



### Hinsdale Central

Year built: 1949  
 Additions: 12  
 Enrollment  
 current: 2,873  
 ideal: 2,490  
 highest projected:  
 2,904

### Hinsdale South

Year built: 1964  
 Additions: 9  
 Enrollment  
 current: 1,570  
 ideal: 1,930  
 highest projected:  
 1,753



# D86 board might look at moving students

*Building more classrooms might be only part of the space solution for Hinsdale Central*

By Pamela Lannom  
 plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Adding 60 some students to a high school of almost 2,700 students doesn't seem like it would have much of an effect. But when enrollment increases six out of eight years, the numbers start to add up.

At Hinsdale Central High School, such growth has resulted in a student body of 2,873 and has stretched a facility whose ideal capacity is 2,490 students, according to Hinsdale High School District 86 Superintendent Bruce Law.

"What Central has been doing over the years is incrementally adapting to their space issue," he said.

Administrators have been making do with the space available, often moving study halls to free up classroom space.

"They meet in the auditorium. They meet in the gym. They meet in the cafeteria. They put them wherever they can," Law said.

As administrators discuss staffing

needs in March, Law will identify how many additional classrooms the school would need if all study halls were conducted in actual classrooms.

"Let's see what it would look like if we put kids who are trying to get work done in an appropriate learning space," he said.

The district will be able to add some classrooms at Central if voters approve a \$76 million facilities referendum on Tuesday, April 4.

Board members are still working to finalize the list of projects they will pursue at Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South high schools after they decided in January to reduce the referendum request from \$95 million to \$76 million.

Several residents and some board members have suggested a solution also might be found at Hinsdale South High School, which has a student body that is smaller than the building can accommodate. The school's current enrollment is 1,570, compared to an ideal enrollment of 1,930.

A group of residents who have

opposed building classrooms at Central while South is underutilized have adopted the motto, "Fill South First."

Exactly how many students that would require can be calculated different ways.

When Law looks at how many students the schools can hold, he takes into account two factors: their ideal capacity, as determined by architects, and their future enrollment, as determined by the demographer. Law looks at the most aggressive of the demographer's projections, he said.

"I (take) the series projection that has the highest enrollment because to me, that represents risk," he explained. "Classrooms are inelastic. I can't add one next year because I need one."

Using those two numbers, in 2025-26 South would have room for 177 more students. That still would leave Central with 237 more students than it was designed to hold.

Any shift in the student body is not a complete solution, Law said. But if the referendum fails — and even if



it doesn't — the board might take a closer look at some of the options that have been discussed.

### Magnet program at South

Initial discussions between the board and administration were about launching an International Baccalaureate program at South. After doing some additional research, educators realized such a program would compete with Advanced Placement classes, Law said.

"We have a very strong AP program," he said. "It makes no sense to me that we would create a program that would directly compete with our AP program."

Administrators now are talking

*Please turn to Page 30*

# D86 board might look at moving students

Continued from Page 5

about identifying a gap in the current instructional program and finding a new program to fill it. The district already offers significant support for students on the high and low ends of achievement.

"I'm really curious about what programs we could find for students who are in the middle," Law said. "It's not IB."

Creating a magnet program would require additional financial support, primarily for teacher training.

For any change in curriculum to occur in the 2018-19 school year, plans would have to be in place by January 2018, when students start selecting classes, Law said. That leaves his team less than a year to identify and plan for such a program.

If that deadline is not feasible, plans could be in place by January 2019 for a fall 2019 launch.

"This is worth investigating regardless of what happens with the referendum," Law said. "The only way we would not look into this is if there were no room at either school."

## One school/two campuses

Some have suggested using the two buildings as grade level centers, with freshmen and sophomores attending one building and juniors and seniors attending the other.

Neighboring Lyons Township High School is set up that way, with underclassmen attending South Campus in Western Springs and upperclassmen attending North Campus in La Grange. (The New Trier arrangement, with freshmen in one building and sophomores through seniors in another, would not work based on the district's enrollment and the size of its buildings.)

One of the biggest disadvantages from Law's perspective is the reduction in student opportunities. There would be one varsity football team, one spring musical cast, one Mock Trial team instead of two. That would come with a dollar savings but not without a cost, Law said.

"Is our mission as a school

district to spend as little money as possible ... or to try to provide the greatest outcomes at the lowest costs? My vote is for the second," he said. "Obviously that's not for me to decide. That's a board decision."

If the board chose to combine the schools, determining the logistics would be a significant challenge, Law said.

"I don't know how long it would take us to put together a plan to allow grade-level centers to function really well," he said.

## Shifting attendance boundaries

Moving students from one school to another is a complicated proposition, Law said.

"In any school community, this question is the thorniest to handle," he said. "From a managerial standpoint, the easiest decision in the world would be to move students to South, but that's not the way decisions are made in a school district."

Some have suggested eliminating the buffer zone, which gives residents who live there the choice of sending their children to Hinsdale Central or Hinsdale South. This year 217 students live in the buffer zone, with 195 attending Central and 22 attending South.

The board could also redraw boundary lines between the two schools.

"If that's the road the board wants to go down, it's not going to be easy," Law said. "I've never seen it in any community go down easily."

The issue ultimately boils down to whether facilities drive the educational program or the educational program drives facilities, Law said.

"The question that we're really asking is, 'What kind of education do we want our children to have in District 86? What kind of facilities do we want? What kind of educational experience do we want?'"

"If you want the best, it's not going to be cheap," he added. "You don't have to overpay for something, but if you want the best, it's going to cost."

**teardowns.com**

Find and buy property you can't find anywhere else.

teardowns.com  
53 Ogden Avenue  
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514  
(630) 654-4100

Ready to make a move?

*Details Matter*

Are you looking for a broker who will make your home sale or purchase a top priority?

I offer experience, sincere dedication and attention to details!

Proudly serving Hinsdale, Western Springs, LaGrange & Burr Ridge.

**Ann Hoglund**  
REAL ESTATE

(708) 828-5773  
Ann.Hoglund@CBexchange.com

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE  
HINSDALE



FIVE STAR AWARD RECOGNIZES  
- CAROL LEE CIKANEK -  
FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

The Five Star award recognizes service professionals who provide quality services to their clients. Clients evaluated Carol Lee on 10 different areas of service:

1. Customer service provided
2. Communication skills
3. Finding the right home for her buyers
4. Marketing of the property for her sellers
5. Negotiation skill and tactics
6. Industry knowledge
7. Integrity
8. Did the clients feel prepared for the closing process?
9. Post sale service
10. And most importantly - would they recommend her to the public?

Carol Lee has received this award five times!

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

**CAROL LEE CIKANEK**  
(630) 674-6635  
carol@cikanek.com



**WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE**

Put your homebuying goals in experienced hands

Whether you're buying your primary residence, second home or refinancing your current home, **Jande Stillman Hansen** can provide access to products and services that may help you reach your homebuying goals.

**Known for quality and remembered for service**

- Recognized as a top producer, Presidents Club status, by Wells Fargo for over 20 years
- #1 volume producer in the Midwest for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
- Experienced in handling the unique needs of jumbo financing
- Able to lend in all 50 states

**Call Jande today.**

**Jande Stillman Hansen**  
40 E. Hinsdale Avenue, Suite 203, Hinsdale, IL 60521  
Office: 630-655-5550, Cell: 630-235-9671  
jande.hansen@wellsfargo.com  
www.jandehansen.com, NMLS ID 418584

Information is accurate as of date of printing and is subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. © 2011 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. NMLS ID 399801. AS2849879 Expires 2/2017




