John Martin and Jill Lawrence
5346 32nd St. NW
Washington, DC 20015
Phone: 202-686-1305
E-mail: jmartin@governing.com

Dec. 26, 2000

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St. NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Application #16611

To whom it may concern:

We are writing about Edmund Burke School's request to expand its facility at Connecticut Ave. and Upton St. NW (application #16611). A hearing on the application is scheduled Jan. 23.

We have two sons at the school and we cannot say enough about its role in the community. Burke is a place that values individuality in children and diversity in its student body. While other schools choose kids who fit a certain profile, Burke students are all different from each other. The result is a continuing lesson in getting along with and learning to value all kinds of people. All that in addition to challenging academics and an atmosphere of loving acceptance.

The school is currently operating in such cramped quarters that some classes and clubs cannot be offered, and there is no theater or auditorium. Its request to expand to a new building on Connecticut Ave., with only a small increase in student body, seems utterly reasonable.

Connecticut Ave. is a major commercial corridor. Conceivably the Burke site in other hands could end up housing a high-rise apartment or office building, or a retail complex. These prospects would likely result in far more upheaval to the neighborhood than expanding the facilities of an existing school, especially since Burke is working closely with neighbors on ways to ease traffic and congestion.

We strongly urge you to act favorably on Burke's request and allow this valuable community resource to stay in the urban location that makes it so appealing to us and to others.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Martin and Jill Lawrence

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 93

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.93