

## 5 Must Knows About Current MCUSD Budget Situation

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### 1) Drastic Revenue Decline

- a. Within the last five years the value of the taxable property in the district has decreased over 21 million dollars. Additionally, the state is currently funding schools at less than 90% of their obligation. Couple these items with a decrease in student enrollment and having to repay \$2 million dollars in tax revenue as a result of the PTAB ruling (to the landfill) and the District is receiving over \$1.5 million dollars less in revenue for this school year than it had in previous years.

### 2) Term Referendum

- a. When the referendum was defeated in 2013 many people stated that adding an increase to their tax rate for eternity was not a viable solution for what may be a temporary problem. This concern was brought to administration and the Board of Education. This resulted in a 7 year term being placed on the referendum. This means that by law the increase in taxes will only exist for 7 years unless voted on again by the public.

### 3) Quality Education

- a. Our district spends less to educate our students than any other unit (K-12) district in the area. Additionally, by almost all achievement measures our students and schools are among the top 3 schools in a 4 county area. (Lee, Ogle, Winnebago, and Boone). Simply said, our students and staff continue to achieve results while we spend less money per pupil to educate students than neighboring districts.

### 4) Falling Behind

- a. Illinois will be taking PARCC as the new state test starting in the 2014-2015 school-year. PARCC is designed to be taken electronically via computer. Our district is not capable of doing so this year because of our technology infrastructure. We were able to submit a waiver this year so that we can take the test on paper – but this is an opportunity we may not have in the future and we simply do not have the infrastructure to comply with the testing structure as it currently exists.

### 5) Cuts have been made

- a. Every department has been impacted by cuts – from administration to nursing to transportation. The data are clear – we spent over 21 million dollars to run the school-district three years ago – this year we project to spend barely above 16 million dollars. These cuts have taken away the opportunity for middle school students to take part in athletics and activities, they have increased class sizes and have led to reduction of over 30 positions over the past two years. People say to cut the fat – we are already at the bone.

# Reduction Summary 13-14

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- Instructional Aides** – 6 positions impacted, \$64,000+ in reduction in salaries and benefits
- Teachers** – 7.79 positions impacted, \$390,000+ in reduction in salaries and benefits
- Administration** – 2 positions eliminated, \$45,000+ in direct reduction plus reduction in moving an administrator back to the classroom.
- Secretarial** – 1 position impacted, \$10,000+ in reduction in salary and benefits
- Custodial** – 4 positions impacted, \$125,000+ in reduction in salary and benefits
- Technology** – 1 position impacted, \$21,000+ in reduction in salary and benefits
- Food Service** – 3 positions impacted, \$34,000+ in reduction in salary and benefits

**OVERALL Personal Reductions – 24.79 positions eliminated, \$680,000 plus in reduction in salary and benefits**

Programs and procedures that the Board of Education has approved for reduction include:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| • Ombudsman –                                      | \$26,000 reduction  |
| • Summer School -                                  | \$13,000 reduction  |
| • Jr. High Athletics and Activities                | \$64,000 reduction  |
| • Move to one-tier busing                          | \$109,000 reduction |
| • Summer total shutdown of buildings Friday-Sunday | \$6,000 reduction   |

