

# Gilbertsville - Mount Upton Central School District

## 2013 - 2014 Proposed Budget



**Budget Hearing: May 7, 2013**  
**GMU Board Room (D104), 7:00 pm**

**Budget Vote: May 21, 2013**  
**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 2013-14 school budget. We are again fortunate to be able to work with solid numbers as the State Budget was passed in a timely fashion.

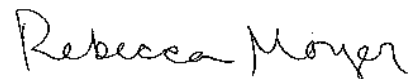

Rural school districts continue to face financial hardship as we are reminded almost on a daily basis through the media. The current economic factors and state budgeting practices have created the perfect storm in regard to the financial health of school districts throughout New York State. Gilbertsville-Mount Upton CSD is not immune to these factors and the inequity of funding of schools throughout the state. The district has been able to weather this storm with the use of "rainy day" funds that were prudently set aside in previous years.

We will continue to look at ways to develop a budget that will maintain student programming and be affordable to our taxpayers. The district will be faced with continued cuts and programs if the economy and current funding structure for the district does not change.

We are proposing a 1.99% tax levy increase that will be well below our tax cap maximum of 5.37% using the state's formula for allowed exemptions.

Please join us for the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 7th and vote on Tuesday, May 21st. Thank you!

Your GMU Board of Education:



Gerald Theis, President

Larry Smith, Vice President

Harold "Manny" Button

Ethan Eberly

Rebecca Moyer

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 21 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 2013-14 budget supports and maintains District programs at a tax levy increase of 1.99%. The proposed 2013-2014 budget of \$8,858,730 represents a budget-to-budget increase of 1.16% when compared to the 2012-2013 budget of \$8,757,180.

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 (1.99%) less than our 5.37% calculated tax cap.

The district continues to face significant cost increases for energy costs, employee benefits, unfunded mandates and contractual increases. We have also been hit with a significant decrease in expense-driven aids and other revenues listed on our revenue breakdown. The district has been able to keep the levy down by utilizing our reserve funds. This year we will use funds from an Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR) to help balance the budget.

The media has been full of school districts that are facing tremendous budget deficits. Many of our neighboring schools are making significant cuts to all programs in order to make ends meet. In the past five budget years, GMU has reduced its staff by 25% (28 positions) and since 2000 has been faced with a 28% drop in school enrollment. Considering these factors, the district has still been able to maintain student programming. If the current trend in school funding continues, Gilbertsville-Mount Upton CSD will be in the same situation as many of our neighboring schools within the next couple years with further cuts in staffing and direct effects on programs.

### **Section 1608 or Section 1716 of the Education Law**

A detailed copy of the 2013-2014 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	2012-2013	2013-2014	Change
<b>FOUNDATION AID</b>	\$4,136,691	\$4,149,101	\$12,410
<b>GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT</b>	-472,942	-269,577	203,365
<b>EXPENSE-DRIVEN AIDS:</b>			
TRANSPORTATION AID	\$621,558	\$580,537	-\$41,021
TEXTBOOK/COMPUTER AID	40,343	39,153	-1,190
BOCES AID	596,315	495,267	-101,048
EXCESS COST AID	34,031	15,213	-18,818
BUILDING AID	774,754	861,788	87,034
<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	5,000	-20,000
RENTAL OF REAL PROPERTY	36,000	12,000	-24,000
SALE OF TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	9,500	9,500	0
REFUND OF PRIOR YEAR'S EXPENSE	47,500	45,000	-2,500
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED REVENUES	30,000	20,014	-9,986
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	4,715	7,219	2,504
<b>APPROPRIATED RESERVES*</b>	\$386,000	\$481,000	\$95,000
*(Includes use of Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve - EBALR)			
<b>APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE</b>	\$225,000	\$100,000	-\$125,000
<b>PROPERTY TAX LEVY</b>	\$2,251,215	\$2,296,015	\$44,800
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$8,757,180</b>	<b>\$8,858,730</b>	<b>\$101,550</b>

