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March 21, 2000

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St., NW, Second Floor
Washington, D.C., 20001

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Re: BZA Application for The Field School, Foxhall Road, NW
Case No. 16559

Dear Commissioner Reid:

This letter is to urge the Board to approve The Field School application to permit relocation of the school under the plan as presented.

We have walked over the property and looked at the development plan and it seems to us that the school will not intrude on the neighborhood in any serious way. Additions will be well back from the road, and almost invisible from the roadway. The size of the property (as well as the size of the adjoining properties), coupled with the screening effect of the bordering woods, will make the school buildings and activities largely invisible from the adjoining estates. It appears to us that the crux of the neighborhood objections is a single issue: increased auto traffic on Foxhall Road.

On our own street a similar contest is developing over the proposed expansion of Burke School. The issue is increased auto traffic and increased parking. We will also support Burke School when that case reaches the Board. We do not feel we should dictate who may drive on our street or who may park on our street merely because we live here. The streets belong to the District of Columbia. We know of still another such contest developing in the upper Forest Hills area. In each case it is an in-town school that wants to expand or relocate and to stay in the District of Columbia. Neighborhood resistance tends to push quality D.C. schools out of the city because of fear that the schools will interfere with convenient street parking, and will occasionally impede quick and easy access by a small group of nearby property owners.

We strongly believe that it is against the best interests of our city to push quality schools out to the suburbs, where they will be less accessible to Washington, D.C., students, and where all students will lose the advantages of being educated with a diverse group of people in a vibrant urban environment. Those same advantages were a large part of the reason that we sent our two children to Field School.

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EXHIBIT NO.222

BZA
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Exhibit No. 222

For good or ill, Foxhall Road has been a rush hour commuter shortcut for some time. Proposed school use will somewhat increase morning traffic. It will not significantly impact the evening rush hour, because school departures happen earlier. There will be no parking on street, and no pickups along the edge of the street. All vehicles will drive straight into the property. Parking and standing on the street is not a problem. We must all drive on other neighborhoods' streets, and we fail to see any merit to the objections of the Foxhall Road neighbors to The Field School's proposed relocation.

In summary, we urge the approval of the Field School proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Kane Paul Kane

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cc The Field School