

Monday March, 16, 2009

RE: Save ECA from closing

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Isabella Quagliato and I am an ECA alumna from the Music department. I am writing to strongly advocate for Section 5 of House Bill HB6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly-trained professional artists, who serve as ECA's part-time faculty, to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 12-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

ECA was by far one of the best experiences I had in high school. I looked forward to attend ECA every day, which encouraged me to go to school and focus more on my regular classes. Through ECA my music career gave a huge leap and I thank all the professors or the music department for that. They are more than qualified to do the job and they are extraordinary professionals in their field of expertise.

I have a strong feeling that even if the town of Hamden did not have enough funding that my parents and I would have found a way to pay for ECA's tuition, and I believe that is true for many parents. ECA has changed so many lives, and everyone I speak to about their ECA experiences says they absolutely love the school. It would be a shame and very unfortunate to close such a great opportunity down.

I understand that perhaps current economic difficulties may impair government's funding for ECA, however, I recall from President Obama's speech that Education is included in the main emphasis of this country's reform, and an institution such as ECA is fundamental for the growth and character of many students.

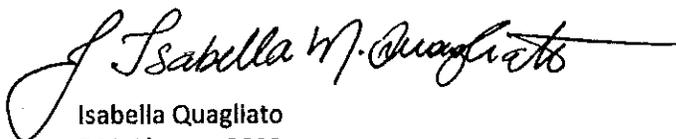
I'm sure there is not one, but several ways to keep ECA opened, and I strongly believe that there are some supporters from parents, alumni and current students and the community that are not only willing but more than happy to come together and figure out a plan to keep ECA opened and help to continue to build a better community for the greater New Haven.

Please do not hesitate to contact me personally should you have any further questions,

I appreciate your time in advance and honestly believe keeping ECA is the right thing to do,

Have a wonderful day,

Sincerely,



Isabella Quagliato
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Graduated from WPI May 2006 High Distinction
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