Re: 16855

Opposition to Modification of Approved Order No. 16424

The Friends of Hardy, Inc[1] (FOH) opposes the application by Rock Creek International School (RCIS) for a special exception to modify Condition No. 2 of BZA Order No. 16424, in order to add a 6th grade for a private school (§ 206) and child development center (§ 205) in the R-1-B District at premises 4470 Q Street, N.W. (Square 1363, Lot 980). RCIS's proposal **fails to meet BZA standards** as established in Chapter 31 of the District of Columbia Zoning Regulations. Secondly, the proposal **does not establish a reasonable argument of need** for the intended modification. Further, the said modification, establishing a middle school at the current site, **would have consequences that prejudice the rights of many users of the Hardy Recreation Center** by restricting access to this public facility.

Summary of Argument

- Inadequacies of RCIS Application
- No Reasonable Argument of Need or Emergency
- Detrimental Effects of Expansion

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Inadequacies of RCIS Application

In spite of § 3101.7 stating that no applicant will be dismissed for failure to comply with the provisions set down by the BZA, RCIS *with legal representation* did not comply with several of the rules under § 3129, relating to the modification of approved plans. The Board has the right to waive these rules under § 3101.6 But a number of contradictory and incorrect statements were made by the applicant *with legal representation* in written submissions to the board. Therefore, RCIS' application should be reviewed with special scrutiny.

§3113.3 dictates the owner of the property for which application is made files the application. The District of Columbia owns and manages the property through the Office of Property Management. **RCIS has made contradictory statements regarding ownership** in its application.[2] Recently, RCIS has also applied to the Office of Property Management for modifications to the property.[3] Therefore we request the Office of Property Management weigh in on this decision.

§ **3129.2** requires the applicant to state specifically the modifications requested and to include a copy of the plans for which approval is requested. RCIS provides **no evidence concerning current or projected enrollment numbers** for the intended modification. Though it claims the original 200 student cap set forth in Order 16424 will not be compromised, the number of

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[1] The Friends of Hardy, Inc. is a non-profit organization of neighbors working in conjunction with the District of Columbia Department of Recreation and Parks (DCDPR) and representing the interests of Hardy Recreation Center and its multiple users.

[2] See footnote #1 in Exhibits 9 and 10.

[3] Letter dated September 24, 2001 from Daniel Hollinger, head of RCIS to Michael Larusso, Deputy Director, District of Columbia Office of Property Management. Letter requests permission to erect temporary classrooms at sight to accommodate planned 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

BZA
Case No. 16855
Exhibit No. 28

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16855
EXHIBIT NO.28

students that can be expected from the expansion over the 7.5 years left in the original order remains unclear. Certainly, expected growth in population over the term of the relevant BZA order should be anticipated so that no further modifications are forced upon the BZA or the community.

§3129.3 requires the request for modification to have been submitted 6 months after the approval of the initial order. Based on Exhibit 9, **RCIS had intentions[4] in 1999 to expand** to a middle school. Therefore, RCIS, knowing of its need to expand to a middle school, should have requested that exception at its current site to prepare for a middle school in 1999. Since it did not, other parties affected by the agreement should not be adversely affected.

RCIS' provides incorrect information to the Board in its current application. In the last BZA Quarterly Community Liaison Meeting, **Danny Hollinger said "that grades 6, 7 and 8 will be added one grade per year beginning in school year 2003-2004."**[5] Yet RCIS' counsel, in communication with the Board has repeated on several occasions that the requested modification is minor since the request is only for a 6th grade.[6]

§ 3129.7 states that minor modifications will not change the material facts the Board relied upon in approving the application. RCIS' need to expand to a 6th grade or a middle school at the current site were not material to the BZA hearing on case 16424[7]. In fact, the community worked closely to produce the conditions set forth in the original BZA order. Had RCIS discussed the need for an on-site expansion in 1999, the community would not have rallied behind the applicant as it did.

