

11/14/2014 Sun

Estimates to raze Gale School in \$43,000 range

By MICHAEL KITCH
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — The cost to demolish the 120-year-old Gale School building could run upward of \$43,000, according to information given to the Shaker Regional School Board this week.

School District Building and Grounds Director Doug Ellis told the board at its meeting Tuesday that he had received two bids from New Hampshire demolition companies and was waiting to receive a proposal from a third.

The historic but empty building sets on perch, to the rear of the Middle School in Belmont village.

The bid from Danley Demolition was for \$43,500 which would pay for demolition of the wood-frame structure as well as the cost of removing the bell tower and bell prior to actual demolition. The bid submitted by New Hampshire Demolition was for \$44,250 to cover the cost of tearing the building down and an additional \$15,000 to remove the bell tower and bell.

The School Board had requested to know how much it would cost to save the tower and the 3-foot-diameter brass bell.

Ellis said he was awaiting a third price proposal

from Spears Brothers.

On Tuesday the board asked Ellis to get information comparing the costs of merely filling in the building's cellar hole as opposed to removing the stone and brick foundation.

The Gale School was built in 1894 and was last used for classes in 1985, when the Belmont Elementary School opened. Since then the district has used the building for cold storage. In the ensuing years there have one or two proposals submitted to School District voters to have the building torn down, according to Ellis, but matter was tabled at the School District Meeting.

The demolition of the building would need to be approved by a special vote at a School District Meeting, School District Business Administrator Debbie Thompson said.

In other business, the School District administration presented its proposed budget for the coming fiscal year to the board. The 2015 budget is \$299 less than the district's current operating budget of \$21 million, Thompson said. The board will be scheduling meetings in the coming weeks to review the budget plan with various department heads, she added.