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

**Note:** Details of the budget will be reviewed at the May 7th Budget Hearing

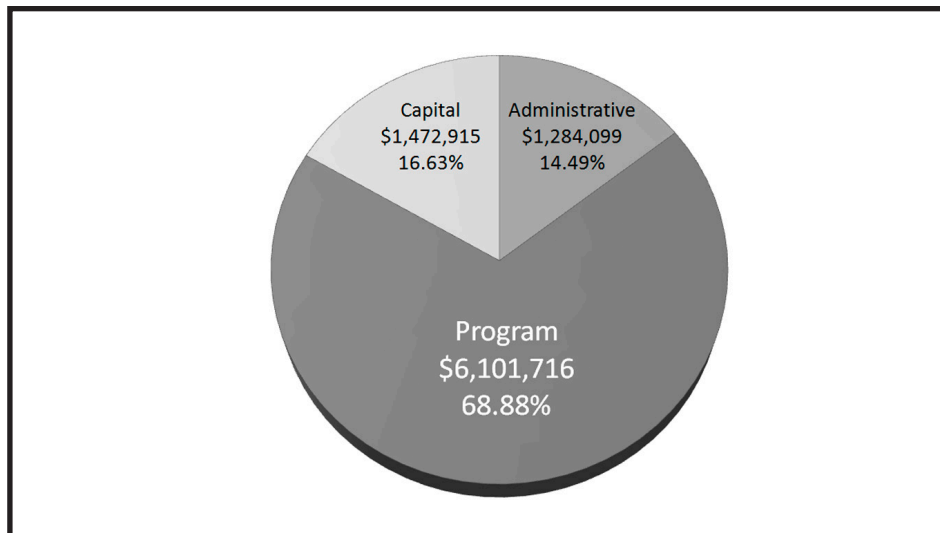
Item Description	2012-2013	2013-2014	Change
<b>GENERAL SUPPORT:</b>			
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$16,767	\$15,600	-\$1,167
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	159,817	160,461	644
FINANCE	163,369	164,966	1,597
LEGAL SERVICES/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS	85,901	87,211	1,310
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	528,558	523,510	-5,048
CENTRAL PRINTING/DATA PROCESSING	123,155	139,108	15,953
SPECIAL ITEMS	251,546	262,843	11,297
<b>INSTRUCTION:</b>			
REGULAR TEACHING	\$2,478,878	\$2,413,968	-\$64,910
EDUCATION OF STUDENTS W/SPECIAL NEEDS	632,312	632,800	488
OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION/SUMMER SCHOOL	166,586	231,072	64,486
LIBRARY/COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	219,010	216,751	-2,259

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

Item Description	2012-2013	2013-2014	Change
<b>INSTRUCTION, continued</b>			
ATTENDANCE/GUIDANCE/ HLTH. SRVCS/PSYCHOLOGIST	\$173,558	\$163,438	-\$10,120
CO-CURRICULAR	25,372	24,121	-1,251
ATHLETICS	89,952	92,267	2,315
<b>TRANSPORTATION:</b>			
REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	\$387,592	\$400,577	\$12,985
GARAGE	216,150	212,679	-3,471
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED:</b>			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$2,151,594	\$2,271,445	\$119,851
REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE INTEREST	3,500	3,500	0
BUS PAYMENTS AND INTEREST	79,800	42,300	-37,500
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE	802,763	799,113	-3,650
<b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$8,757,180</b>	<b>\$8,858,730</b>	<b>\$101,550</b>

**OVERALL BUDGET PERCENTAGE CHANGE: 1.16%**

### 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**
- **Proposition for a Small Capital Project for Energy Efficiency**
- **Proposition to Establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Capital Improvements**
- **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 continue 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. Capital Reserve Fund monies will be used to pay the cost thereof. The district would receive a currently projected 85.6% 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 will assist the district in planning for infrastructure upgrades while minimizing the burden on tax payers. The capital reserve fund can be compared to a savings account which can only be used for capital improvements conducted with voter authorization. The funding comes from budget savings and unappropriated fund balances from the general fund. Balances can only be transferred to the capital reserve fund with approval from the Board of Education. In order to accomplish the same, said Board is hereby authorized to establish the ultimate amount of such Reserve Fund not to exceed \$500,000, plus accrued interest and other investment earnings thereon, with a probable term of ten years. This resolution shall take effect immediately and will have no impact on the tax levy.

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



**Mrs. Barb Hill:** I believe in the value of education. I feel my career and life experiences will make me a good candidate for the GMU Board of Education.

I have been in the insurance business for 30 years and 20 of those years I was in management. I make sound financial decisions every work day.

My husband, John Hill and I have been married for 29 years and we have raised two children who have graduated from Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton School District. Both children were enrolled K - 12 at GMU and graduated with honors. They were both offered academic scholarships and I found their high school years prepared them for college. We presently have a son who is in the 7th grade. He is very active in school functions and sports.

I am a member of the Butternut Valley Grange and hold a position on the community service committee. I am proud of the support the Grange provides GMU and other local school districts and their communities. I have been active in the 4-H Dairy Club of Gilbertsville for 14 years. My children have their own cattle and enjoy showing them at the county and state fairs.

Our Board of Education's primary responsibility is to act in the best interest of every student in the district. The Board has a major commitment to parents, guardians, and members of the community when making local education decisions. I will give my time and energy to help plan for the direction of our school and to be sure the students are competitive and have the tools available to make solid life choices.

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



**Mr. Ethan Eberly:** My name is Ethan Eberly. My wife Sarah and I have lived in the GMU area for 13 years. Our son Connor and daughter Maya currently attend GMU. Over the past 7 years it has been a pleasure working with the staff at GMU during the education and graduation process of Demario.

The ability to have a great school with a small town feel is one of the main reasons why we live in this area.

Having been a local business owner for several years has given me good experience to use in working with the board on decisions and budgeting matters that keep the quality of education at the level our children require.



**Mrs. Aimee Piedmonte:** I am running for School Board because education is a top priority for me. I have a BA in English, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University in PA. I earned a Post-Baccalaureate Teaching Certificate with a 4.0 GPA in Secondary Education, English, from Kutztown University. I also earned 12 credits toward a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology.

