

# Gilbertsville - Mount Upton Central School District 2012 - 2013 Proposed Budget



**Budget Hearing: May 1, 2012  
GMU Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.**

**Budget Vote: May 15, 2012  
GMU Main Lobby, Noon - 8:00 p.m.**

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 2012-13 school budget.

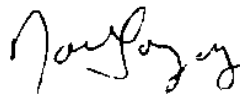
In these tough economic times the board and administration has worked hard to develop a budget that maintains the majority of student programming and protects the financial health of the district.

All rural school districts have been faced with financial hardship and Gilbertsville-Mount Upton is not immune to the current funding crisis. The district has suffered a loss of \$1,734,761 in revenue from the state and federal programs over the last two years and including the proposed 12-13 budget. State cutbacks in the form of Gap Elimination Adjustments, the loss of Federal Stimulus and Educational Jobs Funding has made up a majority of the lost revenue.

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton will continue to offer strong academic and extracurricular programs at a reasonable cost to our residents. It has been a challenge over the last four years to maintain a balance between maintaining student programming, the use of reserves, and a property tax levy that our community can accept in these tough economic times.

Please join us for the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 1st. And please vote on Tuesday, May 15th. Thank you!

Your GMU Board of Education:



Gerald Theis, President

Larry Smith, Vice President

Harold "Manny" Button

Joseph Gonzalez

Katherine Schmidt

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 15 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 2012-13 budget supports and maintains District programs at a tax levy increase of 1.98%. The proposed 2012-2013 budget of \$8,757,180 represents a budget-to-budget increase of 1.07% when compared to the 2011-2012 budget of \$8,664,705. Keeping expenditures to an increase of just over 1% was a tough task with escalating costs throughout the budget.

The goal of the Board of Education is to continue to maintain as much of our student programming as possible and to keep the tax levy increase under 2% which is less than our 2.25% tax cap. The district has faced significant cost increases for energy costs, employee benefits, unfunded mandates and contractual increases.

For the coming school year the Board proposes a tax levy increase of 1.98% 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 2012-2013 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	2011-2012	2012-2013	Change
FOUNDATION AID	\$4,112,019	\$4,136,691	\$24,672
GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	-611,881	-472,942	138,939
FEDERAL EDUCATION JOBS FUND RESTORATION	35,647	0	-35,647
<b>EXPENSE-DRIVEN AIDS:</b>			
TRANSPORTATION AID	\$693,109	\$621,558	-\$71,551
TEXTBOOK/COMPUTER AID	42,325	40,343	-1,982
BOCES AID	531,864	596,315	64,451
CHAPTER 47/EXCESS COST	58,395	34,031	-24,364
BUILDING AID	797,808	774,754	-23,054
<b>OTHER REVENUES:</b>			
INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON TAXES	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$0
ADMISSIONS & FEES FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS	1,000	1,000	0
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	25,000	25,000	0
RENTAL OF REAL PROPERTY	36,000	36,000	0
SALE OF TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	5,500	9,500	4,000
REFUND OF PRIOR YEAR'S EXPENSE	45,000	47,500	2,500
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED REVENUES	30,000	30,000	0
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	0	4,715	4,715
APPROPRIATED RESERVES	395,000	386,000	-9,000
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	\$250,000	\$225,000	-\$25,000
PROPERTY TAX LEVY	\$2,207,419	\$2,251,215	\$43,796
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$8,664,705</b>	<b>\$8,757,180</b>	<b>\$92,475</b>

## Where Does the Money Go? (Expenditures Breakdown)

Note: Details of the budget will be reviewed at the May 1st Budget Hearing

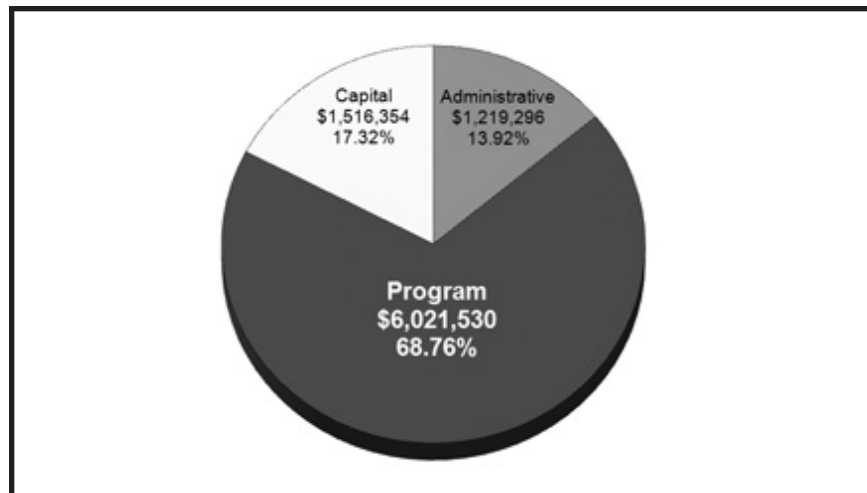
Item Description	2011-2012	2012-2013	Change
<b>GENERAL SUPPORT:</b>			
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$16,767	\$16,767	\$0
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	158,990	159,817	827
FINANCE	161,852	163,369	1,517
LEGAL SERVICES/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS	82,370	85,901	3,531
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	518,221	528,558	10,337
CENTRAL PRINTING/DATA PROCESSING	123,155	123,155	0
SPECIAL ITEMS	260,046	251,546	-8,500
<b>INSTRUCTION:</b>			
REGULAR TEACHING	\$2,329,148	\$2,478,878	\$149,730
EDUCATION OF STUDENTS W/SPECIAL NEEDS	624,882	632,312	7,430
OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION/SUMMER SCHOOL	166,586	166,586	0
LIBRARY/COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	214,052	219,010	4,958

