

Letters to the editor

My rationale for wanting to save the former Galion High School is explained in this presentation that consists of four parts.

All figures used herein are approximate.

Part 1. The \$192,000 of local tax payer money is saved if the board of education (BOE) does not demolish the former high school.

That \$192,000 can be used to pay down the bond indebtedness of the school district.

We will not have to pay the 4 percent per year interest (for the next 22 years) on the \$192,000 we have paid down on the bond indebtedness.

That results in more savings of \$165,000 - \$170,000. This gives a total savings of approximately \$360,000 for the local taxpayers.

Part 2. The \$600,000 of state money will be saved if the BOE does not demolish the former high school.

Part 3. We are looking at close to \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) total savings if the BOE doesn't demolish the building.

Part 4. If the building is demolished, the bricks, mortar, and other parts of the building will have to be deposited in a landfill. Obviously, landfills have a finite capacity. Why fill them up with materials from a building that should remain standing?

Is this a wise use of our resources?

"Tear the old gym down" the Galion board members say

But then the kids won't have a place to play

It doesn't sound like a good idea to me

To tear the building down and pay a demolition fee

The gym, the money, and the kids will all be gone

And we will end up with nothing when we are done

Now if the board prevails and has its way

Where will the kids be able to play

Perhaps writing graffiti all over the town

Because the board demolished a gym that was sound

This course of action seems wasteful to me

I ask the board to listen to the people's plea

One thousand signatures say keep the old gym

Let the kids play there again and again

We hope that some day soon the kids can say

"We're going to the old high school gym and play"

This play gives them skills, and they make life-long friends

We're in this together; hope this story has a good end.

May our policy statement always be:

If it benefits the kids,

let's do it.

David E. Smith
Former Galion Middle School science teacher 1968-
1995