April 4, 2001

District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustments
441 Fourth St NW
Room 210
Washington DC 20001

D.C. RECEIVED
OFFICE OF ZONING
2001 APR 13 PM 3:35

RE: BZA Application Case No. 16611: Proposed Edmund Burke School Expansion

Dear Board Members,

We are writing to support the variance application of Edmund Burke School to add an addition to the existing school building.

Edmund Burke School is a true city school with a diverse population. It does not have a campus and many of its students as well as teachers use city transportation to get to and from school. Because Burke is just a few blocks from the Van Ness metro, a metro benefit incentive is offered to the faculty at an annual cost of $5,000. This has increased their use of Metro to 40%.

In addition, Burke has and continues to listen very carefully to the neighborhood's concerns regarding school traffic on Upton Street and has addressed these concerns by taking the following steps:

1. There is now a curbside designated drop-off area in front of the school and all students are to be dropped off in this area.
2. Instead of a teacher, there is now an off-duty Metropolitan Police officer directing vehicle traffic every morning and every afternoon during drop-off and pick-up times.
3. The school has prohibited students and facility from parking on restricted sections of Upton Street.
4. Burke has added off-site parking for activities vans at a cost of $3,600 annually.
5. Off-duty police officers direct traffic at the school's evening functions.
6. Burke also has eliminated revenue-producing activities at the school such as a young professionals volleyball and basketball league at a income loss to the school of $20,000.

If the expansion is approved, Burke will then implement plans for further improving traffic conditions.

1. Both on-site and underground parking will be provided for facility and students.

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 143

Board of Zoning Adjustment
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CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.143

2. The majority of drop off and pick-up will shift to Connecticut Ave lessening the use of Upton Street.
3. The addition of an on-site drop off lane will be added and in that way will keep the alley between Van Ness and Upton Street clear.
4. The green space between Burke and its immediate neighbor to the East will be maintained.

Burke is an excellent college prep school. Because of its ongoing service relationships with under-served youth, disabled, elderly and working poor, it teaches its students to become active, participatory and caring citizens within their communities. Burke also wants to remain a city school. The proposed plans will add much needed space to the school community on a recognized commercial strip rather than building further into the neighborhood block. These plans are actually quite modest and have been altered because Edmund Burke has both listened to and continues to work with the neighborhood.

We strongly encourage you to give your approval to the application for this much needed school expansion.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Fischer Rick Fischer

Kathleen and Rick Fischer
3606 Newark St NW
Washington, DC 20016

CC: Councilmember Kathy Patterson
441 4th Street NW
Room 709
Washington DC 20001

Edmund Burke School
2955 Upton Street
Washington DC 20008