

# OPINION

EDITORIAL

## Know the facts on D86 referendum before voting

Still looking for more information on District 86 referendum?

There's plenty of it out there. Just log onto Facebook and you'll see ads both encouraging you to support the \$139.8 million bond issue on April 2 and opining on why you should vote no.

We hope, with the election less than six weeks away, residents are doing all they can to educate themselves on the facts and the consequences of a yes or no vote.

We've taken calls from people wondering if some of the work (especially on Central's pool) needs to be done. We'd encourage them to see for themselves by taking one of the tours offered at Central and South. There are three more opportunities to see the facilities at each of the high schools before Election Day.

Hinsdale Central tours will be offered at 9 a.m. Friday, March 1; 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 19; and 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 27.

Hinsdale South tours are slated for 10 a.m. Friday, March 1; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20; and noon Friday, March 22

District 86 Superintendent Bruce Law also is making informational presentations and answering questions at various locations before the election.

• 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the Indian Prairie Public Library in Darien

• 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Hinsdale Public Library

• 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 8, at the Oak Brook Public Library

• 8 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 15, at Page's Restaurant in Hinsdale

The district has an "April 2019 referendum" link on its website at [d86.hinsdale86.org](http://d86.hinsdale86.org). Residents can see a project list, FAQ, videos, a calendar with tour and presentation dates and more.

We're working to do our part with a weekly series examining various topics that have come up in conversations about the referendum, including today's article on Page 7. Every story in the series — and relevant articles from our coverage of the 2018 and 2017 referendums — is posted under the "Decision 2019" link on our website at [thehinsdalean.com](http://thehinsdalean.com).

We encourage voters to review the information they receive carefully. We've seen two instances of potentially misleading "facts" in the past few days.

One was a flier listing the cost to taxpayers if the referendum passes. The owner of a home worth \$1 million is expected to pay an additional \$576.31 a year for 20 years. (Homeowners can determine the exact estimate for their home using the tax calculator on the D86 website.)

But the flier lists the estimates using equalized assessed valuation rather than fair market value. So the tax increase listed next to \$1 million is \$1,750 a year for 20 years. But EAV is one-third



of fair market value, so that is the estimated increase for a home worth \$3.3 million. It makes the referendum sound a lot more expensive than it really is.

We've also seen a claim that the District 86 board — which will gain three or four new members following the April 2 election — will rescind the \$3.2 million in cuts passed in December to begin to pay for \$42 million in life-safety, security and accessibility improvements.

We've spent more than four hours interviewing eight of the nine candidates running for a seat on the board, and only one has expressed an intention to reinstate the co-curricular cuts (football, swimming, wrestling, drama, marching band and newspaper among many others) even if the referendum fails. So we're not sure how anyone can say with certainty that the cuts will not go through.

Much is at stake for District 86 students in this election. We hope voters get all the correct information they need to make a decision before they head to the polls April 2.

COMMENTARY

## Cafe a temporary gallery for young artist

Seven-year-old Jack Rose is a big fan of the chocolate chip cookies at Café la Fortuna.

He's also a big fan of the art hanging on the walls.

Pieces by Hinsdale's Maureen Claffy on display in the downtown Hinsdale coffee shop first caught his eye on a visit with his parents, Sue and Kirk.

"I always like the color and I like the swirls," he explained.

Now his own work hangs in the northeast corner of the shop.

I wanted to meet this young artist and so I set up an appointment with him and his parents Monday afternoon. He was waiting for me at the counter, looking dapper in a blue plaid shirt and red bow tie. We sat down to talk and he pointed out his favorite painting in the exhibit.

"I made it based on my family," he told me, pointing out the sunflowers that represent his dad, mom and three older siblings, Chris, 33, Elise, 31, and Cassie, 27.

He created the painting while

taking private lessons last summer with Claffy.

Another piece in the exhibit, which depicts a red bird, was part of a larger project he worked on with his instructor and friend Maia Chodorow.

"This was the magical garden that we made, and we each got to take a piece of it home," he said between bites of his cookie. "I like my bird."

Other pieces were completed at Monroe School.

In addition to Claffy, Jack is inspired by Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keefe and Vincent Van Gogh. He said color, not a particular subject, is what motivates him to paint.

Jack plans to be a geologist and world traveler when he grows up — and seems fairly certain he will not pursue art as a profession.

"I'll always like it and do it, but I don't think I am going to be an artist," he said. "I kind of want to do



Pamela Lannom

other stuff."

Jack has been painting since his mom signed him up for a Kaleidoscope Class at Grace Episcopal Church. A preschool teacher suggested signing him up for art classes when he was 5. His folks had noticed his interest as well.

"He would do it at home, too," Kirk said. "He actually took time to try to create detail."

They enjoy seeing their son's work on display and appreciate the support from Café la Fortuna co-owner Angela Lavelli.

"I think it's really exciting for Jack, and obviously we're very proud of him and with a huge thanks to Angela and Café la Fortuna for allowing him the opportunity," Sue said. "It takes a village, right? And we're in a very nurturing, fantastic village that supports this stuff."

Jack's parents appreciate Claffy's

talents as well, both as a painter and as an instructor.

"I think she has a real gift for teaching," Sue said.

Having a son with a gift is cool and fun, Kirk said. Some of the pieces Jack painted as a toddler hang in their home, and they often catch the attention of visitors.

"People come in and go, 'Now, who's that?'" he said, before he tells him the artist was a 3-year-old.

Lavelli said she is happy to have Jack's work on display.

"It impressed me that at his age and in this electronic era, he is so interested in art," she said.

His portrait of a monster has caught the attention of many customers, she said, adding that Jack has told her the price for interested buyers: twenty thousand million dollars.

Sounds like Jack might want to consider a career in sales as well.

— Pamela Lannom is editor of *The Hinsdalean*. Readers can email her at [plannom@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:plannom@thehinsdalean.com).