

Meeting is 9/14/80 thrown open

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WINSTED — A meeting of the school board to hear a legal opinion concerning the restructuring of The Gilbert School has been opened to the public following the filing of a complaint with the Freedom of Information Commission.

Community lawyer Charlene LaVoie has withdrawn her appeal to the FOI panel after getting the agreement of school board chairman Thomas Condon to open the scheduled executive session to the public.

"It's not worth having a war

Gilbert School meeting opened after complaint is filed

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about," Superintendent Norman T. Michaud said yesterday. Condon could not be reached for comment.

The board will hear from its Hartford-based attorney, Thomas N. Sullivan, on the proposal to change the organization of the high school's board of trustees. The high school, which was founded through an endowment, is now funded almost entirely through tax dollars but is run by a private 18-member board of trustees.

LaVoie's appeal would have required FOI to schedule a hear-

ing if the meeting had not subsequently been opened to the public.

LaVoie's involvement stemmed from a request by resident Judy Pavlak, who is organizing opposition to Gilbert's restructuring plan. Pavlak and others collected about 400 signatures over the weekend to protest the plan which

fails to give public representatives a majority in running the school.

Under the restructuring plan, a nine-member board would be established to run the school, which serves Winsted and Hartland students. Five members of the board would be appointed by the

board of trustees, three by the Winsted school board and one by the Hartland school board.

Sullivan will present his legal opinion on the plan to the Board of Education tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at the Isabelle M. Pearson School library.