St. Patrick's
EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

PETER A. BARRETT
Head of School

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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

13 March 2000

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress
Director, Office of Zoning of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Application No.16559, The Field School's request for a special exception

Dear Ms. Kress:

I am pleased to write in support of the Field School's application for a special exception to locate its campus on the Cafritz estate along Foxhall Road. Now in my sixth year as Head of School at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, on Whitehaven Parkway not far away from Field's planned location, I have learned much about the quality of the Field School program and have the deepest respect for that program and for Elizabeth Ely, whose leadership has shaped it. Relocating the school from its current, cramped quarters will enable this fine school to continue to flourish.

One way I have come to know about Field School is through the placement of perhaps a dozen St. Patrick's students there from my first five graduating classes. These St. Patrick's graduates have thrived at Field, for excellent teaching always triumphs over an unprepossessing physical plant. However, I know that cramped buildings, such as the ones I have visited at Field's current location many times, can take their toll on an educational program. Field's ability to construct a new facility to house its program and to allow its enrollment to grow somewhat represents an exciting development for its current school community and for students and families who will seek it out in the future. Additional places at independent secondary schools, especially one as fine as Field, are in desperately short supply in the Washington area.

I know that the BZA considers a range of issues in its review of an application for a special exception. I also know that traffic is of particular concern with respect to this application, and Elizabeth Ely and I have had several conversations about the traffic implications of locating a secondary school on the Foxhall Road/ Whitehaven Parkway corridor. I look forward to continuing to work with Elizabeth not only as a colleague but as a neighbor and remain confident that we can successfully address any shared traffic concerns that may emerge.

Again, I encourage you to approve the Field School's application for a special exception to relocate its campus to Foxhall Road, allowing a gem of a school to continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Barrett
Head of School

cc: Elizabeth Ely, Head of School, The Field School
Eleanor Roberts Lewis, Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 33

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.133

4700 Whitehaven Parkway, NW ✣ Washington, DC 20007 ✣ 202-342-2804 ✣ 202-342-7001 (fax)