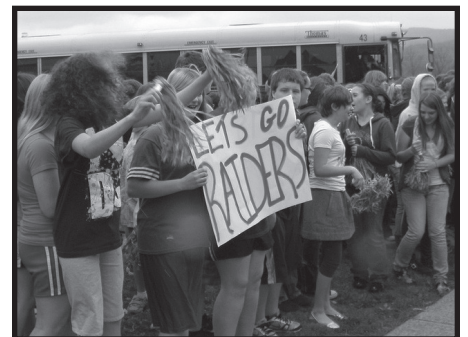


Gilbertsville - Mount Upton Central School District 2011 - 2012 Proposed Budget



**Budget Hearing: May 3, 2011
GMU Auditorium, 7:00 pm**

**Budget Vote: May 17, 2011
GMU Main Lobby, Noon - 8:00 pm**

Gilbertsville - Mount Upton Central School District
693 State Highway 51
Gilbertsville, NY 13776-1104

Letter from the Board of Education

Dear Residents:

The enclosed information details your Board of Education's proposed 2011-12 school budget.

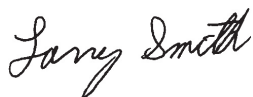
The board and administration have worked hard to develop a budget that maintains the majority of student programming and protects the financial health of the district.

The district is faced with loss of state aid in the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) of \$611,881 that includes the loss of Federal Stimulus funding at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. The adopted state budget added back additional funding termed GEA Restoration which reduced the state aid loss from GEA by \$35,647 and set the total aid reduction for our district at \$576,234.

We feel that this budget maintains a balance between maintaining student programming, the use of reserves, and a property tax levy that our community can accept, even in these tough economic times.

Please join us for the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 3rd. And please vote on Tuesday, May 17th. Thank you!

Your GMU Board of Education:



Gerald Theis, President

Joseph Gonzalez, Vice President

Harold "Manny" Button

Mark Muller

Katherine Schmidt

Larry Smith

Zachary Proskine

Voter Qualifications

One of the easiest and most effective ways for those who are not actually in school to participate in the life of our school is to vote in school elections. To perform your civic duty and get a say in how your school tax money is spent usually takes about five minutes of your time, twice a year.

In order to be eligible to vote in school elections, School Law says a person must be:

- at least 18 years old,
- a citizen of the United States, and
- a resident of the school district for at least 30 days before the election.

While a voter's age and citizenship are relatively easy to determine, finding out a voter's residence can be a problem. Two tests can be used to help determine a prospective voter's qualifications:

- First, a person can have only one legal residence. Residence for the purpose of voting is the fixed and permanent home of the voter.
- Second, property ownership alone does not equal residency. Ownership of real property within a school district alone does not qualify an individual to vote in the elections of that district.

To ease the task of election officials to determine voter qualifications, the Board of Education has enacted a provision under Education Law that requires "All persons offering to vote to provide proof of residency which may include:

- a driver's license,
- a non-driver identification card,
- a utility bill

A driver's license with a 911 physical address is sufficient. A driver's license with a PO Box address will require an additional piece of identification with your physical (911) address.

Proof of residency will be required for the budget vote on May 17 and all school elections thereafter. We hope that any inconvenience caused by this extra step in voting at school elections will be outweighed by the increased confidence voters have in the result.

Quick Facts

The proposed 2011-12 budget supports and maintains District programs at a tax levy increase of 1.75%. The proposed 2011-2012 budget of \$8,664,705 represents a budget-to-budget decrease of 2.29% when compared to the 2010-2011 budget of \$8,867,844. Over \$550,000 was trimmed from the budget reducing staff by attrition and staffing cuts and other fiscal belt-tightening in these tough economic times.

The goal of the Board of Education is to maintain as much of our student programming as possible and to keep the tax levy increase under 2%, the governor's proposed percentage for a possible future tax cap. This was a difficult process and was only achieved by tightening all areas of the budget and applying reserve funds, and all in the face of increases in the cost of fuel, employee benefits and other costs to which the District is bound by contract.

For the coming school year the Board proposes a tax levy increase of 1.75% which will provide the resources necessary to support our school system.

Section 1608 or Section 1716 of the Education Law

A detailed copy of the 2011-2012 budget, salary and benefit disclosures pursuant to Sections 111 and 112 of Chapter 474 of the Laws of 1996, and the School Report Card will be available for public inspection in the district office.

