

# *Negotiations continue concerning former GHS*

By RACHEL MENDELL  
Inquirer Reporter  
rmendell@galioninquirer.com

John Barga, attorney for the plaintiffs trying to save the old Galion High School, and Steven Friedman, attorney for the Galion Board of Education, met with Judge Russ Wiseman today to continue negotiations in the case of State of Ohio Ex Rel et al vs. Galion City Schools Board of Education et al.

The attorneys met in private session with the judge Tuesday afternoon, then the attorneys met with their clients.

"The attorneys are working on numbers," said Steven Kemle. "The adaptive re-use committee is in the process of securing funds."

The trial, originally set to begin May 20, has been con-

tinued until July.

"The judge said we could still go ahead with the bid process," said superintendent Kathy Jenney. On the agenda for Thursday for the Galion Board of Education is a resolution to approve construction documents for the demolition of the old Galion High School. The process, if approved will take 30 to 60 days, with bids going out on Friday and bid opening two weeks later. Jenney said approving the bid documents does not involve finances for the district yet.

On Jan. 14, a group of citizens filed legal action against the Galion board of education, asking the court to stop the demolition of the old Galion High School. An agreement between the two sides was reached to com-

plete the abatement with a view to remodel. The first hearing of the case was scheduled for Feb. 19. That hearing was continued until March 5.

During negotiations between lawyers, defendants, plaintiffs, and the judge on March 5, an agreement was made to run the preliminary injunction request hearing and hearing on the merits together. April 3 and 4 were then set aside for the case. The hearing was postponed, and claims one and four of the plaintiffs request were dismissed. The remaining portions of the case dealing with open meetings and open records laws would have been heard in front of a jury by order of Judge Russ Wiseman beginning May 20, but has been moved to July.