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

July 20, 2002

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2002 JUL 24 PM 4:01

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairperson
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St. NW, Room 210
Washington DC 2001

Re: Application of Field School to modify BZA Order No. 16559

Dear Mr. Griffis:

At its meeting on July 17, 2002, with a quorum (3) present, and with proper notification of this meeting through the Northwest Current newspaper and by posting notices throughout the neighborhoods, ANC3D discussed the request of Field School for modifications in the BZA order incorporating interim traffic measures, thereby permitting it to open its new campus on Foxhall Road this fall. After hearing from a representative of the school and neighbors favoring and opposed to the opening of the new campus this fall, ANC3D, by a 4-0-0 vote, decided to send the following recommendation to the BZA:

1. The ANC welcomes the move, however belated, of Field School to go to the BZA for approval of a modified order and its interim traffic measures, thereby recognizing and respecting the authority of BZA, the DCRA and zoning laws in controlling its occupancy of the new campus on Foxhall. In this connection, the commission wishes to applaud the action of Jerrily Kress, Director of the Office of Zoning, in blocking a move by the Field School and the District Department of Transportation to enter into a private, bilateral agreement on traffic measures which it would then argue complied with the traffic conditions in the original BZA order. By her action, Ms. Kress set an important precedent for enforcement of BZA orders and conditions.

2. ANC3D believes that traffic gridlock on Foxhall Road can be adequately mitigated by incorporating the interim traffic measures described in a July 5 memo by Ken Laden, Associate Director of DDOT, as enforceable conditions in a modified BZA order, with the addition of one more condition: that only right-hand turns be permitted for vehicles leaving the campus at any time. Our conclusion is based principally on two conditions in the interim measures * the shuttling by bus of all students to and from the Foxhall campus, and the stipulation that there will be no left-hand turns into the campus at any time * in combination with the additional condition that no left-hand turns out of the campus be allowed at any time. The bus shuttling greatly reduces the traffic entering and leaving the campus in the morning and afternoon.

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 497

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.497

We believe the elimination of turns into or out of the southbound lane of Foxhall will greatly reduce the southbound gridlock and dangerous traffic conditions that would otherwise result from the opening of the school. The right-turn-only into and out of the campus will result in some increase in the traffic on the northbound lane of Foxhall, but the increase will be limited to faculty, staff and shuttle buses, a number that should not cause undue hardship during an interim period on travelers and residents living near Foxhall. We note that the incorporation of the additional condition of no-left-turn out of the campus appears to obviate the need for the use of a uniformed officer.

3. The issue no longer is whether the Field School should be permitted to re-locate to the Foxhall Campus. The issue is when it should open the new campus and under what conditions. The school plans to open the now completed new campus on September 3. The parents of more than 200 students and the students themselves look forward to attending the new campus with great anticipation. Their plans and desires must now be taken into consideration. The Commission believes that the campus can be safely opened this fall with new interim traffic conditions to be laid down by the BZA, as stated above.

4. The Commission urges the BZA to consider Field School's application for a modified order on an urgent basis, in time for the Field School to open its Foxhall campus this fall.

5. ANC3D submits its view in advance of formal notification by the BZA to help expedite BZA's scheduling and consideration of Field School's request.

We urge the BZA to give our decision the "great weight" to which it is entitled under DC law.

Sincerely yours,

John Finney
Chair, ANC3D

Copies to:
Jerrily Kress, Director of Office of Zoning
Sherri Pruitt, Secretary, BZA