Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3-D
P.O. Box 40846
Palisades Station
Washington, D.C. 20016

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
RECEIVED
2002 JUN 24 PM 3:08

June 17, 2002

Re: Certificate of Occupancy for Field School Campus on Foxhall Road

Lennox Douglas
Director, Permit Service Center
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
941 N. Capitol St.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Douglas:

On behalf of ANC3D, I write to you to urge that you not grant a certificate of occupancy to the Field School for its new campus on Foxhall Road until it has complied with all the conditions laid down by the BZA in its order permitting the school to move to the old Cafritz Estate on Foxhall.

Our request is of immediate urgency because Field School has stated its intent to begin classes on the Foxhall Campus beginning with the fall semester this year even though it has not yet obtained a certificate of occupancy nor complied with the conditions that the BZA said must be met before a certificate of occupancy can be issued.

Permit me to quote some of the conditions laid down by the BZA in application no. 16559:

Condition 14. Before a certificate of occupancy may be issued, Foxhall Road adjacent to the Field School property must be widened to allow the development of southbound left-turn lane on Foxhall Road into the proposed school site.

Condition 16. Before a certificate of occupancy may be issued, a traffic control signal must be located at the southern entrance to stop traffic on Foxhall Road to allow safe turns into and out of the school property.

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 491

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.491

Neither of these (and other) conditions has been met, and it is unlikely they will be met before the scheduled opening of the Foxhall campus in early September. Rather it seems likely that construction will not begin until late in the fall. In an e-mail dated June 14, Ken Laden, Associate Director of DDOT for planning stated:

"DDOT is currently working to prepare final plans and specification for the roadway widening and traffic signal installation. Until recently it was our assumption that the Field School was preparing these plans and specifications, which DDOT would review and approve. I believe this is what was included in the BZA order [see point 9 on page 7, point 33 on page 11 and point 14 on page 20 of the BZA order in this case.] The project will not be ready for construction until the fall of 2002."

The conditions on road widening and installation of a traffic signal were crucial factors in BZA granting approval for Field School to relocate to the Foxhall campus. There was concern within the Board that without compliance with these conditions, a safety hazard would exist for students and drivers on Foxhall and that dangerous traffic jams would result as drivers attempted to enter and leave the school. That will be the result if the Field School were permitted to open the Foxhall Campus without a new turn lane and traffic light in place.

There also is the overriding principle that the school should be required to comply with the law and BZA orders in opening the new campus.

ANC3D, therefore, urges that you not grant a certificate of occupancy until the school complies with the BZA conditions and that you give "great weight" to our views, as accorded by law.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Finney
Chair, ANC3D

Copy to:
Jerrily Kress, Director, and Office of Zoning