

Gilbertsville - Mount Upton Central School District 2015 - 2016 Proposed Budget



**Budget Hearing: May 5, 2015
GMU Board Room (D104), 7:00 pm**

**Budget Vote: May 19, 2015
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 2015-16 school budget. For the fourth year in a row we are able to work with solid numbers as the State Budget was passed in a timely fashion.

The goal of our district is to continue 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. In addition, with a 3.72% increase in state aid to our district which included the elimination of all but \$8,960 of the States Gap Elimination Adjustment, we have been able to maintain a flat tax levy as we move into the 2015-2016 school year.

We are proposing a 0% tax levy increase that is well below our 2.97% calculated tax cap. This year we have been able to limit our budget to budget increase to 1.55% that results in a budget of \$8,995,610.

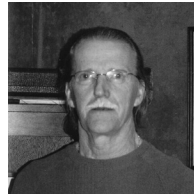
Please join us for the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 5th. And please vote on Tuesday, May 19th. Thank you!

Your GMU Board of Education:



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald D. Theis".

Gerald Theis, President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Smith".

Larry Smith, Vice President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary Proskine".

Zachary Proskine



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ethan Eberly".

Ethan Eberly



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara D. Hill".

Barbara Hill



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aimee Piedmonte".

Aimee Piedmonte



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrieann Heath".

Carrieann Heath

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 19 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 1.55% budget-to-budget increase to \$8,995,610.
- The projected tax levy increase of 0.00% is less than our 2.97% calculated tax cap.
- This year, the district's contributions to the Teachers' Retirement System and Employee Retirement System have decreased.
- Utilizing the BOCES Competitive Bidding process, combined with the drop of energy costs, we project significant savings.
- We are able to decrease the use of Appropriated Reserves and Appropriated Fund Balance each by \$5,000.
- The governor and state legislators have been working to reduce or eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment. The current Gap Elimination Adjustment has been reduced to \$8,960.

Section 1608 or Section 1716 of the Education Law

A detailed copy of the 2015-2016 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	2014-2015	2015-2016	Change
FOUNDATION AID	\$4,184,368	\$4,199,850	\$15,482
GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	-124,569	-8,960	115,609
EXPENSE-DRIVEN AIDS:			
TRANSPORTATION AID	\$526,963	\$547,463	\$20,500
TEXTBOOK/COMPUTER AID	36,470	35,383	-1,087
BOCES AID	625,209	619,945	-5,264
EXCESS COST AID	5,307	20,750	15,443
BUILDING AID	876,536	853,755	-22,781
OTHER REVENUES:			
INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON TAXES	\$10,500	\$12,500	\$2,000
ADMISSIONS & FEES FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS	1,000	1,000	0
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	4,000	2,000	-2,000
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	50,000	5,000
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED REVENUES	15,000	15,000	0
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	7,358	11,809	4,451
APPROPRIATED RESERVES	\$205,473	\$200,000	-\$5,473
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	\$100,000	\$95,000	-\$5,000
PROPERTY TAX LEVY	\$2,318,615	\$2,318,615	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$8,858,730	\$8,995,610	\$136,880

Where Does the Money Go? (Expenditures Breakdown)

Note: Details of the budget will be reviewed at the May 5th Budget Hearing

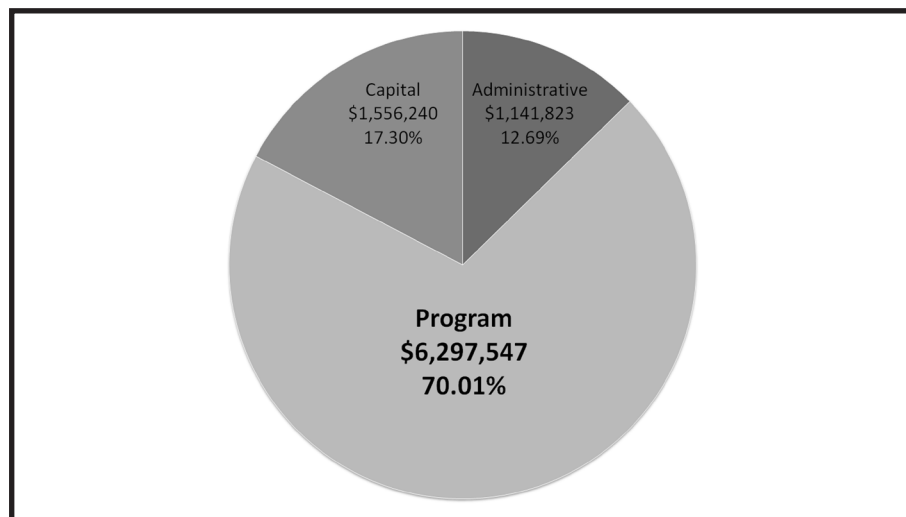
Item Description	2014-2015	2015-2016	Change
GENERAL SUPPORT:			
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$0
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	166,078	170,736	4,658
FINANCE	173,202	180,321	7,119
LEGAL SERVICES/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS	87,379	66,066	-21,313
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	523,510	509,763	-13,747
CENTRAL PRINTING/DATA PROCESSING	135,655	136,800	1,145
SPECIAL ITEMS	248,998	254,898	5,900
INSTRUCTION:			
REGULAR TEACHING	\$2,393,116	\$2,362,691	-\$30,425
EDUCATION OF STUDENTS W/SPECIAL NEEDS	666,879	945,482	278,603
OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION/SUMMER SCHOOL	235,957	219,311	-16,646
LIBRARY/COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	222,552	233,144	10,592

