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June 1, 2000

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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress
Secretary
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Application of the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation/The Field School
Application No. 16559

Dear Ms. Kress:

This is in response to the memorandum to the Office of Planning from the Department of Public Works ("DPW") dated May 22, 2000 regarding further examination of the revised traffic plans proposed by The Field School, with respect to its request for a special exception to establish a private school at the Cafritz site located at 2301 Foxhall Road, N.W. Upon review of DPW's Report, Mrs. Sylvia Shugrue opposes the recommendations set forth therein for the following reasons:

1. DPW recommends that the northern entrance/exit from the site be closed. As a result, the southern entrance (closest to Mrs. Shugrue's house) will be the only entrance/exit to the site. Adoption of this recommendation will mean that all school traffic on the site will be routed so as to pass near Mrs. Shugrue's property both in dropping off and picking up students, and in entering and exiting the site. More emissions and noise pollution will be directed toward Mrs. Shugrue's property under this recommendation than under the Field School's original proposals.

2. DPW recommends that a traffic signal be located at the proposed southern entrance/exit of the school to stop traffic on Foxhall Road and to allow safe turns into and out of the proposed site. Installation of a light will create a backup in the northbound lane of Foxhall Road passed Mrs. Shugrue's property, effectively making her

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a prisoner in her own home. The traffic backup also will create additional automobile and noise pollution.

3. DPW recommends the widening of Foxhall Road to allow creation of a southbound left turn lane into the proposed site, and relocation of utilities underground. This will mean additional construction at the southern entrance closest to Mrs. Shugrue, in addition to the construction and development of a school at the site.

4. DPW's recommendation that the northern entrance be closed raises issues of safety for The Field School. Is more than one entrance/exit required for emergency vehicles such as fire engines and ambulances? The Field School has already agreed that there shall be no access to the proposed site from 44th Street.

5. DPW proposes installation of flashing school warning signs to slow traffic to 15 miles per hour. DPW, however, acknowledges that the average speed on Foxhall Road is 40 miles per hour. Yet, no rationale is set forth to support the assumption that traffic will slow to 15 miles per hour. DPW has not conducted any tests to determine the effect of flashing school lights. Based upon personal observation of recent construction on Foxhall Road, the installation of flashing school lights will simply result in further traffic backup.

6. DPW's recommendations apparently rely upon 1997 traffic counts. The traffic on Foxhall Road has increased dramatically in the last two years. A current study is necessary before any decisions are made.

7. DPW's recommendations render The Field School's traffic management plan inoperable and obsolete.

Additional concerns and objections to DPW's recommendations will be stated at BZA's next hearing on July 22, 2000.

Sincerely yours,

Alan R. Swendiman

cc: Mrs. Sylvia Shugrue
All parties