No Reasonable Argument of Need or Emergency

Exhibit 9 and 10 incorrectly state, "it is much more difficult for children to get into a new school in the sixth grade than it is to enter another school in the seventh grade, because that is the standard cutoff for DC public schools and many other private schools."[8]

In reality, RCIS students come from **Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia**. All three jurisdictions **have public school systems with middle school programs** (6th, 7th, and 8th grades). RCIS' website[9] claims that many matriculated students are ready to return to their school systems abroad. Also, **all three local school systems have international baccalaureate programs**[10] within the public and private schools. RCIS' students should be prepared to enter any of these educational programs.

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[4] Exhibit 9, p. 2.
[5] Meeting Summary. BZA Quarterly Community Liaison Meeting. Rock Creek International School. Tuesday, November 6, 2001.
[6] Exhibits 4, 9 and 10.
[7] Transcript of BZA Proceedings. February 3, 1999. Case 16424. pp. 25-122
[8] Exhibit 10, p. 2.
[9] www.rcis.org/about.html, p. 1.
[10] Rock Creek International School is pursuing accreditation with the newly instated Primary Years Program (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), a non-profit educational foundation based in Switzerland, that offers the Diploma Program for students in the final two years of secondary school.

RCIS makes a claim of hardship in Exhibit 9, which maintains that the school "cannot afford to wait"[11] until September 30, 2009, the date on which a modification would be legally acceptable. But **the applicant offers no evidence about the financial hardship** caused by the delay. Again, §3129.2 requires reasons for the modification and in this case none are supplied.

RCIS claims difficulty in "identifying and establishing"[12] a "suitable"[13] property for a middle school in the District of Columbia. **This claim is unsubstantiated**. Under § 3129.2, reasons for that inability should be disclosed.

If it receives a modification, RCIS will be given the loophole by which it will stretch the BZA order beyond its original intent. Once the 6th grade exception is given, RCIS will request a 7th grade to be permitted in the existing building. Along with the allocated child development center, one must anticipate RCIS' future need that is either 1) to surpass the student/staff population cap or 2) to modify the existing building, or both. These future changes are likely to extend well beyond the conditions provided for in the original BZA order.

Detrimental Effects of Expansion

Because RCIS's proposal currently fails to meet conditions set forth by **§206.2**, that the private school is not likely to become **objectionable to adjoining property because of traffic, number of students or otherwise objectionable conditions,** FOH opposes the modification to the existing BZA order. Hardy Recreation Center is the RCIS venue for its formal physical education classes and informal play during and after school. This use heavily stresses the existing programs and neighborhood use of the recreation center. Any increase in the number of students or their activities will encroach upon the other users of the recreation center.

The transcript of the BZA hearing on case 16424, anticipated this conflict. Lengthy discourse between the RCIS and the Board occurred at that time with the school reassuring the Board all steps were in place to accommodate the RCIS's play needs. As the transcript proves, **RCIS presented** unclear **provisions its play area, none of which have been implemented[14].**

RCIS never uses the lower parking lot for play. RCIS' priority play area is the recreation center. Rather, **the lower parking lot** has been the subject of an **ongoing disagreement** between the school and the recreation center which controls the access of cars.[15]

The **"several on-site play facilities" turned out to be one**. The one on-site play facility RCIS has created houses a residential play structure.[16] The facility's heaviest use occurred during the

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[11] Exhibit 9, p. 3

[12] Exhibit 4.

[13] Exhibit 9

[14] Transcript of BZA Proceedings. pp. 62-69, 114-119. Provisions included 1) manipulating regulated parking spaces in the lower parking lot, 2) providing "several on-site play facilities" and 3) "working closely with the neighborhood and the users of the park to insure that...[RCIS'] use of those facilities would in no way infringe on the use by the neighbors and other scheduled users."

