

Library, pool, cafeteria slated for work

Heavy renovations plus small addition will improve spaces used by most South students

By Pamela Lannom
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If Hinsdale High School District 86 voters approve a \$76 million referendum Tuesday, April 4, \$24.9 million will pay for renovation and construction at Hinsdale South.

The money will be spent primarily on projects that have one thing in common, Principal Stephanie Palmer said during a tour of the building Tuesday.

"It touches a lot of areas that are accessed by every student in the

school," she said.

The No. 1 project is renovating the school's library to create more opportunities for student use, Palmer said. Space that now serves as library faculty offices and computer labs will be removed to create an area with flexible instructional, presentation and open spaces.

"Libraries are changing," she said. "Libraries serve instructional, technological services they never have before."

Another space used by every student is the cafeteria, which is slated

for almost \$4.5 million worth of work. The kitchen and serving area currently sits in the middle of the dining space, creating challenges for students who must go through a single line to get their food and for receiving food deliveries.

The revised plan moves the area to the east wall and creates more of a food court atmosphere for students. Better lines of sight throughout the dining area would translate into half as many lunchtime supervisors, Palmer said.

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This is the final story in a four-part series on the \$76 million facilities referendum Hinsdale High School District 86 has placed on the Tuesday, April 4, ballot.

Hinsdale South projects

\$24.9 million

Aquatic center \$7.6 million

A major renovation of the existing aquatic facility includes replacing the existing pool vessel with a new six-lane, 25-yard pool with appropriate depth for diving and water polo and an operable platform at the low end to accommodate adaptive physical education. The deck will be replaced and locker rooms and offices will be remodeled.

Library \$4.9 million

Total rehabilitation of the library's main floor creates space for a media production lab and flexible presentation, instruction and open space. The third-floor

library space is renovated to provide a flexible professional development/innovation lab, a digital video production lab and two classrooms.

Cafeteria \$4.5 million

The existing serving and kitchen area is removed and replaced with a new serving and kitchen area relocated to the east wall of the existing dining area.

Fine arts \$3.6 million

Curtains, lighting and technology area replaced in the existing auditorium, which also receives upgrades to flooring, seating, power and sound. A new 3,000-square-foot band room is created out of the existing 1,200-square-foot choir room and a small addition. The existing 2,300-square-foot band

room is re-purposed as a choir room.

Technology wing \$2.8 million

The existing shop wing is renovated to support the engineering/architecture program with visually connect shop and computer assisted drawing spaces.

Special education/ DHH \$1.6 million

Special education support spaces are expanded from 4,300 square feet to 6,300 square feet to create a second conference room, a second Fountains space, a sensory room, a second adaptable washroom and dedicated work space for paraprofessionals. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing spaces displaced by this work are recaptured with renovations to the current bookstore and storage.



Hinsdale South High School Principal Stephanie Palmer discusses some of the improvements planned for the high school if a \$76 million referendum on the Tuesday, April 4, ballot passes. One of the areas slated for renovation is the cafeteria, where the kitchen and serving area will be moved from the middle of the room to the east wall to improve efficiency and visibility. (Jim Slonoff photos)

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"All of the students would be in one area, so supervisions would be a lot more efficient," she said.

Plans for the aquatic center, now budgeted at \$7.6 million, originally were set for \$12.9 million and included an expansion of the existing pool and a new diving well.

The revisions to the pool plans were part of an overall cost-reduction effort triggered by the board's vote Jan. 9 to ask voters to approve a \$76 million bond issue. District 86 administrators had recommended a \$95 million referendum.

Building principals, Superintendent Bruce Law and Arcon architects sat down with a list of projects and the goal of getting the price at or below \$76 million.

The new list of projects totals \$71.3 million, which includes \$46.4 million worth of work at Central.

The referendum amount will remain at \$76 million. If the identified projects come in at or below \$71.3 million, the board could decide to abate taxes or spend the \$4.7 million on other projects.

In addition to the library, cafeteria and pool at South, work also will be done to expand space for special education and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program and to create a technology wing

to support the engineering/architecture program. The auditorium would get new seats, carpets and lighting and upgrades to power and sound.

"Every time we have a production we have to hire sound (engineers)," Palmer said. That would change with the new equipment.

Roughly 65 percent of the \$76 million is earmarked for Central projects and 35 percent for South improvements. Those percentages mirror the distribution of students at each building.

Projects at both schools will create almost 121,000 square feet of new or renovated space. At Hinsdale Central, 10,100 existing square feet will be renovated and 59,300 square feet will be added. At Hinsdale South, 46,000 square feet will be renovated and 5,500 square feet will be added.

The referendum is expected to cost the owner of a \$1 million home in the district \$300 to \$408 a year.

The \$76 million figure represents a compromise, board member and facilities committee Chairman Jennifer Planson told The Hinsdalean last week.

"It reflects the board's concern to taxpayers to make sure this is not overly burdensome to district taxpayers," she said.

Expect summer park brochure

The Hinsdale Parks and Recreation Summer Aquatics & Recreation program guide will be delivered Monday, March 20, to Hinsdale residents. A web version of the brochure will be available on the Parks and Recreation department page on the village of Hinsdale website.

Registration begins March 27 for residents and April 10 for nonresidents. Registrations can be completed online, in-person, by mail or by fax.

New programs this summer include Fit4Mom, bubble soccer, water polo and more. Also included are many popular classes, such as SkyHawks and Sports R Us sport camps, swim lessons, the Stingrays Town Team, LEGO classes and many others. New events such as Movies in the Park and a cardboard boat regatta will be offered this summer.

Hinsdale residents who do not receive a brochure in the mail, should call the park and rec office at (630) 789-7090.

Campaign calendar

Hinsdale High School District 86 will hold the final community information session about the \$76 million on the Tuesday, April 8, ballot from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South.



Residents are invited to take self-guided tours. Administrators will be available to answer questions in each school's main office

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