I am now the Librarian at DCMO BOCES' Chenango Campus. I have taught high school and college level English courses in PA, NJ, and VA since 2000. I have a great deal of experience with Special Education students, English language learners, and Vocational-Technical students. I know the unique challenges of these groups and can bring this to the table. I have a keen eye toward serving the needs of all students, regardless of their abilities and backgrounds.

Volunteerism is very important to me. I am a Parent Liaison on GMU's Anti-Bullying Committee and currently serve as Secretary of the Gilbertsville Free Library Board. I'm active in the church and have been a Bible study leader, Sunday School Coordinator, Women's Leadership and Nominating Committee member, library aide, tutor, and a youth group leader. And while living in Richmond, I was the PTA's Vice President of Programming in my boys' school, creating and coordinating many special events, including all parent meetings, a 5K run, and awards and talent shows.

I have two GMU students, Lucas, 13, and Samuel, 10. They are honor roll students, musicians and athletes. I've been married to Pastor Mark Piedmonte of the Presbyterian Churches of Gilbertsville and Garrattsville for 18 years. I am also a reader, walker, writer, jazz-lover, and summer front-porch sitter.

I know the unique challenges of school finances. I've worked with PTA's in PA and VA, as well as BOCES and GFL here in NY. I have had the opportunity to come to the budget table and discern hard but necessary decisions. As a yearbook advisor at one school in PA, I eliminated a long-standing account deficit. Before teaching, I worked in radio advertising and customer service.

The economy will challenge GMU to be innovative and creative about solving problems and ensuring that our students get the best education they can. It is our duty to make sure they graduate well rounded and career-and-college ready. I can help achieve this, as I am a collaborator and a thoughtful listener, with respect for diverse points of view. I will keep an open ear to all stakeholders—I want nothing but the best for our children and our communities of Mount Upton and Gilbertsville.

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

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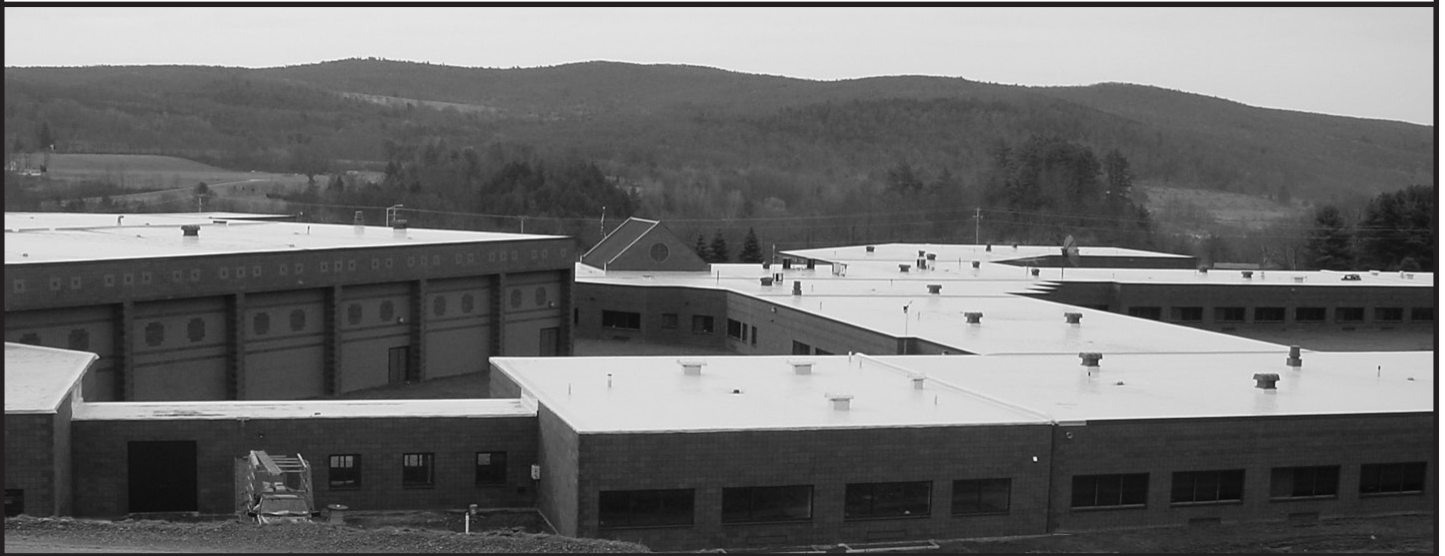
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Gerald Theis, President  
Larry Smith, Vice-President  
Harold "Manny" Button  
Ethan Eberly  
Rebecca Moyer  
Zachary Proskine  
Amber Birdsall, District Clerk

Glenn R. Hamilton, Superintendent

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**

**ECRWSS  
BOXHOLDER**

**Budget Hearing: May 7, 2013  
GMU Board Room (D104), 7:00 pm**



**Budget Vote: May 21, 2013  
GMU Main Lobby, Noon - 8:00 pm**