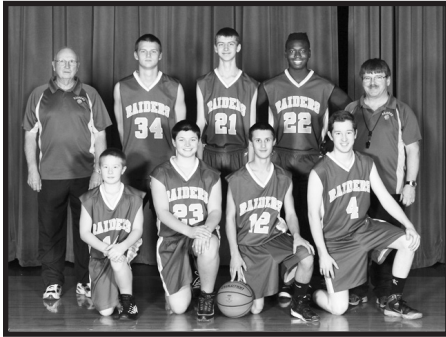


# Gilbertsville - Mount Upton Central School District

## 2014 - 2015 Proposed Budget



Budget Hearing: May 7, 2014  
GMU Board Room (D104), 7:00 p.m.

Budget Vote: May 20, 2014  
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 2014-15 school budget. We are again fortunate to be able to work with solid numbers as the State Budget was passed in a timely fashion.

The goal of our district is to maintain student programs and propose a budget that is reasonable to the taxpayers in these challenging economic times. There have been a couple of important factors that have allowed the district to accomplish this goal. Through the cooperation of each bargaining unit, we have been able to change the health insurance benefit plan offered by the district. This change in plan will save our district a significant amount of money while continuing to offer our employees and retirees a comparable health plan. In addition, with an increase in state aid to our district, and the reduction of the state's Gap Elimination Adjustment, we have been able to maintain a flat budget as we move into the 2014-2015 school year.

Due to large cut backs in state aid and the gap elimination adjustment over the past three years, we needed to use reserve funds to help balance the budget while maintaining programs for all students. We are encouraged by the fact that we have been able to significantly reduce the amount of reserve funds being allocated in the projected 2014-2015 budget. We are proposing a 0.98% tax levy increase that is below our 2.04% calculated tax cap and a 0% (flat) budget to budget increase. The budget will remain the same as last year at \$8,858,730.

Please join us for the public budget hearing on Wednesday, May 7th. And please vote on Tuesday, May 20th. Thank you!

Your GMU Board of Education:



Gerald Theis, President

Larry Smith, Vice President

Ethan Eberly

Harold "Manny" Button

Zachary Proskine

Barbara Hill

Aimee Piedmonte

# 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 20 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

- We are proposing a flat (0%) budget-to-budget of \$8,858,730.
- The projected tax levy increase of 0.98% is less than our 2.04% calculated tax cap.
- The change in the district's health insurance plan will save the district over \$350,000.
- We are able to decrease the use of fund balance and reserve funds in this budget by over \$275,000.
- We continue to take advantage of BOCES services that offer a cost savings to the district by generating BOCES Expense Driven aid. For example, we are looking at utilizing the services of five (5) itinerant teachers (shared) which could save the district approximately \$200,000.
- The governor and state legislators have been working to reduce or eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment over the next couple years. This has cost the district over two million dollars in state aid over the past four years.
- The proposed budget of \$8,858,730 less the building aid received (\$876,536) results in a budget total (\$7,982,194) for 2014-15 which is less than the 2008-09 approved budget of \$7,995,068.

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

A detailed copy of the 2014-2015 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	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change
<b>FOUNDATION AID</b>	\$4,149,101	\$4,184,368	\$35,267
<b>GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT</b>	-269,577	-124,569	145,008
<b>EXPENSE-DRIVEN AIDS:</b>			
TRANSPORTATION AID	\$580,537	\$526,963	-\$53,574
TEXTBOOK/COMPUTER AID	39,153	36,470	-2,683
BOCES AID	495,267	625,209	129,942
EXCESS COST AID	15,213	5,307	-9,906
BUILDING AID	861,788	876,536	14,748
<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	5,000	4,000	-1,000
RENTAL OF REAL PROPERTY	12,000	12,000	0
SALE OF TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	9,500	9,500	0
REFUND OF PRIOR YEAR'S EXPENSE	45,000	45,000	0
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED REVENUES	20,014	15,000	-5,014
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	7,219	7,358	139
<b>APPROPRIATED RESERVES</b>	\$481,000	\$205,473	-\$275,527
<b>APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE</b>	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
<b>PROPERTY TAX LEVY</b>	\$2,296,015	\$2,318,615	\$22,600
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$8,858,730</b>	<b>\$8,858,730</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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