[15] BZA Quarterly Meeting Minutes. 7 August 2001. RCIS provided the summary of minutes. Items 3 and 4 include a contentious discussion over the lower parking lot's access and 4444 Q St. neighbor, B. Bordanero suggesting the schools behavior at the recreation center must improve.

renovation of the recreation center's playgrounds. RCIS has erected signage to keep non-students from the school's one play facility. However, RCIS students are directed to the recreation center's playgrounds.

RCIS' heavy use of the Big Kid's Lot **seriously limits neighborhood access**. The DC Department of Recreation's recent investment in the lot did not account for the additional number of children brought by the school. Only this year with the installation of community purchased equipment, will access improve.

§205.8 allows for the restriction of the number of child development centers in a square or within one thousand feet (1,000 ft.). The Department of Parks and Recreation has run a preschool program at the Hardy Recreation Center for more than 20 years. The recreation center and RCIS not only rest within the same square but are adjoining properties. The cumulative effect of these facilities has had an adverse impact on the neighborhood.

The FOH and the Department of Parks of Recreation (DPR) on occasion have had to **"work closely" with inappropriate behavior** on the part of RCIS in regard to Hardy Recreation Center.[17] When RCIS has been unable to "work closely" with FOH, DPR has had to correspond with the school on issues regarding the neighbors' use and future use of the recreation center with the school.[18] Unlike Georgetown Day School, the other big educational user of Hardy facilities, **RCIS has never established a liaison with the FOH on a regular or normal basis.**

Conclusion

As previously stated, the Friends of Hardy, Inc. believe the intent of the modification is to achieve the first step in establishing a full middle school program at the current RCIS site. Hardy Recreation Center is a neighborhood center. RCIS needs Hardy Recreation Center to provide a physical education curriculum. Here rests the conflict.

Any increase in student numbers at RCIS restricts access to Hardy Recreation Center by neighborhood and other users. Currently, several other users share the facilities at Hardy Recreation Center.[19] RCIS administers an after-school program that currently dominates the older children's playground area. If a middle school program is added, RCIS will need to introduce organized athletics or team sports into its physical education curriculum. These team

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[16] This facility houses a residential quality play structure. The parking spaces/play space in the lower parking lot (which RCIS claimed to exist in the BZA hearing February 3, 1999) has three dilapidated basketball nets which the school never uses. Rather, they occupy the newly renovated recreation center basketball courts for running laps, calisthenics and children's games on a daily basis.

[17] Letter dated October 13, 1999 from Linda Brackett, FOH to Danny Hollinger, RCIS. Letter dated November 5, 1999 from Robert Newman, former Director of DPR to Daniel Hollinger, RCIS. BZA Quarterly Meeting Minutes. 7 August 2001.

[18] Letter dated October 31, 2001 from Neil Albert, Director of DPR to Pete Ross, Foxhall Community Citizens Association, Linda Bracket, Recreation Advisory Council, and Frank Staroba, Chair of Friends of Hardy.

[19] Georgetown Day School elementary and middle school; the Lab School elementary, middle and high school; DC Stoddert Soccer League; the DCDPR Cooperative Pre-school; the DCDPR Urban Camp; the DCDPR Youth Soccer Program; the DCDPR Sundial Summer Camp.

sports will similarly take control of recreation center facilities in other areas of the recreation center, further limiting non-RCIS users' access.

District children should have access to DC facilities. A minimal number of students at RCIS come from the Hardy Recreation Center environs. Many of RCIS students' parents are neither DC residents nor District taxpayers.[20] RCIS moved to the current site at the same time as the immediate neighborhood of Hardy Recreation Center began to receive a new generation of children who will use the recreation center. Many neighborhood children are the same age as RCIS students. These children should receive priority as the children of DC residents in accessing their city's recreation facilities.

Because RCIS' proposal fails to meet the conditions set forth by §206.2, that the private school is not likely to become objectionable to adjoining property because of traffic, number of students or otherwise objectionable conditions, the Friends of Hardy opposes the modification of the existing BZA order. RCIS' plans for modification are neither in accordance with zoning regulations set forth by the District of Columbia nor clear in their intention. RCIS' application does not meet the standards set forth by the BZA for receiving a modification of an existing order. In view of RCIS' failure to offer a convincing rationale or to comply with BZA regulations, the Friends of Hardy urge the BZA to deny RCIS a modification to BZA Order 16424.

