March 3, 2002

APPLICATION NUMBER 16855
TO: Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W. suite 210
Washington D.C. 20001

I wish to register opposition to the Application of Rock Creek International School (RCIS) for any exception that would allow them to include a 6th grade for their private school.

This is not part of the original agreement allowing them to lease a D.C. public school building. This is a residential area, and a variance has already been granted to RCIS to operate what is a private business in the first place. Of what use are agreements and contracts if variances and exceptions are to be granted which overturn the safeguards and purposes of original agreements.

While RCIS may argue that adding another grade will not violate the cap on students and staff , other quests of this business argue that in fact their plans are to expand well beyond the original agreement. One such quest has been to take over the adjacent public playground, tearing down the field house and building structures for its own use which would deny taxpayers and District children the daily use of public property. No doubt they count on continuing to obtain exceptions from the Board in an incremental manner, perhaps to obtain what would not be granted had their overall plans be revealed from the start of the 10-year lease.

The District and the neighborhood would benefit by retaining this building for use as an elementary public school. The growing families in this area need and want the public school system. The surrounding neighborhood does not benefit from the traffic congestion, blocking of driveways, speeding on residential streets by private school parents, many not even District residents, as they drop off and pick up students.

The neighborhood desires that this building, when the lease is up, be returned to use as an elementary public school to serve the neighborhood and the citizens of the District. I oppose expansion of this business.

Please do not grant this exception.

Thank you for your consideration,

Terry Barton

Terry Barton
4456 Q St. N.W.
Washington D.C.

202 337-5921

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CASE NO.16855
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