

Postponed

TRO hearing for old GHS demolition project on hold

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The hearing scheduled for today at 3 p.m. in the Crawford County Courthouse requesting a temporary halt to the demolition of the old high school has been postponed. Further information will be forthcoming.

On Monday a group of citizens wishing to stop demolition of the former Galion high school filed suit with the Galion board of education in hopes of stopping the process and saving the building. Persons named as plaintiffs included Steven A. Kemle, Carole Kemle, Martha J. Palmer and David E. Smith.

"Tearing down the buildings is a total waste of taxpayer money," said Smith, "especially when there are buyers for the old high school."

"This is not about holding on to the past," said Martha Palmer, "It is about hope for the future of the city. I am disappointed that it had to come to this (the lawsuit). So many people have tried so hard and so long to communicate with the board of education. We still hope for a

positive outcome for the people of Galion."

"The reason that I have decided to take this action is multi-layered if you will," said Steven Kemle. "First and foremost is the fact that by all appearances the board of education violated Ohio Sunshine laws by discussing, and voting for demolition of the school buildings. I have yet to see ANY proof that this was ever discussed and voted on in a public meeting.

"Second, with busing being cut, students have been placed in harms way by not having safe passage on Portland Way. It would have seemed imperative that the board of education would have had sidewalks in place, and an overpass for students. This makes me think there was little to no consideration for the safety of ALL students whatsoever.

"Third, that information released from the board of education was not inclusive in all areas. The fact that time and time again they took the stance that the buildings HAD to come down according to Ohio School Facilities Commission is untrue.

"Finally, the mere fact that

the board of education wanted input from the community when it was time to construct the new buildings, and even promoted dialogue with the community to gain support, however, when it was time to decide what to do with the buildings left behind the community was not given the same encouragement to voice input. As a matter of fact it seems by appearances that they have discounted opinions by even a few."

Yesterday the Galion board of education announced an amended notice of special meeting: "A special meeting of the Galion city school district board of education will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24, at the new high school cafeteria, 472 Portland Way North, Galion. The board will consider personnel issues and any other business they determine necessary to transact before they enter executive session to confer with attorneys concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending court action. The agenda of regular board meetings will not be followed."