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

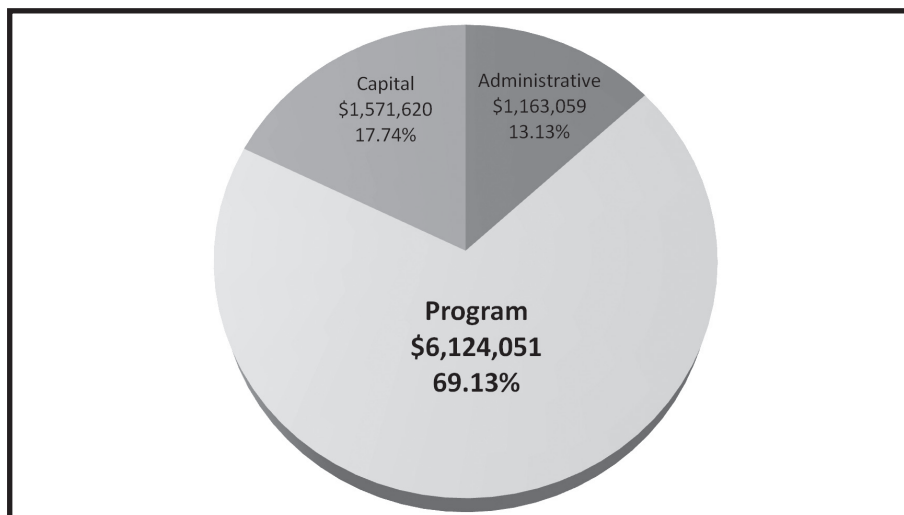
Item Description	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change
<b>GENERAL SUPPORT:</b>			
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$0
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	160,461	166,078	5,617
FINANCE	164,966	173,202	8,236
LEGAL SERVICES/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS	87,211	87,379	168
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	523,510	523,510	0
CENTRAL PRINTING/DATA PROCESSING	139,108	135,655	-3,453
SPECIAL ITEMS	262,843	248,998	-13,845
<b>INSTRUCTION:</b>			
REGULAR TEACHING	\$2,413,968	\$2,393,116	-\$20,852
EDUCATION OF STUDENTS W/SPECIAL NEEDS	632,800	666,879	34,079
OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION/SUMMER SCHOOL	231,072	235,957	4,885
LIBRARY/COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	216,751	222,552	5,801

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

Item Description	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change
<b>INSTRUCTION, continued</b>			
ATTENDANCE/GUIDANCE/ HLTH. SRVCS/PSYCHOLOGIST	\$163,438	\$166,024	\$2,586
CO-CURRICULAR	24,121	24,417	296
ATHLETICS	92,267	94,010	1,743
<b>TRANSPORTATION:</b>			
REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	\$400,577	\$400,577	\$0
GARAGE	212,679	212,679	0
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED:</b>			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$2,271,445	\$2,144,784	-\$126,661
REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE INTEREST	3,500	3,500	0
BUS PAYMENTS AND INTEREST	42,300	42,300	0
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE	799,113	800,513	1,400
INTERFUND TRANSFER TO CAPITAL FUND	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$8,858,730</b>	<b>\$8,858,730</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**OVERALL BUDGET PERCENTAGE CHANGE: 0%**

### 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**
- **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.

## Candidates for the Board of Education

(at time of printing)



**Mr. Jerry Theis:** Jerry Theis and his wife Cheri have lived in the town of Butternuts for 36 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 and is still currently working at Apple.

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.



**Mr. Zachary Proskine:** I moved to the district in 2000 after I married Amy Hill of Gilbertsville. We now have three children: Lauren, Garrett and Dalton. Lauren is a graduate of GMU currently attending Cornell University. The boys are very active in school functions and sports here at GMU.

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 am a former board member for the Otsego County Fair 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. This will be my second term if re-elected.

# Candidates for the Board of Education

(at time of printing), continued



**Mr. Bruce Giuda:** As a resident of the GMU school district for 30 years I have a strong commitment to excellence in education. I was a member of the former Gilbertsville BOE as well as a member of the GMU Board after the new district was formed. It was a privilege to serve as a member and as Board president in those exciting and formative years. Our district set new standards for excellence in education and financial ingenuity.

Specific goals that I have for our district are:

1) Technological excellence for our students - I believe that every student should have individual iPads (tablets) instead of a 40 pound book bag. All curriculum, homework and teacher/student/parent interactions will be enhanced and simplified. Many schools – some smaller than ours have already done this. Our students deserve no less.

2) Buildings and Grounds need to be maintained in top condition. Annual budgets need to provide for proper maintenance. The Board needs to set a high standard for facility upkeep and use annual budgets and capital reserves to accomplish this. Maintenance does not need to be part of a multi-million dollar building project. I understand the complexities of NY state aid but we need to maintain our facilities without compromise. Our students and residents deserve no less.

