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December 12, 2000

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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District of Columbia Department of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: APPLICATION NO. 16611 - PROPOSED EXPANSION OF EDMUND BURKE SCHOOL

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment Members:

We are writing in support of the application of the Edmund Burke School to expand at the corner of Upton Street and Connecticut Avenue, NW. Both of us work in the District; we have been District residents, taxpayers and property-owners for 24 years.

Our daughter, now a senior, has been at Burke since 7th grade. She is ADHD and has learning problems. Our daughter's education began at our local DC elementary school, but she was not thriving there. The Lab School was not appropriate; all she needed was a school with small classes and a flexible learning environment.

We found Burke and were so pleased that this school was close to home and located in the District of Columbia. The School's philosophy, with its emphasis on developing the abilities and needs of the individual student, and its diverse student body and faculty suited our daughter's learning needs. Burke's location, near public transportation, added to the School's attractiveness.

Since beginning at Burke in 7th grade, our daughter has thrived. She has grown and matured in ways that would not have been possible had she been in the public school system. Is she unique? Certainly not!

The elementary, junior high and high schools in our neighborhood are quite good; however, at this time, they cannot meet the learning needs of children like our daughter. Fortunately, there are a few schools in the District, like the Edmund Burke School, that can fill the void. Burke provides an excellent education to children without and with learning issues.

Maintaining the quality of education provided by Burke is important to us and to the entire community. In order to continue its high standards, Burke needs to improve its physical facilities. While the School has continued to upgrade labs and other areas in the existing building, there are only so many ways the current space can be developed. The library, computer room and other facilities necessary to educate students for the 21st Century can only be properly expanded by the addition of another building.

We are asking you to approve Burke's application to expand at its current location. We hope the Board will give its support to this valuable neighborhood institution so that it can continue providing students from the entire Washington area with an excellent education, as it has been doing for over 30 years.

Sincerely,

Lester and Joyce Scall

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 90

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.90