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8 March 2001

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Room 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: BZA Application Case 16611: Proposed Edmund Burke School Expansion

Dear BZA Members:

We write to support the application of Edmund Burke School to expand at the corner of Upton Street and Connecticut Avenues. We have been residents and property-owners in the District of Columbia for 15 years, and have been District taxpayers and have worked in the District. We have two children, one of whom attends Edmund Burke.

The District of Columbia strives to be a community, but no community can thrive without thriving schools. Every vibrant city in the nation includes both public and private education, giving its residents who are parents the opportunity to decide on the needs of their children. In order to succeed, the District can be no different.

We chose Burke partly because of its diversity and its service orientation, as well as its excellent and dedicated faculty. If diversity and community service are among the values upheld in this city, then it would be odd to stand in the way of a school with the same values. That Burke reflects the goals of the District's residents is evidenced in the fact that an increasing number of District families are applying to Burke. In response, the school has made a public commitment to increase its financial aid program. This latter aim will be hard to realize unless the school can be strengthened.

We support cooperation between the school and the neighborhood to find a suitable transportation plan. In fact, we live directly across the street from a private school, and bought our current home with the conviction that schools are important and that the occasional inconvenience is more than matched by the vitality a school provides.

The future of the District rides on its willingness to support its children. If a school like Burke is not to be part of that future then what kind of statement are we making? We urge you to approve Burke's application.

Sincerely yours,

Leslye S. Fenton

Leslye S. Fenton

Jonathan D. Moreno

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 119

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.119