4913 MacArthur Blvd., NW
Washington, DC 20007-1048

May 1, 2002

Ms. Allison C. Prince
Shaw Pittman LLP
2300 N Street NW
Washington DC 20037-1128

Dear Ms. Prince:

Thank you for your letter of April 25, in which you observed that we had declined your offer to meet. More correctly, we did not refuse outright to meet, but merely indicated that we were not disposed to enter into any agreement at any such meeting. It is now and always has been our position that installing a school next door with over 70 persons in daily attendance is an altogether inappropriate use of that property, one that poses tangible risks of destroying the quality of our home and lives. It does not seem that there are grounds for discussion or mediation at this time. There is nothing that St. Patrick's might propose that could alter our resolute opposition.

You are surely aware that earlier this year we did have several informal discussions with Ms. Bradley and Mr. Barrett regarding St. Patrick's intention to address the surface drainage issue (as required by the National Park Service), as well as our concerns about adequate fencing (there is a 12 foot drop at one end of the property) and adequate landscaping to buffer noise and vehicle exhaust. Should the BZA decide against the owners of contiguous properties and the many other concerned homeowners in our community, we would hope that St. Patrick's would honor its obligations.

In your telephone calls you intimated that St. Patrick's would be likely to sell to a developer should their request for a special exception be denied. We assume that your intent was to imply that there would be a risk of major construction and of a reduction in the green space. Just to be clear, we would nonetheless vastly prefer multiple residences to a school at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard, even should this entail putting up with a lengthy construction phase.

This entire process has been highly distressing to us. Mr. Skrivseth took early retirement a year ago for medical reasons owing to a heart condition. He is normally at home much of the day. The stress induced by these months of meetings, the preparation of materials for the ANC and BZA, and your calls coincide chronologically with, and may well constitute a contributing factor to, his need to make several recent visits to his cardiologist and other physicians. We trust that you can appreciate that, under the circumstances, we have little interest in appearing to suggest to the BZA that we find any common ground with St. Patrick's wish to place a school next to our home.

Very truly yours,

Cathy M. Wright

Lawrence T. Skrivseth

cc: Board of Zoning Adjustment (by registered mail) – Re application # 16852
Mr. Peter Barrett (by registered mail)
Ms. Katherine Bradley (by registered mail)
Mrs. Sharon Houy (electronic copy)
Mr. Michael Lovendusky (electronic copy)
Ms. Nancy Feldman for Neighbors United Trust (electronic copy)

Courtesy copies conveyed electronically to Mr. John Finney, Chair, ANC3D, and to the ANC3D e-mail box.

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BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 260

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
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