[20] During a playground equipment fundraising drive in the spring of 2000, the FOH playground committee ascertained from the parents' directory of RCIS that only a handful of RCIS students resided in the 20007 and 20016 zip codes (i.e. the recreation center's service area).

Re: 16855
Opposition Document List

1. Letter dated September 24, 2001 from Daniel Hollinger, head of RCIS to Michael Larusso, Deputy Director, District of Columbia Office of Property Management.

2. Rock Creek International School Website. ***About the School.*** http://www.rcis.org/about.html. February 12, 2002. pp. 1-3. paragraphs 3 and 6.

3. Merry-Go-Round-The World 2000 Summer Camp. Rock Creek International School brochure. p. 13.

4. Meeting Summary. BZA Quarterly Community Liaison Meeting. Tuesday, November 6, 2001. Rock Creek International School. p. 2. Item 3-f.

5. BZA Quarterly Public Meeting Minutes. Tuesday, August 7, 2001, 6 P.M. Rock Creek International School. p. 2. Items 3,4.

6. Letter dated October 13, 1999 from Linda Brackett, Friends of Hardy Babies and Toddlers Coordinator to Danny Hollinger, Headmaster, Rock Creek International School.

7. Letter dated November 5, 1999 from Robert Newman, Director of DC Department of Parks and Recreation to Daniel Hollinger, Headmaster, Rock Creek International School.

8. Letter dated October 31, 2001 from Neil Albert, Director of DC Department of Parks and Recreation to Pete Ross, President, Foxhall Community Citizens Association, Linda Brackett, Chair, Hardy Community Recreation Advisory Council and Frank Staroba, Chair, Friends of Hardy

Rock Creek International School
Ecole Internationale Rock Creek
Colegio Internacional Rock Creek

September 24, 2001

Michael Lorusso, Deputy Director
Office of Property Management
DC Government
441 4th Street, NW, 721 North
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lorusso,

I am writing to follow up on my conversations with Ms. Kit Reed and to request your consideration of our request related to erecting temporary classrooms on the former Hardy Middle School site, which Rock Creek International School currently leases. Prior to our lease of the property, DC Public Schools had temporary classrooms on the site to accommodate more students and programs than the main building can accommodate. Therefore, temporary classrooms would be consistent with previous practice.

Rock Creek International School plans to add Grades Six, Seven and Eight in three consecutive years, beginning in the Fall of 2003. While we are looking for a permanent site to accommodate our Middle School, we want to plan ahead and be prepared for the possibility that we may need a temporary solution. In order to pursue this option, we need authorization to act as Agent on behalf of the owner. A sample letter granting permission to act as an Agent is enclosed for your reference. Our zoning attorney will prepare the letter and forward it to the appropriate person for approval, as you direct.

I would greatly appreciate your favorable consideration of our request and the opportunity to meet with you for a few minutes to discuss any issues related to our request. I will call you within a few days to follow up on this letter with the hope that I could arrange a time to meet with you briefly at your convenience.

Thank you for your kind attention and assistance.

Yours truly,

Daniel Hollinger
Head of School

Cc: Kit Reed, Special Assistant, Office of Property Management
Timothy Dimond, Director, Office of Property Management

1550 Foxhall Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007
(202) 965-8700 Fax: (202) 965-8973

About the School

About RCIS

International Curriculum

Admission

Calendar of Events

News (coming soon)

Student Projects

Faculty and Staff

Parents' Association

Location and Directions

Summer Program

Contact Us

Governance

Rock Creek's educational format is unique in the Washington, DC area. Rock Creek is committed to a dual-language immersion approach in all grades that creates the highest level of oral and written fluency in two languages.



