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August 17, 2000

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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Ms. Sheila Cross-Reid
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: BZA Application No.: 16559
Cafritz/The Field School

Dear Madam Chair and Board Members:

I am transmitting herewith the written submission of Sylvia K. Shugrue, a party in interest, in response to the letter and concluding remarks of The Field School and Phil T. Feola, Esquire filed on August 10, 2000.

Sincerely yours,

Alan R. Swendiman by ARS

Alan R. Swendiman

ARS:wmc
Enclosure as stated

cc: Phil T. Feola, Esquire
Richard L. Aguglia, Esquire
Joseph Bolliton, Esquire

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 472

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.472

Sylvia K. Shugrue
2207 Foxhall Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20007

August 17, 2000

Ms. Sheila Cross-Reid
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Madam Chair and Board Members:

I am writing to you on my own behalf in response to the letter and Concluding Remarks sent to you by Phil T. Feola dated August 10, 2000.

At the public hearing on July 25, the Chair requested that Mr. Feola discuss with my attorney, Alan Swendiman, whether any compromise could be reached that would address my concerns. Mr. Swendiman gave me a copy of Mr. Feola's letter dated August 10, 2000 in which he suggested certain accommodations. I have read and reread the letter carefully. The suggestions do not address the very serious concerns I have about the relocation of the Field School to the Cafritz site as it affects my safety, my neighbors, and the students who will come to the school.

What makes it difficult for me to find some compromise is that a number of options for the compromise have been eliminated.

An available entrance on 44th Street, and opposition to location of the School to this site, has been eliminated by an agreement between the Field School and the residents of 44th Street. It may have a bearing on their warm welcome of the School. 44th Street is a dead-end street used only by the residents, their visitors and service vehicles. The staggered hours of entry and exit of the staff and students of the Field School would ensure their safety and not endanger the parkland. It would take future congestion off of over-used Foxhall Road and put a limited number of vehicles on an under-used roadway. Such a pre-agreement of this sort doesn't seem fair. It is hard not to take a cynical view of all the people who support location of the School to the Cafritz site who do not live on or near Foxhall Road.

The Department of Public Works eliminated the option of using the northern entrance to the property making the southern entrance the only entrance. The proposed traffic light at the southern entrance will permit southbound traffic to turn left into the site and exit again making a left turn into the southbound lane.

In both cases, traffic will back up in front of my house making it difficult and sometimes impossible to exit or enter my driveway. This situation has been forcefully impressed upon me this year when the new water pipes had to be laid in the roadbed at Foxhall Road and W Street. The traffic came to a standstill many times blocking my driveway completely. Northbound cars were lined up as far as my eyes could see.

The proposed road built on the Cafritz property to gain access to a southern entrance will in effect make my property a corner lot with traffic going on both sides of me. The school traffic will enter and exit near me creating greater emission pollution. A parking lot located near me simply makes the situation worse because toxic emissions will increase.

These are my major concerns. They are not addressed by Mr. Feola's proposals. The entrance and the parking lot will have to be moved. Mr. Feola does not propose this. Instead, he mentions landscape, and visitors using the parking lot. He mentions that the school could work with me to develop a drainage system. I am not a water run-off engineer. I only know what I have observed over a long time. He does not say that the School will install a porous surface parking lot. In fact, he says that "none of the above ideas have been approved by the school." If I agree to these suggestions and so inform you, where would I be if the School finally did "cost-out" the suggestions and later determines after your decision that they were too expensive.

My finally concern is for the safety of the students of the Field School. As I mentioned to you, I have been a teacher for over 40 years and I am still teaching science worldwide on the National Science Teachers Association Website. The first axiom of good teaching is, "Students must be safe in order to be taught or to learn." Locating a school at this site is dangerous. There is no access to the site by foot. A sidewalk would stop at the Cafritz property line. Numerous accidents, some of them fatal, continue to occur at this portion of Foxhall Road. The southwest corner of the Cafritz fence has been seriously damaged by vehicles three times in my memory. A fire was started at this corner, a tree was downed in the Cafritz property, my property and that of my neighbor to the south of me.

The location of the Field School at the Cafritz site would create an intolerable situation for me, my sister, and our historic home. I would urge you to reject the application.

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia K Shugrue

Sylvia K. Shugrue