

# A lot of discussion to go before former GHS building fate resolved

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"We still have a lot of discussions," said Steven Friedman, counsel for the Galion Board of Education. "We've been telling them what we want the plan to look like. They're still working to provide us with sufficient security so that if the building is sold to the group and they are not able to make productive use in the time allotted there would be sufficient funds to demolish the building."

The board will be considering passing the bid documents to demolish the old high school tonight at its regular board meeting.

"There is nothing pending in the case to prevent the board from going forward with the demolition of the building," said Friedman, sitting that claims one and four were dismissed from the case.

Friedman added that the board is still willing to work with the adaptive reuse group is they can come up with security for the demolition.

"We are trying to meet their demands," said John Barga, counsel for the plaintiffs trying to save the old high school. "With the judge's help we are bridging this gap between what we are attempting to do and what the board is demanding and what we are able to provide."

"The board is still asking for \$100,000 to purchase the property," said Barga. "If we are able to meet the boards demands we should be able to save the high school."

Yesterday the attorneys for the plaintiffs and defendants in the case against the Galion Board of Education met with Judge Russ Wiseman to hammer out details in the continuing negotiation process.

"I think the committee is planning a group meeting soon to gather more support from individuals and organization in the community in an effort to meet the board's demands," said Barga.

"The purpose of the committees efforts is to save this historic high school," Barga continued, "and convert it to a facility that will serve individuals, public agencies, private organizations, including churches and fraternal organizations in the entire Galion

community.

"This committee is not attempting nor does it have a desire to compete with efforts by the board to raise money for it's purposed new auditorium.

"If the committee is successful, a non-profit will be formed initially to take title of the property, to seek community input and support for services needed by the community."

"The committee needs help from the community," said Barga.

Anyone who wishes to support of be involved in the committee's effort call 419-689-2284. The adaptive reuse committee can also be contacted at [www.1917.com](http://www.1917.com).

# On tonight's Galion BOE agenda

On the docket for the Galion Board of Education (Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the new Gallon High School cafeteria) is a resolution approving construction documents for the demolition of the Old Galion High School.

Also on the agenda is a resolution of the board of education to the counties of Morrow, Crawford and Richland requesting an income tax. Official ballot language: "Shall an annual income tax of one percent on the earned income of individuals residing in the school district be imposed by the Galion City School district for a five-year period of time beginning January 1, 2009, for the purpose of the current expenses and permanent improvements of the school district?" The tax will produce \$1,728,513 annually for current expenses (90 percent) and permanent improvements (10 percent).

Other issues:

- Consider approving bids from the Dawsett auction
- Consider rededicating the new high school media center
- Consider reinstating contracts of previously RIFed staff
- Consider the purchase of a new bus
- Consider personnel, contracts, curriculum, donations

The board will also set a special meeting and public meeting for re-employment of retired teachers and go into executive session to consider the employment of public employees.