

# Agreement on abatement of old Galion High School detailed

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*Editor's note: This article is one in a continuing series designed to keep the community informed on the details of the fate of the old Galion High School building.*

Filed in court Jan. 17, the temporary restraining order/continuing asbestos agreement between the board of education and those wishing to save the old high school (John Barga, attorney) included the following letter from Steven Friedman, attorney for the Galion board of education.

"Jan. 15, 2008

"Re: State ex. rel. (on behalf of) Kemle v. Galion City Schools

"Dear John,

"I confirmed with the district's construction manager that all demolition associated with the current asbestos abatement contract is cosmetic in nature (e.g. ceiling tiles, drywall, etc.) and will not affect the structural integrity of the building. The contract entails the removal of all category 2 asbestos, which also would have to be removed if the district planned to renovate the building for any public use. Accordingly, the abatement contract should go forward regardless of the ultimate decision by the court on the demolition of the building.

"As we discussed this morning, the district is willing to withhold executing any demolition contract until after the court rules on the preliminary injunction if the plaintiffs are willing to withdraw their motion for a TRO and the court is willing to hear the preliminary injunction by Feb. 15, 2008. Also, as I stated on the phone, we will work with you in

good faith to reasonably expedite discovery in preparation for the preliminary injunction hearing.

"Please let me know if this proposal is acceptable to your clients so we can contact the court in advance of tomorrow's hearing.

"Sincerely, Steven A. Friedman"

Also filed with the letter is the agreement: 'This matter comes before the court upon the representation that the parties have reached an agreement with regard to the plaintiffs-relators' written application for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction, such that based upon the representation of defendants' counsel contained in his Jan. 15, 2008 letter, the application for Temporary Restraining Order is hereby withdrawn.

"It is further agreed and ORDERED. 1) that the hearing presently scheduled for Jan. 16, 2008 at 3 p.m. is hereby continued until Feb. 19, 2008 at 10 am. for a hearing on plaintiffs-relators' application for Preliminary Injunction, and 2) that the defendants-respondent will instruct their contractors to abide by the representations set forth in the Jan. 15, 2008, letter, which is incorporated herein as Exhibit - 1, and 3) that until further Order of this court, the defendants-respondents will not execute any demolition contracts for the high school, and 4) as to all other matters this case continued.

Following were three signatures: Judge Russ Wiseman, John T. Barga, counsel for plaintiffs-relators and Steven A. Friedman, counsel for defendants-respondents."

Continued on next sheet.

Agreement details continued

On Monday, Jan. 14, 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 are Steven A. Kemle, Carole Kemle, Martha J. Palmer and David E. Smith. John Barga of Barga, Jones & Anderson, Ltd. is the attorney handling the case.

The hearing scheduled for Wednesday requesting a temporary halt to the demolition of the old high school has been postponed.

The rescheduled hearing, open to the public, is set for Feb. 19 at the Crawford County Courthouse at 10 a.m.

A copy of the complaint is available for viewing on the Galion Cultural and Conference Center's Web site — [www.1917ghs.com](http://www.1917ghs.com). Click on "legal action information.