4240 Nebraska Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016

January 2, 2001

D.C. RECEIVED
OFFICE OF ZONING
2001 JAN -8 PM 2:24

District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, S.W.
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Application Case No. 16611: Proposed Edmund Burke Expansion

As parents of a sixth grade student at Edmund Burke, and as residents of the District of Columbia for almost 20 years, we ask you to support Edmund Burke's expansion plan.

We are fortunate to have a school like Burke in our community and consider it to be an educational gem. The school serves a diverse body of students and shapes young people in positive ways that go beyond a strong curriculum. The school's rigorous academic program is complemented by its deep commitment to instilling ethics, responsibility, tolerance, and community service in its students. As new parents in the school, we are excited about the school's plans for a stronger arts program, a better library and much needed improvements in the physical lay-out, so learning can continue to flourish.

Because we live nearby, we are sensitive to neighbors' concerns about traffic congestion. Indeed, we live in close proximity to a university, a high school and two elementary schools, so we can empathize with their concerns about busy streets. However, we believe that schools make very good neighbors and should be encouraged within our community.

We want our children to be safe, and we also want to be respectful of the Burke neighbors' needs for easier transport on their streets. Burke has worked diligently to be responsive to their neighbors' concerns. Through Burke's efforts to engage their neighbors in productive, constructive dialogue over many months, we believe the school has developed a sound and comprehensive plan that will mitigate the neighbors' worries about the expansion. Based on extensive neighborhood input, the school has made significant changes to its plans that will improve traffic flow and relieve congestion on Upton Street at morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. We have already experienced great improvement, thanks to Burke's hiring of traffic police and a more efficient carpool line.

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 97

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.97

Over the next six years that our son attends Burke, we intend to be very involved in the school, and our family will do all we can to cooperate with and be respectful of the school's neighbors. Your approval of Burke's proposed plan will demonstrate to our children that people can work through their differences to reach mutually beneficial solutions. Your approval will also show our children how committed the greater Washington community is to their educational well-being.

Sincerely,



Melinda J. Halpert and Geoffrey F. Aronow