

Citizens' Petition for Local Option Hotel and Meals Tax

	Type of tax	Proposed Change	Projected Revenue
Article 36	Hotel Tax	Increase of 2% from 4% to 6%	\$7,000
Article 37	Meals Tax	Increase of 0.75% from 6.25% to 7%	\$288,000

Parents help reduce costs to taxpayers by paying fees

- Full Day Kindergarten \$3300
 - Bus Pass \$250/child
 - Parking Fee \$200
 - Athletics \$200/sport
 - Activity Fee \$60/child
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- Fees have increased greatly in last 3 years

Parents help reduce costs to taxpayers by fundraising

■ Some examples:

- PACs buy computers, supplies and equipment; build playgrounds and subsidize costs for students in need
- WHS teams and clubs fundraise extensively (examples: Football, Robotics, Film Festival and Hockey +\$35,000)
- WHS Community Field project
- Walpole Computer Foundation
- Walpole Youth Soccer, Little League, Pop Warner Football and Walpole Youth Lacrosse are all offering substantial financial commitment to yearly field maintenance to defray Town costs



All WPS employees have significantly helped to save costs

The Walpole Teacher's Association led the way that resulted in all WPS employees agreeing to large concessions

- 15% Health Insurance savings to the Town
- Reduced in-pocket wages and tuition reimbursement
- Agreed to working conditions that require more time from teachers

Internal changes by WPS Administration and School Committee

- From FY09-FY10 25 positions were eliminated
- Reduced % of student population on special education plans (IEPs) by strengthening regular education
- FY11 School Committee request already has eliminated 11 positions from level service budget, may increase cost of Full Day K and athletics and still leaves a \$700,000 gap
- The remaining \$700,000 difference represents another 17 positions, most of which are direct classroom teachers



WPS comparative costs and results compared to nearby towns

- WPS average teacher salary is very low
- Per pupil expenditure is below the average of both the state and nearby towns
- WPS student to teacher ratio is higher than both the averages of the state and nearby towns
- WPS test scores compare well against both the state and nearby towns
- Walpole's single family tax bill is average
- Walpole is slightly more reliant on state aid
- Walpole's percentage of commercial/industrial property affects our single family tax bills

What would the School Department do with \$200,000?

- We would save the jobs of 4 classroom teachers, affecting over 300 students if they were all elementary teachers and over 1500 students if they were all middle/high school teachers

Based on these reasons, Nancy Gallivan, John Desmond and the parents who signed the citizens' petition request your thoughtful consideration and support of Articles 36 and 37