsdale, for a 10 a.m. funeral Mass.

Interment is at Bronswood Cemetery in Oak Brook.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made online to St Jude Children's Hospital at stjude.org, Honor Flight at honorflight.org or Wounded Warrior Project at woundedwarriorproject.org.

Board looking to cut \$3 million a year

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Board members asked administrators to bring back more information on the following list of possible cost-savings measures, some of which were discussed at an Oct. 15 meeting:

- eliminating transportation not required by law
- limiting the number of AP classes students can take
- limiting sports and extra-curricular activities
- offering classes online
- having one district subject matter division chair rather than one department chair at each school
- capping the number of classes students can take
- increasing class sizes
- reducing PE from five to three days a week
- limiting the number of science classes students can take

• moving more students to South to fully utilize its capacity

Board members expressed discomfort at considering such cuts, especially moving the boundary line to fill South.

"It's gonna be a bit painful, to say the least, but the reality is we've been given a mandate by voters," board member Kevin Camden said.

Board member Bo

Blackburn agreed there can be no sacred cows in the conversation.

"Unfortunately it is time to start making some sausage and making some cuts," he said. "It is not going to be pretty and it is not going to be fun."

The board will continue the discussion at their next meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, at Hinsdale Central.

Thanksgiving bumps up deadlines

Advertising deadlines for the Nov. 22 issue of The Hinsdalean will be one day early due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The display advertising deadline will be 10 a.m. Monday and the classified deadline will be 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The issue will be delivered to homes and newsstands Wednesday, Nov. 21.

The Hinsdalean office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22-23, in observance of the holiday. Normal office hours and deadlines will resume the week of Nov. 26.



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Saturday, December 1, 2018 • 2:00 p.m.

7000 S. Madison Street, Willowbrook

BERWYN LOCATION

Saturday, December 15, 2018 • 2:00 p.m.

2921 S. Harlem Ave., Berwyn

Please RSVP
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