Rock Creek International School provides a dual-language education in English and either French or Spanish guided by a philosophy of internationalism that gives students opportunities to develop a deep appreciation for and an extensive knowledge of the world's peoples, cultures and countries to prepare them to be world citizens.

The average student/faculty ratio of seven to one is one of the best in the DC metro area. Our small student community and superb and committed faculty ensure that students get the individual and responsive attention that helps foster a love of learning.

Rock Creek's strong academic training prepares children to matriculate in the best Washington, DC area middle schools and schools abroad, often with advanced standing.

History

Current Head of School, J. Daniel Hollinger, PhD, founded Rock Creek in 1988. Rock Creek opened with five students in a Spanish/English bilingual program in 1988 and the following year added a French/English dual-language program. As a result of dramatic acceptance by the local and international communities, by 1996, the school's enrollment grew to 160 students and included the addition of Fifth Grade.



In the Fall of 1999, Rock Creek International School moved into the Hardy School, a closed public school building on Foxhall Road

adjacent to Georgetown. Our school is now housed in a beautiful, charming building that was built in the 1930s.The spacious recreation area surrounding our school provides playing fields, courts and playgrounds for our students on four and one-half acres that include a grassy tree-filled front yard, soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts and beautiful playgrounds.

During our move to the new building, we were able to acquire and install state-of-the-art technology throughout our school. Through the generous support of Noah Samara and the WorldSpace Corporation, we now enjoy a fully networked campus, including Internet access and new computers in all classrooms as well as twenty new computers in the Information Technology Center. In addition, Rock Creek has enriched the technology program with a wireless laptop program. The IT curriculum allows children of grade levels Kindergarten through Fifth Grade to incorporate technology as a learning tool in every aspect of their bilingual studies. Rock Creek's multilingual integration model of instruction is internationally known, as well as our student created digital portfolios

The long-range strategic plan includes the addition of a middle school program with Grades Six through Eight.

Accreditation and Membership

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- European Council of International Schools
- National Association of Independent Schools
- Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington
- Educational Research Bureau
- Independent School Management

In addition, Rock Creek International School is pursuing accreditation with the newly instated Primary Years Program (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO), a non-profit educational foundation based in Switzerland, that offers the Diploma Programme for students in the final two years of secondary school, the Middle Years Programme for students in the 11 to 16 age range and the Primary Years Programme for students aged 3 to 12.

Benefits of Being Bilingual

- Has a positive effect on intellectual growth, other language studies enhance cognitive skills in general and develop new learning strategies.
- Enriches and enhances a child's mental development through the added cultural content.
- Improves a child's understanding of his/her native language.
- Leaves students with more flexibility in thinking, greater sensitivity to language, and a better ear for listening.

