1601-45th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20007
March 11, 2002

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress
Director, Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, N. W., Suite 210-S
Washington, D. C. 20001

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Subject: Application Number 16855, The Rock Creek International School

Dear Ms. Kress:

I am opposed to the expansion of Rock Creek International School. In proposing to add a sixth grade – for one year ***only*** – the school is saying, "Trust us" to a community whose concerns it promised to address as a good neighbor but has disregarded.

In specific, despite the community's clear opposition to any increased building-density or loss of "green space," Rock Creek's administration offered to buy the former Rose Lees Hardy Elementary School from the Office of Property Management, to construct a middle school **on site!** The school did not advise the community of its offer or its subsequent request to put trailers on the grounds to accommodate additional students. A resident learned of the proposals through making a request under the Freedom of Information Act!

Now, with a combined enrollment of 2000 students, 7 private schools operate within a mile of Rock Creek International. Judging from traffic, few of these students walk to school. After 8:00 a.m on weekdays, Q Street is literally gridlocked from 45th Street to MacArthur Boulevard. Meanwhile, the closest public elementary school, Key School, two miles away, was so crowded that it underwent a considerable expansion. A neighborhood demographer developed statistics a few years ago suggesting the viability of a public elementary school at "Hardy."

In short, if Rock Creek finds itself in yet a third "emergency" situation a year from now, will it need to add on a seventh grade or keep operating a sixth grade or obtain an exception to its 200-student limit at its present location? Our community and the Board of Zoning Adjustment endorsed the proposal that ***Rock Creek*** made, with counsel, in February 1999, requesting an emergency exception to operate a private school using public facilities for classes from pre-Kindergarten through grade 5. I would like to see the school abide by its agreement. *

Sincerely,

Ann Haas

Ann Haas

BZA
Case No. 16855
Exhibit No. 34

* Rock Creek said, "there are no additions that are proposed onto the building."

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16855
EXHIBIT NO.34