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

Item Description	2011-2012	2012-2013	Change
<b>INSTRUCTION, continued</b>			
ATTENDANCE/GUIDANCE/ HLTH. SRVCS/PSYCHOLOGIST	\$172,200	\$173,558	\$1,358
CO-CURRICULAR	23,602	25,372	1,770
ATHLETICS	99,066	89,952	-9,114
<b>TRANSPORTATION:</b>			
REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	\$378,924	\$387,592	\$8,668
GARAGE	212,023	216,150	4,127
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED:</b>			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$2,213,996	\$2,151,594	-\$62,402
REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE INTEREST	3,500	3,500	0
BUS PAYMENTS AND INTEREST	125,000	79,800	-45,200
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE	779,325	802,763	23,438
<b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$8,664,705</b>	<b>\$8,757,180</b>	<b>\$92,475</b>

**OVERALL BUDGET PERCENTAGE CHANGE: 1.07%**

### 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 costs associated with the purchase of new buses, Operations and Maintenance, Insurance, and Benefits for all employees in this category.

## What Items Will Appear on the Ballot?

- **The Proposed School Budget**
- **A Proposition for a Small Capital Project for Energy Efficiency**
- **A Proposition to Establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Purchase of School Vehicles**
- **The Election of School Board Members**

### **Proposed School Budget**

Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed school budget as outlined in this document.

### **Proposition for a Small Capital Project**

The following is a proposition to upgrade the current fluorescent lighting in the original portion of the building. This will improve energy efficiency and replace the current T-12 lighting that will become obsolete in the near future. This will be classified as a small capital project that cannot exceed \$100,000 by state education regulation and that Capital Reserve Fund monies shall be used to pay the cost thereof. The district will receive a currently projected 86.5% building aid back on this project in the following year and the district can apply for the remaining funds to be covered by Excel Funding. It will have no effect on the tax levy.

### **Proposition for Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund**

At the recommendation of our auditors and legal counsel we are seeking voter approval to establish a capital reserve fund. This fund could be used to keep unspent budget allocations available to purchase maintenance equipment and to continue to replace buses within the state recommended replacement schedule. It is also important to remember that transportation purchases receive expense-driven aid where the district is reimbursed 90% of the cost back in state aid in the following years. The Capital Reserve Fund proposed would be established for a maximum of ten years with a total amount of \$500,000 to be allocated to the fund during that time.

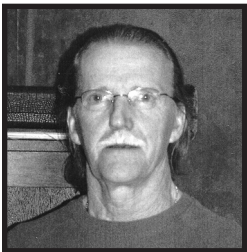
## Candidates for the Board of Education (at time of printing)



**Mrs. Katherine Schmidt:** Katherine Schmidt and her husband David have lived in Rockwells Mills for 28 years. Their three children, Heidi, Peter and Alex, all graduated from GMU and have gone onto college. Katherine has a Masters Degree in Elementary Education and taught in the early elementary grades for over 16 years. Since Heidi was a baby, she was able to stay at home while the children were growing up and volunteered much of her time with 4-H, cub scouts, boy scouts, school and church activities. With her background, Katherine brings a parent's and educator's perspective

to the Board of Education's work.

Over the past three years she has been a responsible board member and would like to continue working to provide the best education for our students. In the current fiscal climate this can be a challenge and Katherine is open to listening to new ideas and options. To be well informed on current issues facing our schools, Katherine has attended several School Board Academy sessions, the Legislative breakfast and Rick Timbs' presentation on State Aid Inequity. Katherine is seeking re-election to the GMU Board of Education for a second term.



**Mr. Larry Smith:** My name is Larry Smith and I am seeking re-election to the GMU School Board. I am currently Vice President of the School Board. I live in Gilbertsville with my wife, Claudette Newman, who is an attorney, and our three children. Scarlett is 11 years old and in 6th grade. Our 9 year old twins, Ethan and Sadra, are in 4th grade.