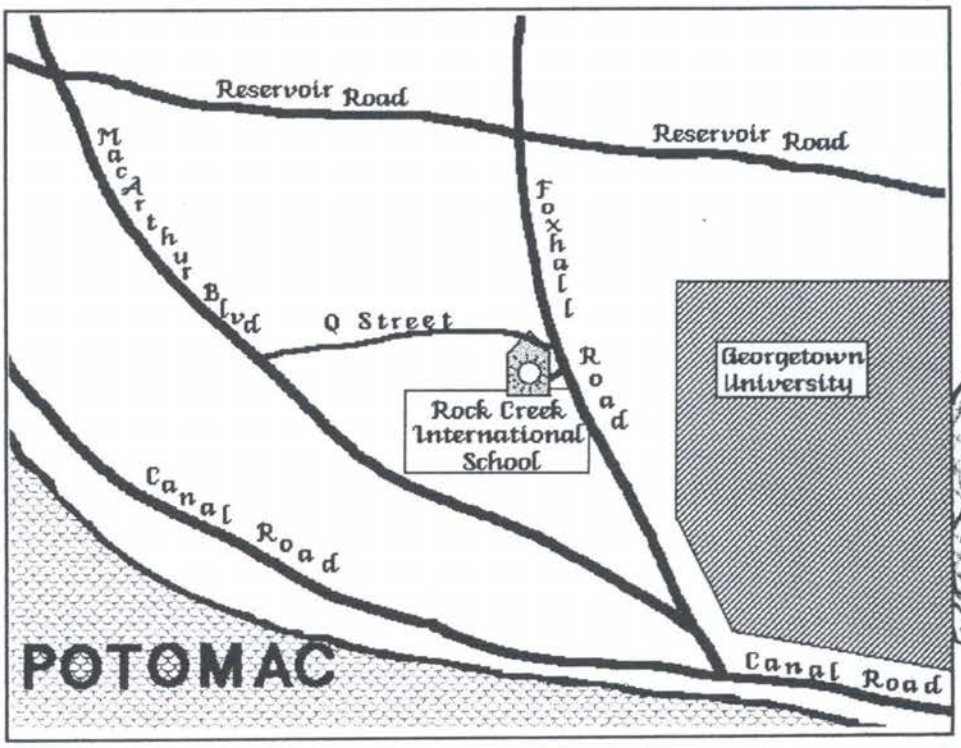
- Opens the door to other cultures and helps a child understand and appreciate people from other countries.
- Gives a child a head start in language requirements for college.
- Increases job opportunities in many careers where knowing another language and cultural system is a real asset.

RCIS HOME

OUR NEW BUILDING AND GROUNDS



Returning campers might remember the old building on California Street with great fondness. Few people though, will miss the stairs of our old building. Our new building on Foxhall Road, in the Palisades neighborhood, is a real gem. Not only had we renovated the whole building before moving in, we now have sixteen classrooms, a multipurpose room, a state of the art new computer/ multimedia room and library for our use. Not only has the summer camps' usable space increased by 200% but the park/ recreation and sports areas are now right outside our building.



Meeting Summary

BZA Quarterly Community Liaison Meeting

Rock Creek International School
Tuesday, November 6, 2001

ATTENDING: Dorothy Smith, Alma Gates, Linda Brackett, Howard Bray, Harry Travis, Katie O'Hara, J. Daniel Hollinger, Martha Smith and Clara Shockley.

1. Introductions

2. Issues and Old Business
   a. Parking
      1. Elliott Crooke was unable to attend the meeting, but phoned Clara Shockley before the meeting to report that "the gate is working" effectively. Crooke said that "whatever we did" was effective and to "keep doing it."
      2. Shockley shared that parking assignments for 2001 were made to effectively utilize space. Hollinger identified that parking violation penalties were added for all staff at the start of 2002 school year.
      3. Linda Brackett asked if any fines have been given and whether all 26 spots were used daily. No fines have been necessary and all spaces are utilized. She asked about handicapped parking spaces and their requirement. Hollinger replied that handicapped parking spaces are not required, as the site is not handicapped accessible. Harry Travis confirmed that handicapped spaces are not required on certain properties.

   b. Traffic
      1. Danny Hollinger reported that RCIS is monitoring carefully pick-up and drop-off of students. Also, per prior suggestions, we have added staff in the morning for arrival. Dorothy Smith inquired about any practice of dropping children from Q Street, and Hollinger replied that this is not acceptable. Katie O'Hara asked if buses may turn left out of the parking lot, and Hollinger acknowledged that this was always acceptable, and continues without problem.

   c. Grounds
      1. Shockley provided an update from the previous meeting. RCIS has contained any excessive trash can trash, and assisted the neighborhood during the summer with the problem of uncollected

trash by DC government in a container near the corner of Q and Foxhall. RCIS simply began checking and removing that trash as needed to resolve this problem. Shockley also shared several moves for grounds beautification: the planting of mums along the front fence, and added landscaping on the front and side areas.
2. Linda Brackett said that weeds are coming out from beneath the cypress along Q Street and are growing out across the sidewalk.

d. Other
   1. Travis asked if RCIS entertains requests from outside groups to use RCIS facilities. Shockley said that when Hardy or neighborhood groups have requested the facility that RCIS hosted those events.

