



Manatee School of Arts and Sciences, Inc.
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Dear Parents,

Today I have great news to share with you! We have made charter school history in Manatee County. The School Board of Manatee County has voted to guarantee charter schools a predetermined portion of the funds generated by the ½ Cent Sales Tax Surcharge Extension. All of the process has yet to be worked out, but it is looking very good.

For MSAS it would mean an increase in capital outlay funds of over \$50,000 during the first year. That would go a long way towards helping us provide the facilities, equipment, and technology that your students deserve.

This only happens if the ½ Cent Sales Tax Surcharge Extension Referendum passes on November 8th. I know that many of you have reservations about this extension; however, at this point, the action by the School Board has made the passage of this referendum very important to MSAS. Is it worth it? I have to say yes.

I am asking you to put aside your emotions about politics, past school boards, past superintendents, and their detrimental decisions. I hope you can look at this situation with a cool determination to do what will be most beneficial for MSAS and your students. With this single action, the School Board has opened the door. It is our turn to step through and help make sure this happens.

I am asking you to please vote yes on the ½ Cent Sales Tax Surcharge Extension for the School District of Manatee County. Additionally, I implore you to ask everyone you come in contact with, to support this referendum. Please tell them that we are looking to the future, especially the future of MSAS. Your students and all of the students who will attend MSAS and other charter schools will benefit greatly from this in the coming years. We will do everything we can to help the School District use your money wisely. The School Board's vote to share with us is surely a step in the right direction.

We cannot let this opportunity slip through our fingers. This extension is for 15 years. At the current level, MSAS could lose more than \$750,000 if it does not pass. I realize that for some of you I am asking a lot; however, I know the level of caring and support so many of you feel towards MSAS. Please help us move into the new era of greatness with excellence in academics, arts, and sciences by doing all that you can to help get this referendum passed. Please vote yes on the ½ Cent Sales Tax Surcharge Extension. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions.

With Deep Appreciation,

Rich Ramsay, Ed.S.

Principal

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