BZA Case No. 16611 (ANC-3F)
Edmund Burke School
Testimony of Andrew R. Plump in Support of Application

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WASHINGTON)
) ss.:
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA)

I, Andrew R. Plump, being duly sworn, depose and say:

My name is Andrew R. Plump. My 12-year old daughter Alessandra entered Edmund Burke School this past September as a 6th Grader. My wife Elaine Sciolino and I and our two daughters live at 3545 Ordway Street in Cleveland Park, less than a mile from Burke.

I attended the BZA hearing on May 15 in anticipation of providing testimony in person in support of the Burke application, but did not know that day that I would be called out of town on business this week and would therefore not be able to attend the May 22 hearing in person. I request therefore that you accept this written testimony instead.

Elaine and I have lived in Washington for almost 14 years and we both work here in the city. When our family outgrew our original home in Adams Morgan about five years ago, we were confronted with the choice of staying in the city or moving to the suburbs. We are committed city dwellers, for whom the diversity and richness of life in the city are compelling. We are also strong believers in progressive schools, and we were encouraged that the location of schools like Burke in our community would enable our children to also experience the diversity and richness of urban life while obtaining a high quality education. So we moved to a larger house but stayed in the District.

I hope that you realize that all private schools are not the same. While some of the private schools undoubtedly cater to only the highest academic achievers, other private schools like Burke are open to a much more diverse student body. My daughter Alessandra, for example, is a wonderful child and a solid, mainstream student, but she was not a realistic candidate for the most competitive of the private schools. She is also the type of child who, we feared, would get lost in the large class sizes of a public school. A number of the schools that would have fit the bill for her academically were located outside the city. We felt very fortunate when Burke accepted Alessandra for this year, and she has indeed thrived at the school.

Thus, I do not take Burke for granted, and I think that the parents of Burke students feel the same way. Burke has attracted a parent community with a genuine commitment to their children and to the school. Parent and student compliance with the transportation management plan that has been developed for the proposed addition to the school is obviously of crucial importance to you, to the community and to the school.

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My house is situated just a few blocks from several schools, both public and private, including John Eaton, Sidwell Friends, National Cathedral, Beauvoir and NCRC. The concerns of Burke's neighbors about traffic, congestion and the like are our everyday concerns as well. And as the parent of a child already at Burke, I have every interest in seeing to it that the school has a traffic plan that is safe for the children and the neighbors and that is as efficient as possible. I welcome the transportation plan that has been developed in connection with this application and I believe that it will work well for all concerned.

Like many Burke parents, my family has years of experience with school traffic plans. Both of my children have attended the Lowell School, back when it was located at 16th & Decatur Streets and since it has relocated to Kalmia Road. We have always understood the importance of complying with an established school traffic pattern in order to make our schools as compatible as possible with their adjoining residential communities. I can assure you that my family will scrupulously honor the Burke transportation compliance program and that the Burke families I have come to know will do the same. The stakes are too high for us to do otherwise.

I urge you to approve the application.

Andrew R. Plump

ANDREW R. PLUMP

Sworn to and subscribed before me on
this 21st day of May, 2001

Marie E. McCarthy

NOTARY PUBLIC

MARIE E. McCARTHY
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 4/30/2004

My commission expires: _____