3. New Business
   a. Harry Travis asked if there are any Expansion Plans. Hollinger responded that there is no proposal to be presented to the neighborhood, or via the BZA Liasion meeting tonight. Hollinger said that the school is exploring three possibilities, which are 1) to stay at current address, and expand—an option for which there is no plan or proposal at this time; 2) to operate in the current location and add a new location, off-site, or 3) to move.
   b. Travis clarified the basic terms of the BZA agreement currently in effect: school, 200 students, Grades P-K through 5. Hollinger confirmed that configuration under the current BZA agreement.
   c. Alma Gates asked about the 10/24/01 article in the Current by Bob Andrew suggesting that RCIS might move towards acquiring or using the old Riverside property. RCIS said they have made no gestures in this direction.
   d. Linda Brackett asked about he May meeting discussion, and didn't RCIS have a "pressure to get going?" Hollinger outlined the timeline of Fall 2003 opening to have a plan or location for expansion.
   e. Martha Smith asked if RCIS is pursuing all options simultaneously? Hollinger confirmed that is RCIS's approach.
   f. Brackett asked about the timeline and Gates asked for a specific breakdown of tasks required by RCIS to make a move. Hollinger said that grades 6, 7 and 8 will be added one grade per year beginning in school year 2003-2004. Thus, the school plans to identify space for expansion by Fall 2002.
   g. Asked what approach RCIS is taking, Hollinger said that the options are 1) stay at current address, and expand—an option for which there is no plan or proposal at this time; 2) operate in the current location and add a new location, off-site, or 3) move.

h. Dottie Smith pointed out the parking questions, and urged RCIS to be aware of community issues. Holllinger said these are utmost in the planning by RCIS, but that RCIS has no plans to propose for consideration at this gathering.
i. Alma Gates said that this is frustrating and asked the purpose to attend the meeting? The answer is that the BZA requires public review, discussion and consideration of previously established BZA guidelines. That is the purpose of this meeting.
j. Harry Travis asked if RCIS intends to change current use. Hollinger responded that, while it is not possible to know all future exigencies, the school has no plans to change the current use of the building.

4. Community News
   a. There were no announcements.

5. Other
   a. The meeting ended at 7 p.m.

BZA Quarterly Public Meeting
Tuesday, August 7, 2001, 6 p.m.

Multi-Purpose Room, Rock Creek International School

Present: Katie O'Hara, Enrique Leiva, Elliott Crooke, Bob Andrew, Pete Ross, Ann Haas, Frank Staroba, Barbara Bordano, Linda Brackett, Martha Smith, Clara Shockley, Danny Hollinger

Danny Hollinger called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Clara Shockley and Danny Hollinger provide the following summary of the meeting:

1. Parking and Traffic: D. Hollinger outlined efforts and plans to train RCIS parents to follow parking and traffic guidelines. Observations were made regarding using the one-way "circle" system to avoid any crossing or turning across Foxhall Road, not dropping children and crossing the street and the following:
   - Discussion of the former bus stop on Foxhall Road in front of the school ensued. E. Crooke and B. Andrews explained that the bus stop was removed in 1999 per FCCA's and RCIS's requests to accommodate arrival and dismissal. It was noted that the bus stop was established to meet the transportation needs of the Hardy Middle School students and that another bus stop exists one-half block north.
   - L. Brackett asked what penalties were in store for parents who do not comply with parking and traffic rules. L. Brackett and E. Crooke observed that the minutes of the BZA hearing included mention of penalties for parental offenders. D. Hollinger stated that penalties will be instituted.
   - Questions regarding morning arrival staffing and traffic flow arose. C. Shockley observed that adequate staffing is provided to keep traffic flowing smoothly.