Where does the Money Come From? (Revenue Breakdown)

Item Description	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
FOUNDATION AID	\$4,112,019	\$4,112,019	\$0
GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	-272,975	-611,881	-338,906
FEDERAL EDUCATION JOBS FUND RESTORATION	0	35,647	35,647
EXPENSE-DRIVEN AIDS:			
TRANSPORTATION AID	\$654,582	\$693,109	\$38,527
TEXTBOOK/COMPUTER AID	43,028	42,325	-703
BOCES AID	587,133	531,864	-55,269
CHAPTER 47/EXCESS COST	80,813	58,395	-22,418
BUILDING AID	774,198	797,808	23,610
OTHER REVENUES:			
INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON TAXES	\$9,000	\$10,500	\$1,500
ADMISSIONS & FEES FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS	1,000	1,000	0
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	30,000	25,000	-5,000
RENTAL OF REAL PROPERTY	36,000	36,000	0
SALE OF TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	8,500	5,500	-3,000
REFUND OF PRIOR YEAR'S EXPENSE	45,000	45,000	0
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED REVENUES	35,000	30,000	-5,000
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	55,000	0	-55,000
APPROPRIATED RESERVES	275,000	395,000	120,000
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$25,000
PROPERTY TAX LEVY	\$2,169,546	2,207,419	\$37,873
TOTAL REVENUES	\$8,867,844	\$8,664,705	-\$203,139

Where Does the Money Go? (Expenditures Breakdown)

Note: Details of the budget will be reviewed at the May 3rd Budget Hearing

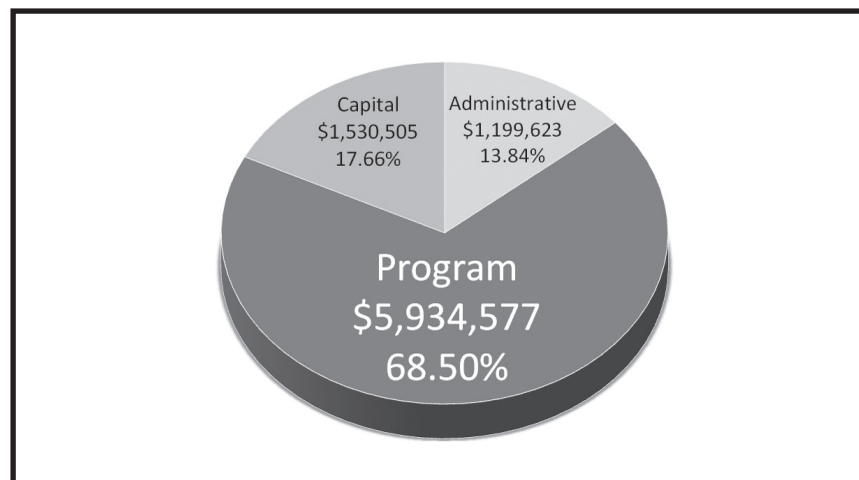
Item Description	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
GENERAL SUPPORT:			
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$17,750	\$16,767	-\$983
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	157,855	158,990	1,135
FINANCE	165,573	161,852	-3,721
LEGAL SERVICES/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS	77,831	82,370	4,539
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	544,100	518,221	-25,879
CENTRAL PRINTING/DATA PROCESSING	123,155	123,155	0
SPECIAL ITEMS	260,046	260,046	0
INSTRUCTION:			
REGULAR TEACHING	\$2,611,611	\$2,329,148	-\$282,463
EDUCATION OF STUDENTS W/SPECIAL NEEDS	558,501	624,882	66,381
OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION/SUMMER SCHOOL	154,000	166,586	12,586
LIBRARY/COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	221,637	214,052	-7,585

Where Does the Money Go? (Expenditures Breakdown, continued)

