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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 23, 2000

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid
District of Columbia Board
of Zoning Adjustment
414 4th St.., N.W. – 2nd floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Concerning: Board of Zoning Adjustment for The Field School, Foxhall, Road, N.W. (currently the Cafritz Estate)

Dear Commissioner Reid,

I wish to express my enthusiastic support for the application of The Field School to convert the former Cafritz Estate located on Foxhall Road, N.W. to a private school. The development plan proposed by The Field School will have virtually no objectionable consequence to the surrounding community, nor will it have any detrimental impact on the neighbors in the immediate vicinity of the property.

As an employee at The Field School for the past eighteen years [ and as a life-long resident of Washington, D.C. ], I can speak with the utmost confidence to the very positive role that The Field School has played in the independent school community. Field has been tirelessly responsive as a neighbor to the embassies, private residences, and other inhabitants of the neighborhood around the school, addressing any concerns that have arisen, and has maintained a very positive rapport over the 27 years it's been at 2126 Wyoming Avenue. I have had occasion as a long-time employee with administrative responsibilities to contact neighbors on a variety of issues. Any problem that has arisen has been resolved to everyone's satisfaction. I am therefore convinced that our presence on Foxhall Road will be of a comparable attentive, responsive nature.

The steps that The Field School has taken in reaching out to the community since the inception of the plan to acquire the Cafritz estate speaks to the school's commitment to preserving the integrity of the neighborhood's atmosphere, and addressing the concerns regarding traffic, safety, etc. I have listened with great interest as board members, architects, traffic consultants, and others involved in the project have articulated how to accomplish those twin needs. The design of the campus itself, with its interior road system, its entrance and exit locations, and the buffers situated on the perimeter of the campus to block out noise are evidence of how sincerely the

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school has listened to the concerns of its immediate neighbors on 44th St, on Foxhall Road, and on W St, as well as others less proximate to the property itself. The accommodations suggested to the Advisory Neighborhood Commission regarding student access to the neighborhood, parking, and traffic on Foxhall Road demonstrate the school's pledge to being as unobtrusive as possible as a fellow resident in the neighborhood.

The Field School's plan offers the Foxhall neighborhood many positive factors as a new neighbor, not the least of which is the maintenance of much of the existing green space on the property. The fact that the school has limited evening events during the school year, that weekends are rarely occasion for school events, and that numerous vacations dot the calendar [ including the two months of summer ] also suggest that the change to the feel of the neighborhood should be almost imperceptible to others in the vicinity of the school.

My years as a resident of the District of Columbia, combined with my experience as an educator, has exposed me to a number of independent and parochial schools in the District. The contribution they make to the immediate community as well as to the city itself cannot be underplayed. The presence of 260 Field School students on a 10-acre campus on Foxhall Road should provide numerous opportunities for furthering the contributions Field has made in its 28 years of existence as a vital part of the city.

Thank you for your attention to my letter. I respectfully ask that you approve The Field School's application. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Christophe G. Lorrain