

HALE HIGH SCHOOL FUND

Established May 24, 1871 by Town Meeting vote to accept the offer of \$5,000 from Elijah Hale, if the Town would appropriate an equal sum to provide a permanent fund, the income of which would be expended for the support of a High School in said Town. The vote provided for a board of not less than five trustees to be elected by the Town to hold and administer said fund.

Two other citizens of the Town offered to give to the trustees of such a fund the following amounts: Henry Brooks, \$100; John W. Brooks, \$1,000. All of the gifts were made upon the express condition "that the Town shall never abandon the school; if it ever be given up the sums severally given shall revert back to the donors or their heirs."

In 1947 the sum of \$1,000 was received by the Fund from the Estate of Francis W. Hale, nephew of Elijah Hale.

The High School contemplated by Elijah Hale was built in 1871-1872. The income from the Fund was originally used by the School Committee for the Principal's salary. The Trustees annually distributed the income of the fund to the Treasurer of the Town to apply to the purposes of the High School at the direction of the School Committee.

In 1957 Town Meeting voted to accept the Agreement for Establishment of the Nashoba Regional School District to accommodate the high school students of Stow, Bolton and Lancaster. The regional high school was opened in September 1971 and Hale High School in Stow was discontinued.

The Trustees of the Hale High School Fund voted on January 5, 1962 to withhold the payment of income to the Town Treasurer and to reinvest the income until either of the following occurs: (1) If the Regional School District ever be disbanded or the Town withdraws from the

Region and a separate High School is re-established within the Town of Stow; or (2) A suitable use presents itself which will most truly carry out the wishes of the original donors.

July 2, 1963 - The Hale High School building was destroyed by fire.

The March 6, 1973 Town Meeting voted to construct an addition to Randall Memorial Library. In 1973 the Trustees of the Hale High School Fund entered into discussions with the Trustees of the Randall Library and the Selectmen toward establishment of a reference room for students to be incorporated into the Library addition. Agreement was reached by all of the Trustees and concurred by the Selectmen and the Stow School Committee that the proposal would be consistent with the purposes of the Hale High School Fund and would be in the best interests of the school system. A room would be set aside in the Randall Memorial Library to be designated as the "Hale Reference Room", to be used to house reference materials. The annual income from the Hale High School Fund would be used for the purchase of equipment and research materials for use in the room or as a contribution toward the salary of a reference librarian, or for such other related expenses as might be incurred in setting up and maintaining the room.

On September 24, 1974 the Trustees of the Hale High School Fund and the Board of Selectmen and, with the concurrence of the School Committee, voted to petition the appropriate court to apply the doctrine of cy pres to the Hale High School Fund to authorize the Trustees to use the income of the fund for the equipping and maintenance of a room in the Randall Memorial Library in the manner and for the purposes outlined above.

On July 24, 1975 the Probate Court of Middlesex County authorized the Trustees to apply the income of the Hale High School Fund for the equipping and maintenance of the Hale Reference Room in the Randall Memorial Library, or as a contribution toward the salary of a reference librarian, or for such other or related expenses as may be incurred in setting up and maintaining such a room. (1975 Annual Report of Trustees: Paid \$5,000 to the Library Trustees for shelving and furniture for the Hale Reference Room.)