Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3-D
(Potomac-Massachusetts)
Washington, D.C. 20016

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January 22, 2003

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Order #16559

Dear Chairman Griffis:

This letter is being submitted in lieu of testimony which I was prepared to offer yesterday on behalf of Field School.

On July 17th of last year, ANC 3D held its regularly scheduled meeting and considered the Modified Traffic Plan for Field School. The Commission felt to deny 206 students their new campus would be very short sighted and, after lengthy discussion of the Modified traffic plan, voted unanimously to support the application proposed by the school.

Has the modified plan worked perfectly? No, it has not. And, it should be noted that it is the community who bear the responsibility for bringing issues to the attention of the school. That being said, Field School deserves credit for its sincere attempts to nip problems in the bud. There have been students eager to show independence by driving themselves to school; parents who tire of waiting for the shuttle bus and pick up students on neighboring streets; shuttle bus drivers who take short cuts through neighborhoods because the prescribed route is too long; and, uniformed Metropolitan Police officers who do not show up to direct traffic. The school has dealt with these issues and has taken steps to ensure they do not become perpetual problems. For that reason, the Commission continues to support the school and the Modified traffic plan.

However, the Commission has one major concern. The District Department of Transportation has failed to install the two flashing beakers on Foxhall Road that were a condition of approval by the BZA and ANC 3D. Condition #2 of the Modified Traffic Plan states, "Installation of two flashing beacons, one on Foxhall Road at the modified southern entrance to the school, and one on Foxhall Road near W Street, approximately 300 feet south of the school entrance." Currently,

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four months after the opening of school, there are no flashing beakers on Foxhall Road to warn the 17,500 drivers that they are entering a school zone. The modified southern entrance is on a downhill curve for drivers heading south on Foxhall Road and has been the site of one known accident since the school opened. Officer Dorsey Knight of the 2nd Police District testified that in his experience cars travel at an average speed of 45 mph on Foxhall Road. That is 30 mph over the speed limit allowed in a school zone which should be indicated by the flashing beakers.

ANC 3D supports the minor modification for Field School and strongly urges DDOT to fulfill its responsibility to ensure the safety of the 206 Field School students and 17,500 drivers who use Foxhall Road daily by installing the flashing beakers as required in Condition #2 of the Modified Traffic Plan.

Sincerely,

Alma Hardy Gates

Alma Hardy Gates
ANC 3D and Chair of the Transportation Committee