Francis Scott Key School
Parent-Teacher Association
5001 Dana Place, NW
Washington, DC 20016

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April 20, 2002

Dear Neighbor:

The new building is nearly complete! We are hoping to begin to move in before the end of this school year.

The new building is being temporarily configured to hold all of our teachers and students for classes next fall. Starting this summer, the existing building will be overhauled completely to install new plumbing, new electrical service, and new mechanical systems such as new heating and central air conditioning units. New stairs are being completed on Dana Place to allow an additional access to the school grounds. A new parking lot for teachers will be installed behind the existing building. Landscaping has already begun and will continue throughout the site during the remaining months of the project.

To get ready for this last stage of work, crews are working hard to finish the new building. Authorized construction hours are Monday through Saturday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, and the construction permit authorizes quiet interior work (such as painting) until 11:00 PM. We are told that some of this quiet interior work during evenings may be necessary over the next two months, so please be patient if it occurs. It should be finished soon.

One challenge ahead for all of us – parents, teachers, and neighbors – is traffic. While the existing building is being renovated after the start of the next school year, all pickups and drop offs will need to switch from Hurst Terrace (where they all occur now) to the new school entrance on Eskridge Terrace and to the new stairs on Dana Place. This means new traffic patterns and new opportunities for confusion.

We are beginning to think ahead to this challenge and to try to apply some of the traffic lessons we learned last year from experience on the Hurst Terrace side. Parents will be encouraged to walk their children to school. Designated drop-off and pickup zones will help. Key School parents will probably be asked to drive in one direction to drop off and pick up children, most likely in the downhill direction on Eskridge Terrace and Dana Place. A meeting this summer with neighbors on the Eskridge Terrace and Dana Street sides might also help to think through traffic in advance and to anticipate particular issues that individuals might have.

We have not been given a definite date for completion of the entire project, but we are assuming it will be well into next school year. Once work is finished, teachers and children will finally be able to spread out from their temporarily cramped conditions to occupy both buildings. At that time, the Hurst Terrace entrance will be re-opened, which should help relieve any traffic problems on Eskridge Terrace and Dana Place.

BZA
Case No. 16915
Exhibit No. 4

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16915
EXHIBIT NO.4

The school principal is Mr. David Landeryou, who can be reached at (202) 282-0113. He wants to work constructively with neighbors as we at Key School transit into the new building over the next few months. He would like to hear from you about whether you think a planning meeting would be a good idea and to hear your thoughts and ideas about traffic, so please feel free to call him with your suggestions.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Sincerely,

Geoff Grubbs
Facilities Modernization Committee
(202) 362-1134