2. Expansion of the school and discussions on options for growth arose.
   - D. Hollinger gave a brief overview of options for RCIS expansion: 1) expansion at the existing site, 2) two campuses – Hardy and another site, or 3) move.
   - Discussion ensued regarding concerns related to possible expansion at the current site and its impact on the community
   - Should the school wish to expand at the current site, it will present a proposal at a regular FCCA meeting

3. Access to the Q Street parking lot/play area was discussed.
   - D. Hollinger pointed out that the curb cut and drive were granted by the Department of Parks and Recreation as an easement to the lot.
   - The possibility of RCIS providing parking for Hardy Recreation Center staff was discussed.
   - The problem of keeping the gate locked was discussed. RCIS will propose a solution for the gate and investigate accommodating Hardy Recreation Center staff parking.

4. D. Hollinger asked how the school could make a greater contribution to the community.

   B. Bordano suggested improved playground behavior and attitudes, and better relationships with Hardy Recreation Center staff.

1544 44TH Street NW
Washington, DC 20007
October 13, 1999

Mr. Danny Hollinger, Headmaster
Rock Creek International School
Foxhall Road and Que. Streets NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Danny,

Unfortunately the play area reserved on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 for the FOH Babies and Toddlers program was again used by the Rock Creek International School for its after school activities program. This time not one, but two separate groups started to play in the area, disrupting the Babies and Toddlers program and requiring us to request that the children play elsewhere.

One of the two groups started to move to the Tot Lot, and had to be informed that the Tot Lot is never available to organized, private groups - as discussed at our Users' Meeting on October 6th.

Hopefully the Rock Creek International School's two play areas will be available to these young children in the immediate future so that this will not happen again.

Sincerely,

Linda Brackett
Coordinator, FOH Babies & Toddlers
202-337-1544

cc Mr. Robert Newman, Director, DC Department of Recreation and Parks
Ms. Ireatha Robinson, Director, Hardy Recreation Center

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Recreation and Parks

Robert P. Newman
Director

November 5, 1999

Mr. Daniel Hollinger
Rock Creek International School
Foxhall Road and Volta Place, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Hollinger

I am writing in response to inquiries received concerning the use and disposition of the Department of Recreation and Parks' Hardy Recreation Center.

It has come to our attention, from the Friends of Hardy Recreation Center, that there are issues concerning access and oversight of the field and play areas of the park. Please be assured that the correspondence you received from by predecessor, does not allow you exclusive use nor oversight of the District of Columbia's property interest in Hardy Recreation Center. The Department reserves the right to permit the field and/or courts and has the right to cancel any outstanding permit at its discretion. I hope that in coming together we can alleviate the concerns of the citizenry and continue to work with Rock Creek International School, to the benefit of all the youth and families we mutually strive to serve.

Thank you for your willingness to address the community's consternation. I look forward to the timely resolve of our residents' concerns.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Newman
Director

cc: A. Dockery

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Parks and Recreation

October 31, 2001

Mr. Peter Ross
President, Foxhall Community Citizens Association
Ms. Linda Brackett
Chair, Hardy Community Recreation Advisory Council
Mr. Frank Staroba
Chair, Friends of Hardy
4503 MacArthur Boulevard, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Ross, Ms. Brackett, and Mr. Staroba:

This is in response to your correspondence in reference to the Department of Parks and Recreation's Hardy Recreation Center and the Rock Creek International School.

I assure you that the Department of Parks and Recreation will not enter into any agreement with the Rock Creek International School for use of property, (*namely Hardy Recreation Center—the building, field, courts and play areas*), under our oversight without the explicit concurrence of the community. Our responsibilities are specific to maintaining public space for the benefit of the citizenry we serve. The properties in our inventory are indeed the assets of the community of the whole, and as such we are merely the stewards of your interests.

Be assured should the occasion occur, when we are approached with any viable proposals, no action will proceed, without your participation.

Thank your for your ongoing interest in and support of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Your efforts and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Neil O. Albert
Director

cc: Daniel Hollinger, Head, RCIS