

The Truth About The District 86 Pools

As you may know, a very informed and well vetted group of parents and coaches met over the past 3 months to review and recommend options for the Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central swimming pools, as they are aging and in need of massive repairs or replacement.

Background

The group consisted of an equal amount of parents from Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central, D86 board members Nancy Pollack and Jennifer Planson, as well as Coach Bob Barber and Coach Beth Walker. Ms. Pollack and Ms. Planson attended to help educate the group, but cannot advocate one way or the other. The group listened to the input from the coaches, talked about the history of each facility and what repairs have been done over the years, and what would be the most effective and efficient solution to the issues. It was eye opening and disturbing to say the least! The pools at both schools have outlived their usefulness and are quickly falling apart. The amount of money needed to just bring them to 2018 standards is **\$19,150,050**. The pools need to be replaced immediately if we are to have any pools in the future. We have been informed by ARCON, and by the comprehensive pool study that the pools have only a few years before they will be shut down. Diving at both pools has already been stopped, and current divers must resort to using other facilities in the area for practice and meets. This also means if you have an aspiring swimmer, water polo player, or diver in your family that is 12 years of age or younger, they may not have a high school team in the future because there will be no pools to practice in or have meets. The attached document is the presentation that was given by Coach Barber and Coach Walker at the Community Task Force meetings to discuss the master facilities plans. Below is an overview of each facility and their shortcomings.

Hinsdale Central Pool

- *Built in 1958 with no major improvements in 60 years
- *Pool is too shallow for diving at one end and water polo players can stand on the bottom
- *Air quality and ventilation is horrible causing breathing conditions among swimmers and parents
- *One locker room for boys and girls to share. When they practice at the same time, the girls change in the bathroom across the hall.
- *Unable to host any conference championships as pool does not meet current requirements or seating.
- *Locker room is outdated, too small – students share lockers and place clothes, shoes, on the pool deck
- *The most used facility at Hinsdale Central – in use from 5:45AM – 10PM weekdays with high school swimming, PE Classes, water polo, Hinsdale Swim Club. Weekends can include swim meets and further practice time. There is no room for any additional programming.
- *Pool is used 184 days per year (every school day)
 - Student bather load 46,368 individual hours per year
 - Swim teams 72,000 individual hours per year
 - Water polo 14,880 individual hours per year
 - 133,248 total individual pool usage hours per year
- *Deferred maintenance – Needs new windows, lighting, Dectron unit, heating unit, mechanical equipment (original), roof damage, locker room
- *At full capacity – There is no room for additional programming for more swimmers, or to add Learn To Swim programs, or special Olympics, or Guard Organization/Lifeguarding, or other clubs and sports using the pool for pole vault practice, bass fishing team, rehabbing of sports injuries
- *Not ADA compliant

Hinsdale South Pool

- *Built in 1965 with minimal upgrades
- *Pool is too shallow for diving at one end and water polo players can stand on the bottom
- *Diving is scheduled for other pools as the depth of our pool is insufficient.
- *There are not enough programming opportunities for students and the community.
- *Seating is good with three sides (they used to hold the IHSA state meet at Hinsdale South)
- *Air quality has been improved , but heat and ventilation is still poor
- *Added new scoreboard which can be moved to a new facility
- *Locker room capacity is insufficient. Students are forced to place clothing, backpacks on pool deck
- *Mechanical equipment is original and outdated.
- *Ceiling tile damage.
- *On-deck bleachers have not been maintained.
- *Not ADA compliant. Wheelchair access is difficult.
- *Pool is used 184 days per year (every school day)
 - Student bather load 32,200 individual hours per year
 - Swim teams 31,500 individual hours per year
 - Water polo 15,600 individual hours per year
 - 79,300 total individual pool usage hours per year

No other athletic facility at either school is used as extensively as the pools.

Recommendations

The pool committee, after touring both campuses and discussing the issues and needed improvements, developed 8 options for each pool. These options ranged from repairing the existing pools to meet 2018 standards, to building “the pool of the future”. Repairing/replacing the existing pools at both schools to meet 2018 standards would cost:

Hinsdale South -	\$7,338,165
Hinsdale Central -	\$11,811,885
Total Needed to Repair Current Pools to 2018 Standards:	\$19,150,050

We are NOT looking to simply repair the pools as this does not add any programming options to either school and does not anticipate future needs.

