

Shaker voters put off vote on taking wrecking ball to Gale School for a year

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BELMONT — A warrant article to raise and appropriate \$65,000 to raze the historic Gale School was tabled by most of the nearly 240 residents of Belmont and Canterbury attending the annual meeting of the Shaker Regional School District last night at the High School gym.

Where's the story?



3 Points Mentioned

Former school board member Pret Tuthill of Belmont made the motion to postpone any such vote for a year and all but a few voters agreed with him via a voice vote. The move was apparently aimed at giving people who are determined to save the old, vacant building that sits on a knoll off the left shoulder of the Middle School from the wrecking ball.

The school board has repeatedly said it has no use for the structure but some Belmont residents believe it should be moved out in front of the school and renovated into an office for the superintendent and S.A.U. staff.

Earlier in the meeting a 191 to 41 majority of voters approved the terms of a new collective bargaining agreement between the school district and its union of teachers. A ballot vote was called for and that ritual took the better part of an hour to complete.

The three-year agreement will cost taxpayers an additional \$250,404 in 2015, another \$569,188 in 2016 and yet another \$513,464 in 2017.

Funds to pay for the current year will be taken from the school districts unassigned fund balance at the end of this school year.