November 2, 2000

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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To: Department of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington DC 20000

From: Martin & Geralyn Lobel
4525 31st Street, NW
Washington DC 20008

Re: Application #16611
Edmund Burke School Expansion

We are writing to strongly urge the BZA to approve Edmund Burke School's application to expand its facility which is scheduled to come before you on November 14. We are District of Columbia residents who live less than a mile from the school. Our daughter is a junior there and we have another daughter who we hope will be attending next year.

Edmund Burke is a tremendous asset to our community and is committed to remaining an urban school. It is one of the few private schools in the city which is truly diverse-- racially, economically, and academically. While other schools purport to be all these things, few match Burke's record. As with many schools in northwest DC, both public and private, Burke faces the ramifications of the growing school age population. Burke currently utilizes every last bit of space it has. It needs additional space to accommodate its current programs, especially in the sciences and visual and performing arts. The rooftop open space will provide students with a playground which it lacks and with space for students to gather on nice days.

We are aware that the neighborhood has expressed concern about traffic and parking. It seems to us that much of that frustration was directly attributable to the city's digging up Connecticut Avenue last year to lay fiberoptic cable. With that over (we hope forever) and with Burke's hiring of attendants to control traffic on Upton Street during drop-off and dismissal, the traffic situation seems very much improved. We know from personal experience that they are very tough on parents who try to double park. It seems to us that this is a problem that, with good will, is being solved.

We don't know what the zoning is for the Connecticut Avenue plot on which Burke wants to expand, but it seems to us that another purchaser could come along and erect a good sized apartment building which would be more detrimental to traffic than what Burke is proposing.

We hope you will vote in favor of Burke's application.

Geralyn + Martin Lobel

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 48

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.48