

Opinion

Letters to the editor

The Galion board of education needs to be commended for their service to the citizens of Galion. The board, under the competent leadership of Marge McCumber, has faced and acted on many difficult and highly emotional issues. They provided to the public an opportunity to save the old high school building. However, no one came forward with a viable business plan within the time frame set up by the board. The board had no alternative but to proceed with plans for the demolition, a wise choice for now and in the future.

Our new schools are one of the greatest assets we have to attract new people and industries to Galion in order to help us grow in a positive manner. Now supporters of retaining the old high school building would hold our feet to the fire for not providing the \$7 million dollars necessary to upgrade the old portion of the building *and* provide the operating money to keep it going.

In addition, we are threatened by some with the non-support of future levies. Fortunately, all taxpayers will make that decision, not just a vocal few. Our citizens are knowledgeable enough to make their own determinations based on the gains we have made in Galion.

The present school board members have endured hostility, humiliation and unfounded criticism in their efforts to function in the best interests of the Galion school community. Their job is thankless and the reimbursement they receive is returned to the school. We are fortunate to find dedicated people willing to subject themselves to the rigors of serving on a board of education.

Dr. Jenney appears to be doing an excellent job under very difficult conditions. She gives every indication of being a great superintendent.

The problems facing a school district are many and varied. The dissatisfied among us can not try to hold this community hostage with threats because they were unable to meet the criteria for purchase set up by the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission in conjunction with the Galion City Schools Board of Education.

In addition, a fine arts center would be a perfect edition to our beautiful new high school complex. Those who are willing to expend the effort needed to save the old high school building could start the ball rolling by donating their offers of \$100,000 and \$58,000 to this grand goal.

Stanley Herman