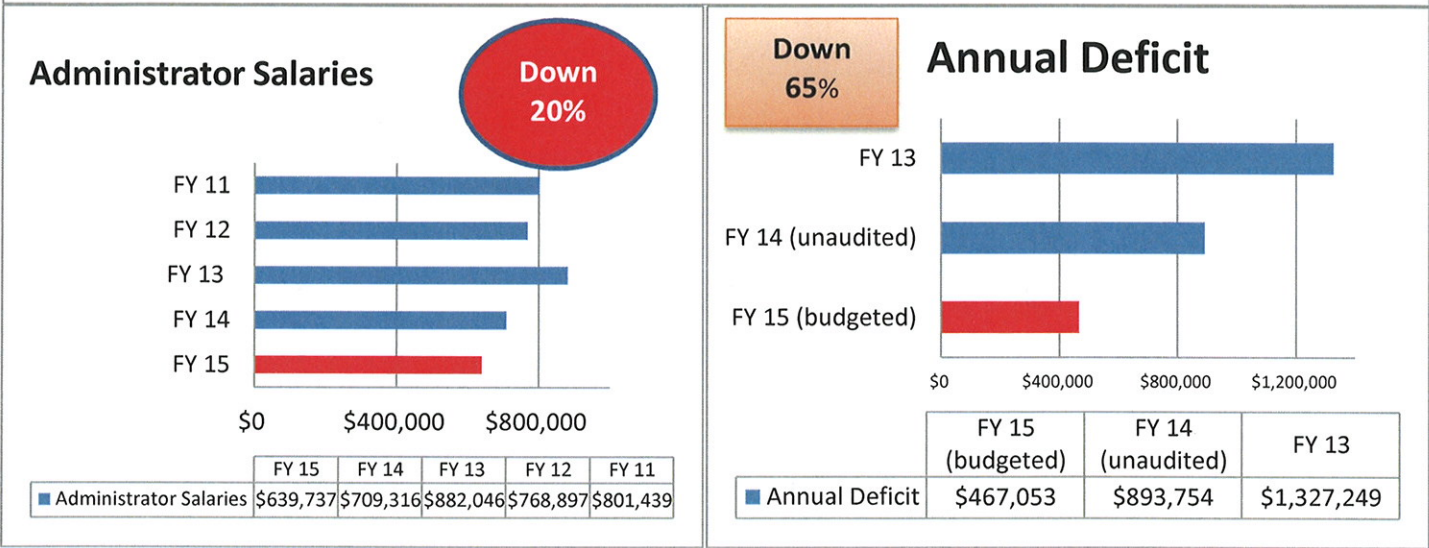
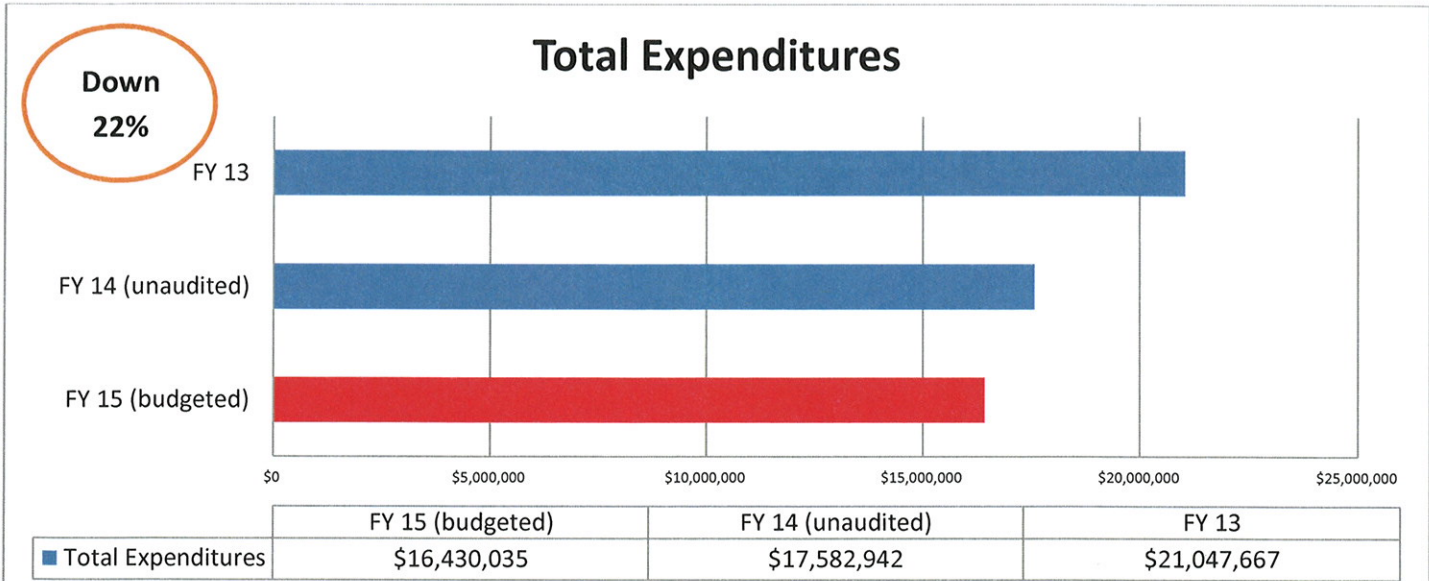
## FEE INCREASES

A fee increase of \$50 dollars for all levels of schooling was enacted for the 14-15 school year. This will increase Kindergarten fees to \$110, elementary fees to \$115, and high school fees to \$130 dollars. Additionally, activity fees at the high school will increase to \$100 dollars for the first activity per year, \$50 for the second activity per year, and no fees thereafter for additional participation in activities.

