

January 25, 2016

Shaker Regional School Board  
58 School Street  
Belmont, NH 03220

To the Shaker Regional School Board,

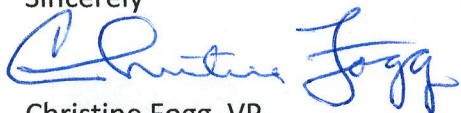
At last week's meeting of the Belmont Historical Society a discussion was held regarding the future of the Gale School that is located near the Middle School in Belmont.

It is our understanding that the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources has classified the Gale School as a unique and valuable historical asset and that a structural engineering firm has also assessed the building and determined it to be sound in structure with its only problem being undermining of the building's brick foundation by the elements over the years. The mission of the Belmont Historical Society is to work in cooperation with the community to help preserve and restore buildings of historical significance within the town. To this end, the society voted to support the warrant articles being proposed for consideration by the Save Our Gale School Committee.

These warrant articles propose that either the foundation of building be restored/replaced in its present location or that the building be moved to a nearby location. We also understand that the Save Our Gale School Committee has received a cost estimate to move the building for approximately ten thousand dollars more than it would cost to demolish it. Given the historical significance of this building, its unique architecture and the early role that it has played in the education of Belmont area students, we encourage the board to strongly consider either of the proposals being put forth by the Committee. Either of these proposals would allow for the re-purposing of the building within the community which we feel would be preferable to having the building razed and forever lost to the community and the area.

We share in the Save the Gale School Committee's hope that the Shaker Regional School District and its voters recognize and appreciate both the historical significance and unique architecture of the Gale School by allowing this building to be saved and re-purposed rather than being demolished.

Sincerely



Christine Fogg, VP  
Belmont Historical Society