Here are the recommended pool options for D86:

Hinsdale South – Option 2A on attached presentation

- New 6 lane x 40 yard stretch pool
- Built in existing pool space and bumping out the East wall (the wall that has the timing system currently)
- Deeper pool to accommodate water polo and diving at both ends
- Expanded and new locker rooms for boys and girls
- New office space
- Expanded storage space for pool equipment
- New lighting
- New mechanical equipment
- New Dectron air filtration unit

Hinsdale Central – Option 4A on attached presentation

- New 10 lane x 40 yard stretch pool
- Built next to the Fieldhouse in the area where the retention pond is currently
- Deeper pool to accommodate water polo and diving at both ends
- All new locker rooms for both boys and girls
- New office space
- New storage space for pool equipment
- New lighting
- New Dectron air filtration unit
- New mechanical equipment

Both Coach Walker and Coach Barber confirmed that the needs are not the same for both schools as Hinsdale Central has more participation in boys and girls swimming and diving and Hinsdale Swim Club is larger than Hornet Swim Club.

With the construction of new pools, here is what will happen....

- The old pool at Hinsdale Central will be repurposed to become either the new gymnastics room, or a black box theater, or a band/orchestra room. If the gymnastics room moves in, then the existing gymnastics room (which is in the hallway near Foreign Languages) can be repurposed to become 6-8 classrooms as it encompasses both the first and second floors
- Both Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central will have adequate locker room space for both boys and girls.
- Both Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central will have a deep water pool that can accommodate water polo, diving, and starts from both ends of the pool.
- Both Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central will be able to offer more programming to include:
 - Learn to Swim programs for children and adults
 - Masters swimming classes and swim meets for the community
 - Expanded swim teams so no child will be cut from the team
 - Special Olympics programming
 - Swim/Guard Organization – This group offers the Learn to Swim program, Water Safety Instructor certification, Lifeguarding classes
 - Bass fishing club
 - Pole vault practice
 - SCUBA classes
 - Community Open Swim
 - Kayaking
 - Yoga, dryland exercises, Fluid Running
 - Rehabilitation for sports injuries for football, cross country, soccer and track teams
 - Cross training programs for Triathletes, wrestling, football, cross country and track teams
 - Expanded opportunities for Hinsdale Swim Club and Hornet Swim Club to add more members and offer better training facilities

We DO NOT NEED the pool of the future, but we do need new pools that will meet the needs of our students and community today as well as for the next fifty years, just as the current pools have done. The current pools will not last 5 years much less 50! There are high schools in the area that have built new pools recently....

- Lyons Township - 6 lane, 50 meter pool (that is just shy of being 50 meters and is only 6 lanes)
- Libertyville High School – currently constructing new facility to replace pool built in 1971
- Deerfield High School – new 40 yard stretch pool with 15 lanes of training, built in 2015.

Pricing

Hinsdale South – Option 2A - \$15,131,055

Hinsdale Central – Option 4A - \$24,045,600

Total cost for both schools - \$39,176,655

Based on Dr. Bruce Law's figures that the entire Master Facilities Plan will cost \$184 million or \$418 per family based on a \$500,000 home value, we evaluated how much that will be reflected in pool costs:

Based on a \$500,000 home value, the average daily cost of the new pools is 24.3 cents!

Summary

- **The Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central pools are more than 50 years old and way beyond their usefulness and need to be replaced immediately.**
- **They do not meet safety requirements, ADA requirements, programming requirements for today and into the future.**
- **The master facilities plan has a domino effect....if the pools are not included in the plan, there will be no potential increase in classrooms or auditorium space at Hinsdale Central.**
- **If new pools are not built, there is the possibility that the pools will be shut down in the next few years leaving both schools with no swim teams, no diving, no water polo, no community usage.**
- **The cost to build the new pools is only 24.3 cents per day!**
- **D86 has not passed ANY referendums in 56 years so all facilities are falling apart at the same time and this cannot continue.**
- **Costs will not go down, they increase at a rate of 3% per year.**
- **The D86 community needs to come together for the sake of future generations to have the schools and facilities we expect in our community. This is everyone's issue, not just for parents and students who attend these schools today. It affects your property values and the lifeblood of the community.**

Please share this information with at least 30 people you know so that everyone is informed about the need to have new pools at both Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central. Thank you.