

Please support sale of Gale School for \$1; this is our last chance

Written by Edward Engler

To The Daily Sun,

Dear Shaker Regional School District voters (Belmont and Canterbury):

For many years, the fate of the Gale School has been in question. Every time the Shaker District put an article in the warrant, seeking the approval to raze the building, voters ALWAYS said NO.

Over these years, the "Save Our Gale School" (SOGS) committee formed, and members sought viable alternatives that might save and repurpose this historic structure. Unfortunately, the positive momentum would flag, possible alternatives evaporated, committee members became discouraged, and left; progress would grind to a halt. We could not see a way to save it.

However, we are extremely happy to announce several encouraging things that have taken place:

- The Gale School was awarded the "Seven To Save" status from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance,
- Save Our Gale School (SOGS) won the RFP that the district put out on the Gale School, SOGS signed a purchase and sales agreement with the district,
- SOGS put down \$5,000 required by this agreement,
- Lakes Region Community Development has expressed GREAT interest in being part in the repurposing stage of the Gale School,
- And perhaps the most important; the school district and SOGS are in agreement for the first time concerning this long-standing issue.

But now it is up to you, the voters, as to where we go from here. On March 13 you will be asked if you support the district selling the Gale School to the SOGS for \$1. In order to keep up the current positive momentum, we ask that you PLEASE vote YES on Article 4. As owners of the Gale School, we will be able to raise the necessary funds to buy property to place it on. Without owning the building, it is nearly impossible for us to seek these funds, and without your affirmative votes it will surely be torn down.

Should Article 4 fail, we have committed ourselves to support the Gale School's demolition. This is our final opportunity to save the last iconic and historically significant building left in Belmont. With your help, we can.

Ken Knowlton

Belmont
