Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Tony Inhorn. I am the President of the student Theater Council at Cape Elizabeth High School. I have participated in theater since my sophomore year of school. Without a doubt, theater has been my favorite activity in high school and has completely changed my life, and I know that countless students, past and present, feel the same way about this long-running and treasured program.

One of the major reasons for the success of the theater program is Richard Mullen. Mr. Mullen is a brilliant teacher and mentor, the best one I've ever had. I have learned and grown so much during my time with him, and I know that I never would have had the experience I've enjoyed in theater if it weren't for him. He is a beloved figure in the school and community, and someone the school has been lucky to have as part of its faculty for so long.

Yet things change, and Mr. Shedd chose to move the program in a new direction. A new theater director, Christine Marshall, has been hired, and all of the students are very excited about the new ideas she has for the program. However, there is one hitch in the transition of leadership in the program, and that is the question of who will direct the One-Act play through the Theater Workshop class at the school. It is in this letter that I, on behalf of the Theater Council and the students of the Cape Elizabeth High School theater program, express my support for Mr. Mullen to direct the One-Act this year, and urge you to reconsider your vote of August 30 in which you voted 3-2 to confirm Mr. Mullen for Speech team but not for the One-Act.

There are many reasons for our support of Mr. Mullen, which I have outlined to Howard Coulter, the Superintendent of the schools, and Jeffrey Shedd, the Principal of Cape Elizabeth High School. I believe they can express them in more detail, so I will try to be brief. Mr. Mullen

has long directed the One-Act as a part of the Theater Workshop class. He has produced countless plays which have enjoyed success at the One-Act Festival held annually, including the play *The Dishwasher,* which recently won the state championship. An important thing to understand about the One-Act is that it comes out of the Theater Workshop class. It is not produced separately like musicals usually are, but is created in the class. While there are many rehearsals outside of class which are vital for the shaping of the play, the class times are vital for making the plays as good as they have been. Since Mr. Mullen is still teaching theater classes at the school, it would only make sense for him to direct the One-Act as the teacher of the class; having two directors of the play would jeopardize the quality of the play. Additionally, the creation of the One-Act is the majority of what we do in the class. If Mr. Mullen, the teacher of the class, cannot direct the play, the class will be radically altered, and the students who signed up for the class under the promise that it would be dedicated to the One-Act will feel cheated and left in a state of uncertainty. Finally, reconsidering your vote and confirming Mr. Mullen to direct the One-Act would give him a sense of belonging in the program. He has been here for decades, and has given so much to this school, whether you choose to acknowledge that or not. Theater has been Mr. Mullen's lifelong passion, and taking it away from him like this will ensure much heartache, not just for him, but for the students who want him to stay and direct this One-Act. So please, reconsider your vote and confirm Mr. Mullen as the director of the One-Act for this year, and understand that he has the full support in this undertaking of both the Theater Council and the new theater director Christine Marshall.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,

[signature: Anthony C. Inhorn]

Tony Inhorn

Signatures of Members of the Theater Council:

[signature] – Jonathan Stanley

[signature] – Preston Stewart

[signature] – Rose Zappia

[signature] – Raina Sparks

[signature] – William Pearson

[signature] – Hudson Christie

[signature] – Mike Mackenzie

[signature] – Caroline Mahoney

[signature] – Kiri McClure