## PREVIOUS REDUCTIONS

- Elimination of HGS Counselor, SVHS Full-time band director, French instructor, weight room supervision, drug testing, Challenge Day, and Loreda Taft





FY 15	Education	O+M	Debt Services	Transportation	IMRF/SS	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention and Safety	TOTALS
Opening Year Fund Balance	\$ 3,773,926.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 376,381.00	\$ 96,976.00	\$ 286,696.00	\$ 136,117.00	\$ -	\$ 145,117.00	\$ 4,815,213.00
Revenue	\$ 11,035,735.00	\$ 1,251,437.00	\$ 1,640,000.00	\$ 953,726.00	\$ 602,462.00	\$ -	\$ 75,626.00	\$ 328,315.00	\$ 75,681.00	\$ 15,962,982.00
Expenditure	\$ 11,761,573.00	\$ 1,234,266.00	\$ 1,640,000.00	\$ 940,795.00	\$ 525,086.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 328,315.00	\$ -	\$ 16,430,035.00
Projected Annual Total	\$ (725,838.00)	\$ 17,171.00	\$ -	\$ 12,931.00	\$ 77,376.00	\$ -	\$ 75,626.00	\$ -	\$ 75,681.00	\$ (467,053.00)
Remaining Fund Balances	\$ 3,048,088.00	\$ 17,171.00	\$ -	\$ 389,312.00	\$ 174,352.00	\$ 286,696.00	\$ 211,743.00	\$ -	\$ 220,798.00	\$ 4,348,160.00
END OF YEAR BALANCE	\$ 3,048,088.00	\$ 17,171.00	\$ -	\$ 389,312.00	\$ 174,352.00	\$ 286,696.00	\$ 211,743.00	\$ -	\$ 220,798.00	\$ 4,348,160.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE:

\$3,048,088 + \$17,171 + \$389,312 + 211,743

= \$3,666,314

OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$11,761,573 + \$1,234,266 + \$940,795

