

Jim Hedges, owner of Memory Lane Auto Museum and local business owner, offers Galion Board of Education \$100,000 for the Galion High School

Businessman makes offer for former GHS building

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Wednesday morning the Galion Board of Education received yet another offer for the old high school building. This time the offer is for \$100,000.

"I want to open it back up and use it for a vocational school," said Hedges, who expressed surprise that the board would tear down a useful building.

"The board can't do this without an auction," said Superintendent Kathy Jenney in response to Hedges' offer. "But I will relay this to the board." Jenney added that the next meeting of the board is Jan. 10.

In the letter to the board Jim Hedges states "I would like to make an offer of \$100,000 to purchase the old Galion High School located

at 200 North Union Street, Galion, Ohio.

I would like to turn the old high school into an vocational school for teaching such things as dental hygienics, chiropractic, law enforcement, etc."

Jenney's response: "Today, Mr. Jim Hedges stopped by the Administrative Center for the Galion City School District and presented Mrs. Kathleen Jenney, Superintendent, with an offer for the purchase of the former Galion High School.

Unfortunately, this offer can not be accepted for several reasons, including:

- The Board has not offered the building at public auction

- The Board has chosen to demolish all former buildings

- The Board has entered into contracts for the abatement of the high school.

For further explanation, the state gives school districts the option of demolishing old buildings or offering them for sale. If the Board had taken the option to sell the buildings, the state requires school districts to offer building at public auction FIRST before any direct offers to the board could be considered. The Board did not offer the building at public auction, thus, they cannot legally accept any new offers to purchase the building. The Board has clearly stated that their position is to demolish the former school buildings and is proceeding with contracts to do so.

At the December Board of Education meeting, the Board approved and entered into abatement contracts. The abatement contract work is scheduled to begin January 7, 2008, on the former high school."