Testimony of Scott Polk,
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner ANC2E-01, Foxhall and East Palisades

Rock Creek International School's request for a sixth grade has been ~~unanimous~~ly approved by the Foxhall Community Citizens Association Board of directors. It was approved by the Foxhall Community Citizens Association at a duly noticed and posted monthly meeting. Overwhelming support was similarly provided by the Advisory Neighborhood Citizens Association, to which great weight is to be accorded.

Rock Creek International School has been a good neighbor. They have stabilized a vacant DCPS property that was a serious eyesore within the community. RCIS has beautified the building and the grounds, and to a great extent made the neighbors happy.

The RCIS request for a sixth grade, consisting of approximately 8 students, is hardly detrimental to the neighborhood.

It is understood by the community and the ANC that the RCIS request is temporary, until the school can acquire a property in which they can start a middle school.

This request for a sixth grade is non-binding on the community to grant a similar request for a seventh grade next year. Any additional requests would have to come before the FCCA and the ANC. Such a request would probably not be favorably considered.

The RCIS is aware of the community sentiment of additional grades and is most seriously seeking another site for their middle school.

The failure of RCIS at this location would have a serious negative impact upon the Foxhall community, because other interested parties would likely involve a more intense usage of the property and the surrounding streets and community, both in potential student number and traffic congestion.
Parties that could be interested would include George Washington University Mount Vernon, Georgetown University, a Saint Patrick's High School, and a revolving group of public middle schools whose primary sites are undergoing renovation. The FCCA is not interested in having these entities as neighbors.

In the years preceding RCIS, I had fought long and hard to have the old Hardy site be a public elementary school, but the demographics were not there to support the request. Although the demographics are changing, it is important to recognize that Key school has doubled its physical size and is prepared to increase it's enrollment by 50 %. The end result is that there will in all probability never be a public elementary school at the old Hardy site.

BZA
Case No. 16855
Exhibit No. 47

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16855
EXHIBIT NO.47

As a neighborhood we are very desirous of a stable, non-intensive use of the school house, that is compatible with the Foxhall neighborhood. Rock Creek International provides this.

I most strongly support the Rock Creek International School request to add a sixth grade.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Polk
ANC2E-01