If you think education is expensive, try ignorance. Derek Bok

10 July 2001

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D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment suite 210
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

re: application no. 16611:
Edmund Burke School, Connecticut Ave. and Upton St., N.W.

WE'RE FOR IT.

Dear BZA,

I am a D.C. architect and an active parent. My daughter, Laura, going into 11th grade at Burke, is a 4th generation Washingtonian. My wife, Rose, and I have lived in the same house in D.C. for more than 20 years.

We are solidly behind the proposed improvements to the Edmund Burke School.
We need to provide a better facility for our students to stay current with accepted educational standards.

You have heard other people testify about how Burke contributes to maintaining and growing our tax base. How strong educational institutions improve surrounding property values by attracting families to live in the District. And, how the proposed improvements significantly relieve the Upton Street traffic compared to what exists today, directing traffic toward Connecticut and away from residential streets.
(As a registered architect, I can attest to that.)

I'm here to speak as a citizen of the city. I'm very interested in the education of our children. What I'm most interested in is the quality of life in our city for everyone. Present and future.
Good schools add to the vitality and reputation of neighborhoods and cities.
Quality schools support D.C.'s commitment to retaining and attracting families.
We live and stay in Washington because it is a city of families and neighborhoods.

One big reason we are at Burke is our commitment to real diversity, racial, cultural and socio-economic. Well functioning diversity makes a school and a city strong.
This supports D.C.'s commitment to retaining and attracting families.
Burke, particularly under the leadership of David Shapiro (and our students), works toward healthy diversity with a passion.
One big reason we stay in the city is because Burke is here.

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 183

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.183

Please continue to show your [BZA's] leadership in our city.
Please continue to encourage our children to flourish.
Please continue to encourage Washington, D.C. flourish.

Our city needs all the strong schools we can get.
Public and private.
Good schools make strong cities.
Good schools make strong cities by increasing the tax base by retaining and attracting families and by building an educated workforce.

Burke is committed to providing an education to a diversified student body who will grow up to give back to the community.
Please approve Burke's application and support our commitment to educating the city's kids

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So, in review

The neighborhood traffic will be significantly better.

Burke adds to the city's strength and reputation.
It's part of why we're here

Good schools are a city's most important asset for it's present and future
Our city will be better.

Let Burke thrive.
Encourage our kids to thrive
Let our city flourish

Thank you for letting us be heard,

Billy

William Eric Sahm, architect

c. Councilmember Patterson

Sahm + Associates, Architects/Developers 202.364.7100
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