Item Description	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
INSTRUCTION, continued			
ATTENDANCE/GUIDANCE/ HLTH. SRVCS/PSYCHOLOGIST	\$129,294	\$172,200	\$42,906
CO-CURRICULAR	35,664	23,602	-12,062
ATHLETICS	100,633	99,066	-1,567
TRANSPORTATION:			
REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	\$388,336	\$378,924	-\$9,412
GARAGE	213,609	212,023	-1,586
COMMUNITY	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
UNDISTRIBUTED:			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$2,174,551	\$2,213,996	\$39,445
REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE INTEREST	3,500	3,500	0
BUS PAYMENTS AND INTEREST:	155,000	125,000	-30,000
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE	774,198	779,325	5,127
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$8,867,844	\$8,664,705	-\$203,139

OVERALL BUDGET PERCENTAGE CHANGE: -2.29%

Three Part Budget:



ADMINISTRATIVE includes BOE expenses, Finance, Central Administration, Records Management, Mailing, Supervision of Reg. School, Legal Services, and Benefits for all employees in this category.

PROGRAM includes Instruction, Special Needs Students, Occ. Ed., Summer School, Library, Guidance, Health Services, Athletics, Transportation, and Benefits for all employees in this category.

CAPITAL includes Purchase of New Buses, Operations and Maintenance, Insurance, and Benefits for all employees in this category.

Candidates for the Board of Education (at time of printing)



Mrs. Nancy Bakhuizen: My family has lived in Otsego County for 20 years, 10 of those in the village of Gilbertsville. My husband Gerrit and I have two daughters who have had the benefit of learning and growing at GMU since Kindergarten. Kate is a senior this year and Jenna is in eighth grade. I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Education from the State University College at Potsdam and have a strong, lifelong commitment to education. I am the Resource Specialist for the Special Education Parent Center at the Family Resource Network in Oneonta, New York. My 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector, managing Federal and State funding, grant writing and providing fiscally responsible program management, as well as 5 years as a teacher at GMU, will allow me to provide a unique perspective to the GMU School Board. As a parent of current GMU students and taxpayer, I hope to work with the Board, Administration and community to develop fiscally responsible, creative ways to support our students to grow academically as well as to become positive, productive citizens.



Mr. Zachary Proskine: I moved to the district in 2000 after I married Amy Hill of Gilbertsville. We now have three children currently attending GMU, Lauren, Garrett and Dalton. All of which are very active in school functions and sports.

I am self employed as Zackaroo's Hoof Trimming. This business has been in operation since 1998 and now serves most of central New York. I have been a board member for the Otsego County Fair for the last four years as well as a member of the Butternut Valley Grange.

As a board member my goals are to continue with the high standards set by our school district. Also I would like to help find new and innovative ways to meet our fiscal requirements. I was appointed by the board to fill the vacancy of Lisa Carkuff in June of 2010. This will be my first full term if re-elected.

Candidates for the Board of Education (at time of printing)



Mr. Harold "Manny" Button: I am Harold Button, better known to many as Manny. I have worked for the Town of Butternuts for 24 years, have been a member of the Mt. Upton Fire Department for 42 years, and a member of the Mt. Upton Park Association for 4 years.

My service on the board began when my two children were attending GMU. Even though they have now graduated, I would like to continue to represent you as a school board member. With your support, we can continue to meet high expectations in our school district.



Mr. Gerald Theis: Jerry Theis and his wife Cheri have lived in the town of Butternuts for 33 years. He was first elected to the School Board in 1996, and has served as President since 2006.

Jerry earned his BS('64) and MS('67) at Illinois State University, and continued his post graduate work at the University of Buffalo in Vocational Education. He taught high school for four years at Willowbrook HS in Illinois. He taught Industrial Arts Education, which included printing and machine shop. He then became an assistant professor at Buffalo State University for six years in the area of Graphic Arts Teacher Education. During his time in Buffalo, he, along with a group of friends, started Tarot Designers and Printers in 1969. He moved the business to the Butternut Valley in 1979, because he loved the area. The shop was in operation until 2010 when Jerry "retired". He took on a position at Apple Converting in Oneonta in 2008, working in the Quality Assurance division.

Jerry's three children have all graduated from Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton, and are now living and employed in Chicago, Washington DC and NYC. Their education and that of all the children at GMU has been and always will be a very essential issue to Jerry. Although he no longer has children in school, in these tough and troubling times, Jerry's long term experience and knowledge with all the issues regarding your children's education would be a stabilizing factor in this turbulent time, when politicians are trying to cut more and more from our school. Jerry believes it is very important to give something back to your community, and hopes that by serving on the School Board he is able to accomplish that.

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