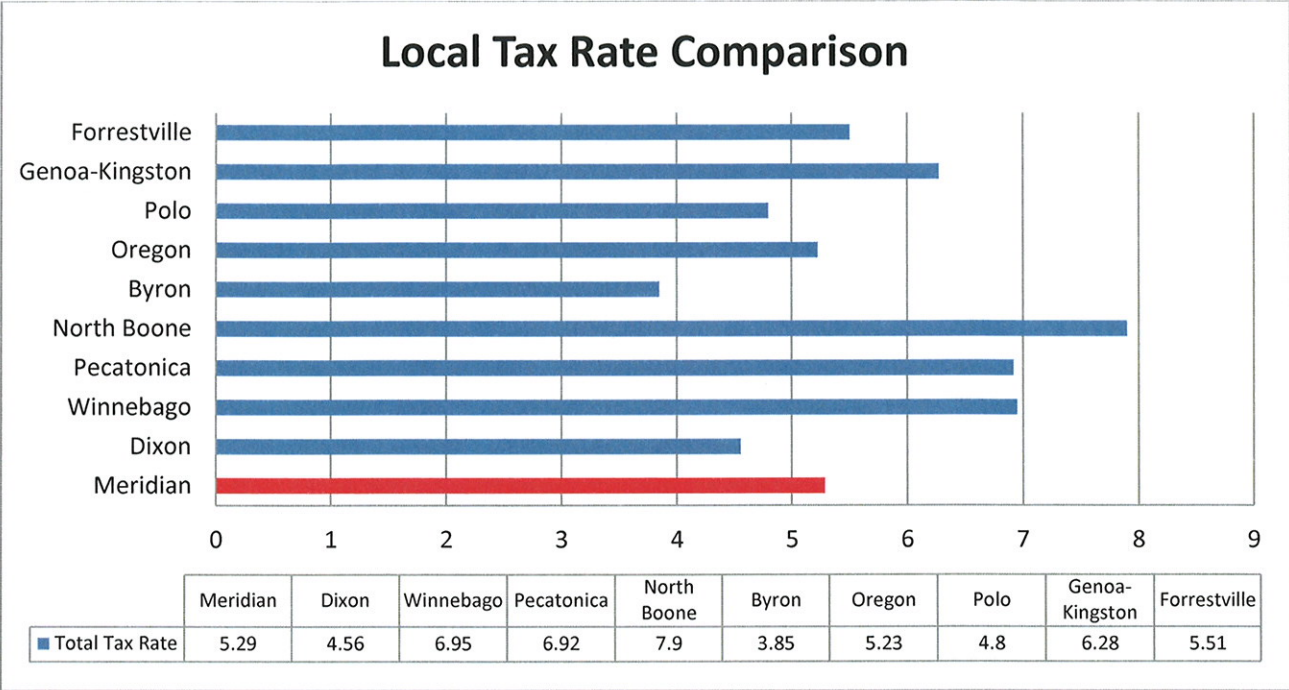
= \$13,936,634

OPERATING FUND PERCENTAGE:

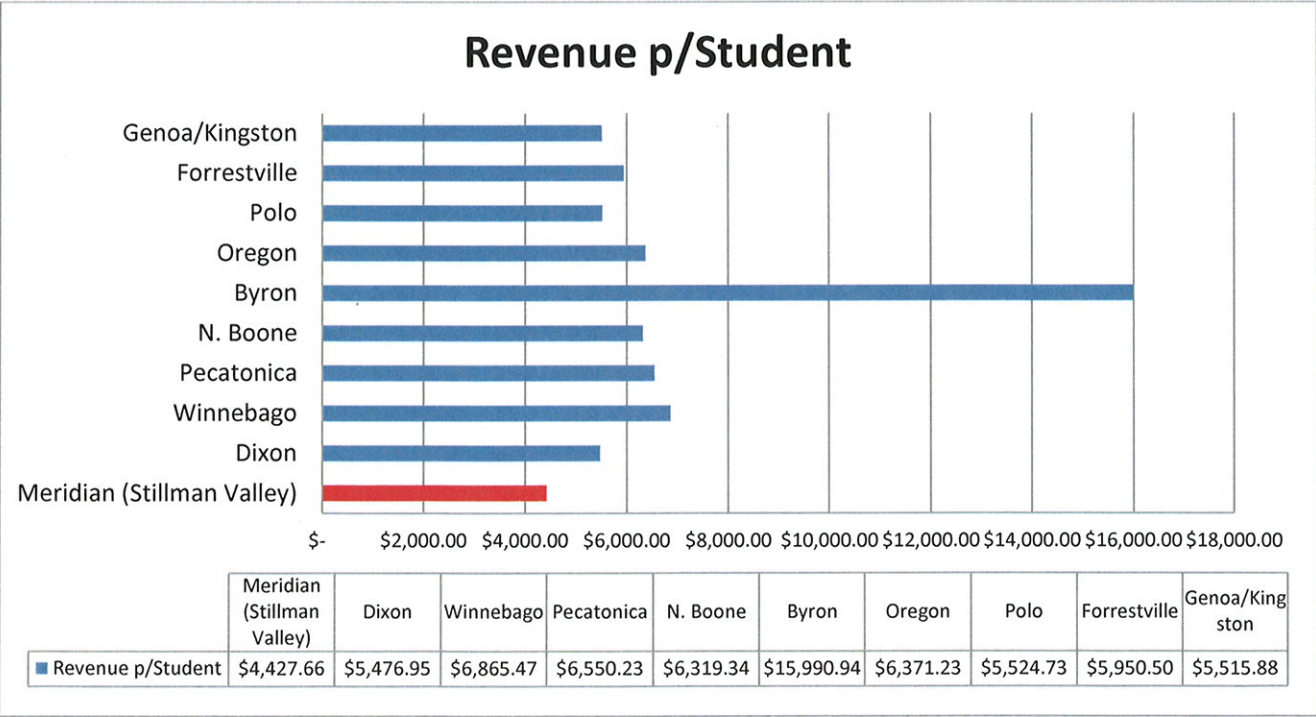
\$3,666,314 / \$13,936,634

= 26.3%

# Local Tax Rate Comparison



# Local Tax Dollars p/Student







**Meridian C.U.S.D. #223**  
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**Stillman Valley High**  
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**Meridian Jr. High**  
(815) 645-2277

