

---

# Gale School saved for another year

By TIM CAMERATO | Mar 06, 2015

0

**BELMONT** — Voters at the Shaker Regional School District Annual Meeting on Friday night voted to put off demolishing the Gale School for another year.

A warrant article proposed by the School Board called for \$65,000 to raze the building but keep the belfry and bell.

During the meeting, former School Board member Pret Tuthill, who also serves on the Save Our Gale School Committee, submitted an amendment striking the article's language replacing it with some allowing a warrant to be brought forward during next year's meeting funding the best possible use of the building.

Knowlton said if the committee couldn't find a use for the building in the next year, hopefully with the help of the district, the article for demolition would come back. Voters passed both the amendment and article.

Voters passed an operational budget of \$21,145,944. The budget includes an amendment adding \$52,076. The money is expected to keep a science teacher at Belmont High School who was in danger of losing their job because of decreasing enrollment in the district.

Belmont and Canterbury residents also voted to fund a full-day kindergarten program. Jill Smith issued an amendment to Article 9, which called for \$150,000 in funding towards the program.

She asked that \$403,856 be raised towards kindergarten and encouraged the School Board to take about \$95,000 appropriated in the budget towards universal preschool and put it to use to help fund the article.

Both that article amendment and warrant article passed.

Shaker Regional schools are also expected to see a culture study performed. Residents voted to advise the School Board to create a committee to oversee the study made up of two residents, two board members and two of the teaching staff, which would be appointed by the district moderator.

The School Board Chairman Heidi Hutchinson said the board already plans to conduct a study possibly using an outside agency to insure its independence.

At the polls, Donna Cilley, a School Board member representing Belmont, was defeated by resident Patty Brace by 48 to 245 votes. Canterbury member Hutchinson ran unopposed and garnered 231 votes.