I was born and raised in Gilbertsville with my family having lived here since the early 1800s. I am currently a semi-retired contractor having done carpenter work for the past 25 years. I ran a Guest House in Gilbertsville for two years. I previously worked for the Town of Butternuts for seven years.

I am a member of the Gilbertsville Baptist Church. I currently serve on the Pastoral Relations Committee. I am a former Deacon and served for many years as Chairman of the Finance Committee, where I led the preparations for the annual church budget. I was also a youth leader for the Baptist Church which sponsored a community youth group for many years.

I served on the Village Improvement Society Board for the maximum ten years and as President for nine of those years. The Village Improvement Society is a not-for-profit corporation which owns the Gilbertsville Post Office, the Gilbert Block and the Overlook Park. I negotiated lease agreements with the United States Postal Service and the seven tenants who rent from the Gilbert Block. I am a 29 year member of the Butternut Valley Grange.

I was on the GMU Steering Committee for the capital improvement project. I also served on the community group in the search for a new superintendent. I have coached youth soccer, tee ball, and 6th grade girls' basketball. I collect historical items pertaining to Gilbertsville as a hobby. I am involved in many sports, such as tennis, volleyball, ice hockey and running. I have played in the Binghamton Hockey League for the past 15 years. I have competed at the Empire State Games and won a bronze medal in the 200 meter sprint.

I am always accessible to members of both the Gilbertsville and Mt. Upton communities. I take the responsibility that I have been entrusted with seriously. Having a strong background in budgets, business management, negotiating and youth activities, I believe these experiences make me the right candidate for re-election to the GMU School Board.

**GILBERTSVILLE-MOUNT UPTON  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
693 State Highway 51  
Gilbertsville, New York 13776-1104

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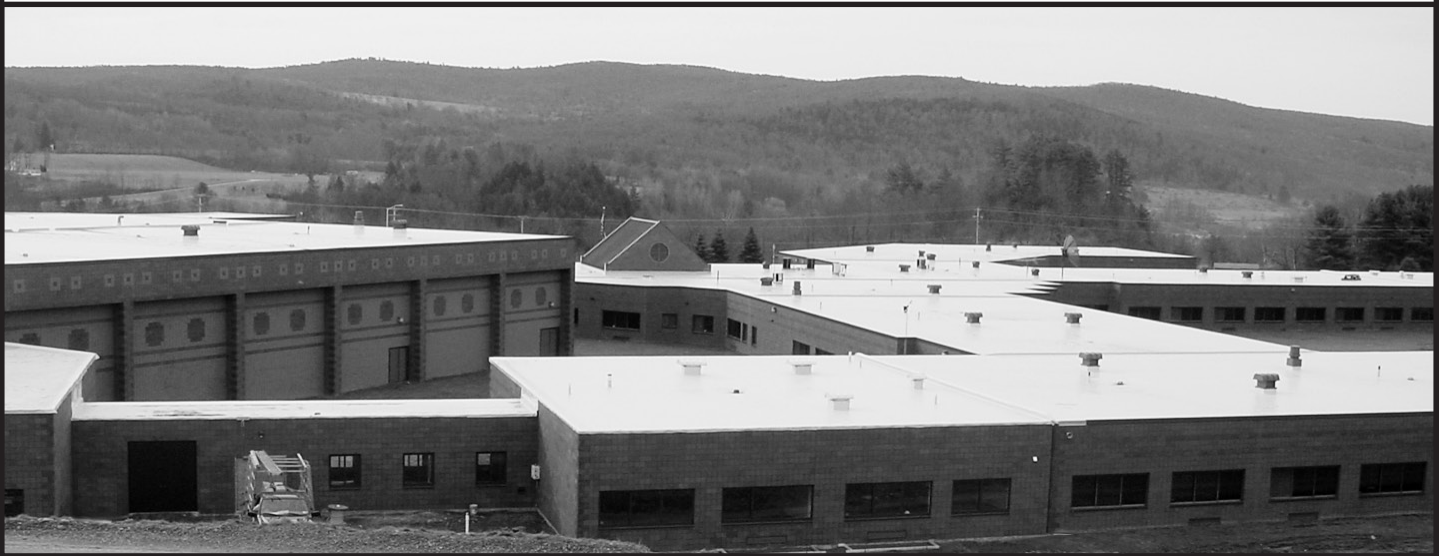
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Gerald Theis, President  
Larry Smith, Vice-President  
Harold "Manny" Button  
Jose Gonzalez  
Zachary Proskine  
Katherine Schmidt  
Amber Birdsall, District Clerk

Glenn R. Hamilton, Superintendent

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**

**ECRWSS  
BOXHOLDER**

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