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

Item Description	2014-2015	2015-2016	Change
INSTRUCTION, continued			
ATTENDANCE/GUIDANCE/ HEALTH.SRVCS/PSYCHOLOGIST	\$166,024	\$163,302	-\$2,722
CO-CURRICULAR	24,417	24,964	547
ATHLETICS	94,010	95,124	1,114
TRANSPORTATION:			
REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	\$400,577	\$403,577	\$3,000
GARAGE	212,679	204,004	-8,675
COMMUNITY	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
UNDISTRIBUTED:			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$2,144,784	\$2,054,214	-\$90,570
REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE INTEREST	3,500	3,500	0
BUS PAYMENTS AND INTEREST	42,300	0	-42,300
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE	800,513	801,113	600
INTERFUND TRANSFER TO CAPITAL FUND	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$50,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$8,858,730	\$8,995,610	\$136,880

OVERALL BUDGET PERCENTAGE CHANGE: 1.55%

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 a Capital Outlay Project, Operations and Maintenance, Insurance, and Benefits for all employees in this category.

What Items Will Appear on the Ballot?

- **The Proposed School Budget**
- **Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund**
- **The Election of School Board Members**

Proposed School Budget

Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed school budget as listed in Proposition 1:

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education be authorized to spend \$8,995,610 in the 2015-2016 school year for the education program of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District, and to levy the necessary tax.

Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund

Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the establishment of a new capital reserve fund as listed in Proposition 2:

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

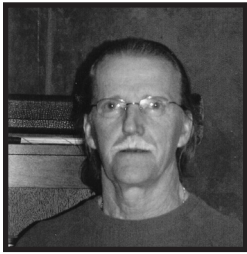
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law. This fund will assist the district in planning for infrastructure upgrades while minimizing the burden 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. If approved, this resolution shall take effect immediately and will have no impact on the tax levy.

Election of School Board Members

Residents will have the opportunity to vote to elect two members to the Board of Education; biographies for the candidates at the time of printing are listed on the next page.



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



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 14 years old and in 9th grade our 12 year old twins, Ethan and Sadra, are in 7th 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 28 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 27 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 18 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.



Mr. Ethan Eberly: My name is Ethan Eberly. My wife Sarah and I have lived in the GMU area for 16 years. Our son Connor and daughter Maya currently attend GMU. Over the past 10 years it has been a pleasure working with the staff at GMU during the education of Connor, Maya, and Demario, who graduated in 2012.

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.

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gerald Theis, President
Larry Smith, Vice-President
Ethan Eberly
Carriann Heath
Barbara Hill
Aimee Piedmonte
Zachary Proskine

Glenn R. Hamilton, Superintendent
Amber Birdsall, District Clerk

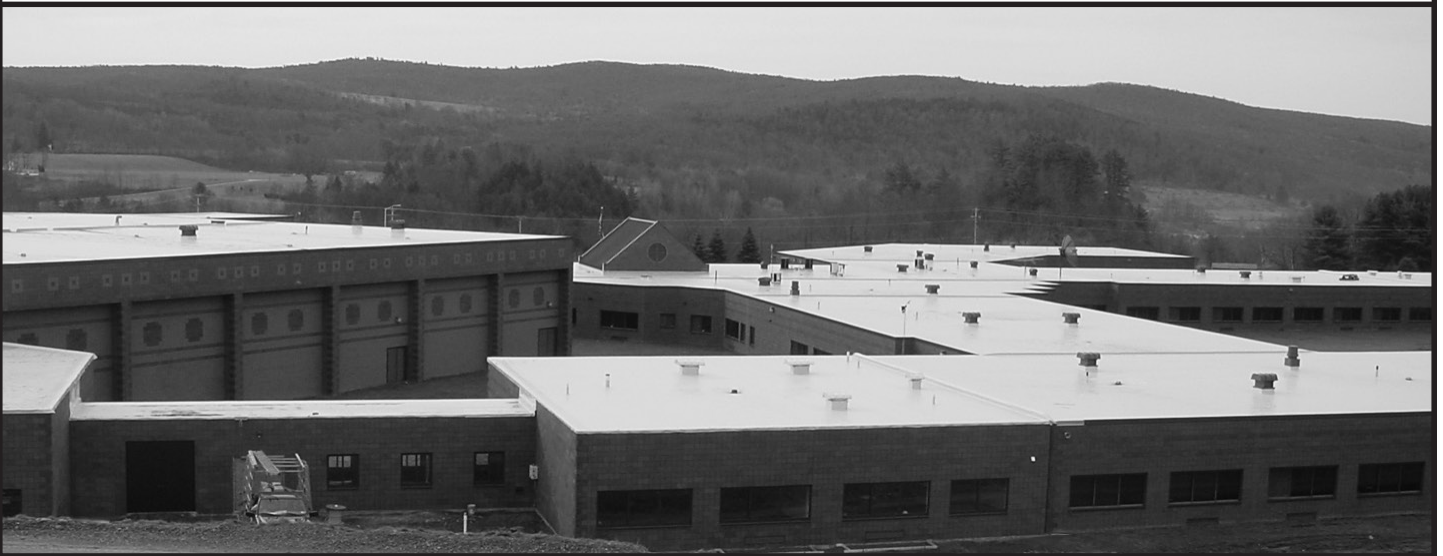
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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

**ECRWSS
BOXHOLDER**

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