5100 39th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20016
March 5, 2001

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

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
RECEIVED
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RE: BZA Case #16611
Proposed Edmund Burke School expansion

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the zoning adjustment request of the Edmund Burke School. I am a Ward 3 resident and a long time resident of the District of Columbia who, as a parent, has had children in both the DC public and private school systems, District residents should be doing all we can to keep schools like Edmund Burke within its borders. I strongly believe. Burke's proposal is a reasonable one that has been developed and revised in close consultation with the neighbors on Upton Street.

Our son and our family are new to Burke this academic year. Prior to this, however, we have watched as our daughter's school went through two different renovation/expansion efforts in Cleveland Park and as a school housed in our Temple tried to find a new location within the District. From these experiences, the process that Burke has gone through in informing and involving the surrounding neighborhood is exemplary. Burke clearly values the community in which it is located and, I believe, has given the neighbors access and involvement in the plans as they were developed.

I am the first to recognize the chaos there can be on Upton Street during the school day as well as those nights when there are school activities. Last Friday night I went to pick my son up at Burke around 10:00 PM, when he was returning from a school ski-trip. The combination of tour buses and parents waiting to pick up their kids was overwhelming. But there were also Burke teachers and support staff and a DC police officer there to mitigate the confusion and congestion as quickly and as best possible. With the new traffic and parking proposals including restricting all charter bus pick-up and drop-off to the new Connecticut Avenue entrance, this type of congestion will occur on Upton Street infrequently, if at all.

We made the decision to remain in the District in large part because there were schools like Burke that would offer our kids academically rigorous, community-based education once they left the DC public school system. While the wishes and needs of communities and neighborhoods must be a priority for those who run the District, these are not nor should be inconsistent with an environment that allows schools like Burke to remain vital parts of the District. One of the aspects of Burke that we value highly is its diversity and the commitment it has to pull in kids from all over the city. Burke's outreach, coupled with its vigorous financial aid program, allows it to more adequately reflect the population of the District of Columbia.

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 127

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.127

Burke has put together a reasonable expansion plan and involved the neighbors in decisions that will affect them. I am confident that members of the BZA are as committed as I am to ensuring that vital schools like Edmund Burke continue to serve our city. I know you will give Burke's proposal your full consideration.

Sincerely,

William H. Barringer