**Monroe Center Elementary**  
(815) 393-4424

**Highland Elementary**  
(815) 645-8188

## Understanding MCUSD 223 Bonds

### Item One: What is Bonded Indebtedness

Bonded indebtedness current requirements for principal and interest expenditures are payable from future revenues of the Debt Service Fund. The revenues consist principally of property taxes collected by the District and interest earnings. As of the end of FY 14, the District owes \$13,225,000 in Principal and Interest.

### Item Two: Understanding Levy, Taxation and Repayment Schedules

Every calendar year each property owner is provided an estimated value of their property on which their property taxes are based. Additionally, every year the school district creates a levy that when partnered with estimated value of each piece of property turns in to the school district portion of the tax bill. The schedule is important to note.

In 2013 an estimated value is given to each property and the school files their levy. This is known as Levy Year 13. In 2014, taxpayers receive their individual bill and generally make their first payment early in that calendar year. That money flows through to the school and helps pay the cost for FY 15.

### Item Three: Bond Repayment Schedule

Levy Year	Calendar Year of Payment	Fiscal Year Payments Works Toward	Rough estimate of levy rate in Bond and Interest
2013	2014	FY 15	\$1.02
2014	2015	FY 16	\$1.07
2015	2016	FY 17	\$1.11
2016	2017	FY 18	\$1.15
2017	2018	FY 19	\$1.20
2018	2019	FY 20	\$1.25
2019	2020	FY 21	\$1.31
2020	2021	FY 22	\$0.18
2021	2022	FY 23	\$0.00

Market Value (Comm/Residential)	Assessed Value	O.O. Exempt.	Sr.Homestead Exempt.	Rate Increase	Net Ass'd Value	Tax Increase	
\$ 150,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000	0.70	\$ 39,000	\$ 273.00	Owner occupied, senior citizen*
\$ 150,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 6,000		0.70	\$ 44,000	\$ 308.00	Owner occupied
\$ 150,000	\$ 50,000			0.70	\$ 50,000	\$ 350.00	Not owner occupied (residential, commercial)
					\$ -	\$ -	
\$ 100,000	\$ 33,333	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000	0.70	\$ 22,333	\$ 156.33	Owner occupied, senior citizen*
\$ 100,000	\$ 33,333	\$ 6,000		0.70	\$ 27,333	\$ 191.33	Owner occupied
\$ 100,000	\$ 33,333			0.70	\$ 33,333	\$ 233.33	Not owner occupied (residential, commercial)
						\$ -	
						\$ -	

		Tax Increase per Acre			
Farmland	Ass'd Value per Acre				
	\$ 300	0.70	\$ 300	\$ 2.10	Vacant farmland, good quality
	\$ 500	0.70	\$ 500	\$ 3.50	Vacant farmland, high quality
	\$ 150	0.70	\$ 150	\$ 1.05	Vacan farmland, lower quality

Area Tax Rates			
	current total rate	request	total new rate
Monroe unincorp	7.93759	0.70	8.638
Monroe Center	8.14630	0.70	8.846
Davis Junction	7.91987	0.70	8.620
Stillman Valley	8.68147	0.70	9.381
Rural Marion	7.77168	0.70	8.472
Rural Scott	7.87306	0.70	8.573

The proposed increase would be an 8-9% increase in the total rate, and thus an 8-9% increase in a typical tax bill, assuming no change in prior year's assessed value

\* the senior assessment freeze will not protect against a rate increase

These examples show the tax increase based on \$0.70 rate increase. A change in the assessed value , up or down, will affect the amount of the increase.