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March 7, 2001

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW Room 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re.: BZA Case Number 16611, proposed Edmund Burke School expansion

To Whom It May Concern:

As long time residents of the District (33 and 22 years, respectively), we are writing to ask approval of the Edmund Burke School's application to the Board of Zoning Adjustment for permission to build an addition to the existing school building.

We know first hand, because our daughter is an eighth-grader there, that Burke embodies the kind of community values that are important in making Washington a vital city. Students are quite involved in the city through a variety of community service projects. The student body itself is more diverse than most private schools. Washington should be proud to embrace Burke, and indeed it adds to the city's luster.

Burke is constrained in its ability to provide the best education it can because of the lack of space. Its plan to expand to Connecticut Avenue would result in only sixty more students attending the school while providing appropriate facilities for all of Burke's students. This is a responsible expansion that is necessary for the school.

We can appreciate the concern of Burke's neighbors. In addition to Burke, Upton Street houses the Howard University Law School and Levine School of Music. But the neighbors should not be allowed to vent their frustration with this mixed use situation by taking advantage of Burke, which has responded to their concerns with laudable changes in plans for the addition. The new plan actually should reduce the traffic neighbors now experience. It would be ironic if the inflexibility of a few would deprive the whole neighborhood of the benefit of reduced traffic, which would be the consequence of denying Burke's application. As residents of Macomb Street, we experienced a similar conflict with the Washington International School (WIS) a few years ago, with regard to the construction of a new gym. We are happy to say that the willingness of neighbors and the WIS to compromise has proven to be beneficial to both. We expect the same result to occur in the case of Burke.

In short, approval of Burke's application would serve the best interests of the Burke families, the Burke community and the city. We hope you will take these factors into consideration and approve Burke's application.

Sincerely,

Philip Brenner

Elizabeth Vieth

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 120

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.120