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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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March 24, 2000

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid
District of Columbia Board of
Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Second floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Case # 16559: The Field School

Dear Commissioner Reid:

As a longtime D.C. citizen and a mother of four sons, products of our public and independent schools, I feel our city needs a strong educational system, appropriate for all its children. The Field School is an extraordinary institution of learning that is designed to meet the needs of a diverse group of students. But its uniqueness lies in the fact that The Field School allows students to grow according to their special abilities and talents, in the context of a strong value system which includes a respect for each and every citizen. The District of Columbia needs and is enriched by such a school.

The Field School needs and deserves a home in Washington, D.C. When our new campus location was announced, some people questioned the appropriateness of the "fashionable" Foxhall neighborhood. But over time those people came to understand that the school will flourish wherever it is planted. It wants and deserves to be "planted" in a city setting that will enhance its operations and where it can continue to thrive as an institution that values diversity of all kinds. That place, found after many, many long months of searching is the former Cafritz Estate on Foxhall Road. **We need strong educational institutions in our city.**

The school has worked long and hard to accommodate the desires and wishes of the neighborhood. I can attest to the fact that it truly cares about the neighbors and has a strong commitment to be a very good neighbor. The school has listened carefully to the various constituencies. It has redesigned the campus, sometimes putting its desires second to those of the neighbors, and it is unequivocal in its determination to be the best neighbor possible.

As you are aware, traffic is an issue. We share the concern that Foxhall Road must be a safe journey for both the residents and students. This school is determined to do

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whatever is possible to assure safety. Traffic patterns and changes such as speed bumps, lights, one-ways and traffic guards can go a long way to assure safe streets. There will be no more eager and ready neighbor than the Field School: whatever is needed will be done to assure a safe journey for all using Foxhall Road. The school will play a proactive role to assure that it is not only a good neighbor, but moreover, an advocate of safety and respect for the community.

This school is needed in the District of Columbia. This school will occupy 7% of the property of the Cafritz estate. This school will remain small and will have a minimal impact on traffic. Above all, this school will work with the neighbors and the city to assure the safety and the well being of the community.

I thank you for the opportunity to register my sentiments. They come after many, many hours of involvement as a parent and a member of the board of trustees. This school will live up to its word: it has integrity as its core.

Sincerely,

Patricia Riley Johnson
Parent of John Scott Johnson
Board of Trustees