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Washington, DC 20016

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

BZA 16611

Dear Councilmember:

Regarding the Edmund Burke School expansion project, I understand that a hearing for zoning adjustment is scheduled for May 15, 2001. As a parent of an Edmund Burke School graduate, I fully understand the value of the education my daughter obtained at this school. I am aware that private schools in the city all have different philosophies as to how students learn. After much research and help from an education counselor, I chose Edmund Burke for my daughter. I felt she would succeed in their environment. I felt that she would not do well in a structured setting such as National Cathedral School (another daughter graduated from NCS). My daughter did very well in this school. Therefore, Edmund Burke is very dear to me.

My daughter went on to obtain a bachelor's degree and is now in graduate school. The goals of higher education, of course, were fostered at home. However, Edmund Burke played a pivotal role in her development. She now is married to a Foreign Service Officer and has been living in foreign countries over six years. During that time, she persistently sought opportunities for advancing her progress toward a graduate degree. She found a university that would give the course on internet if she could provide an adequate number of applicants. She did this, and the students were proctored by a local professor. I could go on describing the creative measures she has taken to continue toward her final goal. I am sure her experience at Edmund Burke contributed to her development of the self-esteem and self-confidence that would make her a very responsible member of our society. She believes that worst thing a person can have at the end of life is not to have achieved self-actualization.

Edmund Burke requires community service involvement. At the time my daughter was a student in the school, she had to go out into the community and find programs in which to participate. She had to report her efforts. In addition to her educational and professional goals, she has been involved in community service programs wherever she has lived. In one instance, she recognized a need for a program that did not exist. She worked very hard to establish a program in a third world country where the need is so great. Because of their system of education, Edmund Burke has been instrumental in making her this kind of person.

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 144

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.144

Our society needs to recognize and accept diverse educational programs that will meet the varied needs of individual students. Edmund Burke School fills one of these needs. As you know, our children are the foundation of the future. The future that will be formed by our children depends on their broad experiences and on their level of responsibility.

I am sure you have been provided a long list of reasons why the expansion project should be approved. I, therefore, will not list all the attributes of the school and the planning efforts to make this project one that will serve the needs of both the neighborhood and the students. Schools must provide many varied opportunities for students including extracurricular activities. Although Edmund Burke School has put a great deal into a very limited space, they do need to expand. Whenever they have made changes, they have always considered and protected the neighborhood. When making your decision, please look at the whole picture and the history of the school's efforts.

Sincerely,

Marilyn S. Dyson

Marilyn Dyson