3) Taxes, revenues and expenditures are always a challenge for a rural district. I understand these challenges and believe that Board members have to balance efforts to provide educational excellence with a fiduciary responsibility to district taxpayers. I believe the Board should encourage the Superintendent, faculty and staff to constantly look for new and more efficient ways to innovate and achieve our goals.

4) Finally, I am a big believer in meaningful community involvement in our school. GMU was formed through merger study groups, building study groups, budget committees and many more. There is a lot of collective wisdom in our district and I don't feel challenged or threatened by asking for input and involvement from students, staff and residents. It is a great asset.

I appreciate this opportunity to face these challenges and offer my assistance to continue excellence at GMU.



**Mrs. Carrieann Heath:** Being a graduate of Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton and a resident of Mt. Upton for over 20 years, I've always felt the school district is the heart and soul of the community. I'm very excited to have the opportunity to be involved at the board level. Being involved with the school district has never been more important to me, as I have two children, River in 8th grade and Posy in kindergarten, who enjoy participating in school sports, clubs and activities.

As a former teacher at Headstart and a former board member and president of the Butternut Nursery School in Gilbertsville, I've always enjoyed being involved in the community and education. Owning a local family business, my husband Russell and I realize the importance of the school district in our community.

My goals as a board member for our district are to work to ensure we continue to offer our children the opportunities afforded to larger districts, while utilizing the advantages of our small and close knit community. In these tough budgetary times, I would work towards maintaining the extracurricular and athletic activities our students and community deserve and enjoy. I appreciate the opportunity to introduce myself to the district and look forward to involvement in our school on any level.

**GILBERTSVILLE-MOUNT UPTON  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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Gilbertsville, New York 13776-1104

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

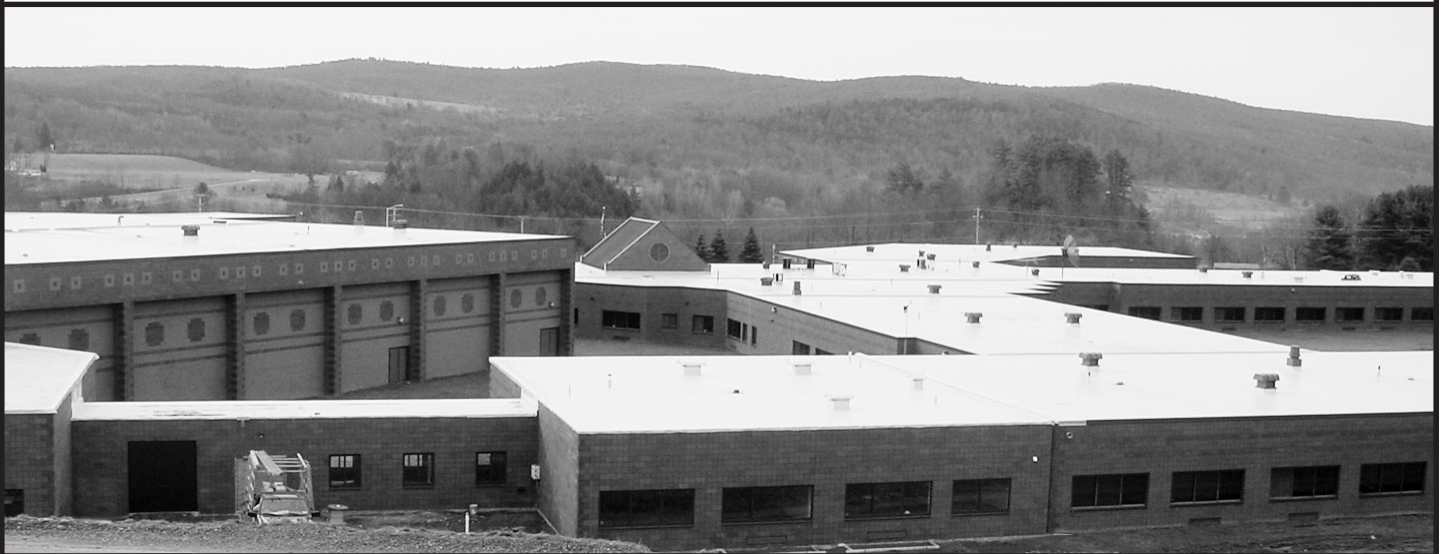
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Harold "Manny" Button  
Ethan Eberly  
Rebecca Moyer  
Aimee Piedmonte  
Zachary Proskine  
Amber Birdsall, District Clerk

Glenn R. Hamilton, Superintendent

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**

**ECRWSS  
BOXHOLDER**

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