Testimony of Phil Shambaugh
BZA Case # 17022 Edmund Burke School

My name is Phil Shambaugh, and I have lived on the 2800 block of Upton Street for 22 years. In that time our block has undergone great transformation. For many years, we never had a problem with parking in front of our house, or having a guest not be able to park. That has all changed.

Most people on our block have no access to their house except from Upton Street. We have no alleys in the back. As a consequence, Upton Street is the only choice for visitors and service people. One neighbor has no off-street parking at all, and cannot build any. Living in an R-1-A neighborhood, we expect there to be parking in front of our houses.

On most days during the school year there is not a single parking place available from 8 in the morning till 8 in the evening. In addition, the embassies and institutions that surround us have special events on evenings and weekends. For illustration, I have attached a notice concerning one.

There is no parking for service people. Our neighbor had to wait 3 months for Christmas vacation in order to schedule removal of a dangerous dead tree so that the tree crew could park. We have had service people come, not find a place to park, and then leave without doing the necessary repairs. All of the neighbors in our block could tell similar stories. It is impossible to have a family gathering since there is no parking.

We have complained to the police, to no avail. One neighbor has taken a petition the parking office for relief, but no relief has come

Besides the current lack of parking, there are additional problems caused by increased traffic flow. (According to traffic counter data, the number of car trips on our block has tripled in the last 10 years.) When the street is parked up on both sides, and flow is going in both directions, the possibility of accidents increases. We have experienced property damage. For example, my father's parked car was hit causing $1,000 in damages; my wife was rear-ended by a student; and our car has been hit 4 times while parked in front of the house. We are not the only persons that have experienced such damages.

Clearly, Burke is not responsible for all of these problems. However, Burke is a contributor. For example, on October 9th, we arrived home a little after 9 p.m. We noted that the block was still mostly parked up. As we got out of the car, we saw about 10 people walking from Burke towards us. One of those people spoke to us, saying that he had just come from Burke's "Back-to-school" night where he had met his son's teacher.

BZA
Case No. 17022
Exhibit No. 184

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17022
EXHIBIT NO. 184

Some time later, we came across the October 2003 issue of "The Burke Update". (http://eburke.org/main/October2003BurkeUpdate.pdf) which leads off with a headline concerning event parking. Burke requested that nobody park on Upton Street for this event, stating : " It is important to have no school parking on neighborhood streets during these evenings."

So, even with Burke's best efforts, when they are trying to look good in order to expand, we still get a significant parking and traffic impact in our block. What would happen if they are allowed to expand, increasing both the number of visitors per event and the number of events?

When Burke expanded previously, we did not voice a complaint. At that time there was capacity on the street for a little more traffic and parking. Now there is not room for one additional car during the week. We have 6 parking spaces in front of our house and they are always filled. We cannot lead a normal life, having family or friends come over or schedule repairmen.

We put up with many annoyances, such as trash discarded by passersby. We are not complaining about that, or about the noise that the students generate. We are complaining that we cannot tolerate **any** additional cars.

For this reason, I strongly oppose any expansion of the Burke school.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my experiences and concerns.

EXAMPLE OF EMBASSY EVENT

Ambassade van het
Koninkrijk der Nederlanden

Neighbors at Tilden Street, Upton Street
and Linnean Avenue

Royal Netherlands Embassy
Administrative Affairs
4200 Linnean Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Date 24 April, 2003
Our ref.
Page 1/1
Encl.
Subject Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands / Celebration of 25th anniversary of the Dutch community.

Processor Sandra Duurken
Tel. (202) 274-2641
Fax (202) 364-6511
E-mail sandra.duurken@minbuza.nl

Dear Neighbor:

The Royal Netherlands Embassy will celebrate the Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands at the Chancery at 4200 Linnean Avenue from 6.00 PM – 8.00 PM on Saturday, May 3, 2003.
Following the reception the Embassy and the Dutch community in Washington, D.C. will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Dutch society "DC Dutch". This party will end around 1.00 AM.

Approximately 800 people will attend this function. Consequently, some guests will have to park their cars along Tilden Street, Upton Street and Linnean Avenue as the Embassy's parking lot cannot accommodate all cars. I would like to offer my apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Whilst thanking you in advance for your understanding in this matter, I remain,
yours sincerely,

H.P. Colver
Head of Administrative Affairs

October 2003

The Burke Update

Important Message from David about Event Parking at Burke

All of us are well aware of the efforts the school community is making to limit our impact on the traffic and parking in the local residential neighborhoods. Thanks to your efforts and good will, we have accomplished a good deal, especially during the morning drop offs.

We would like to continue this effort during our evening events, beginning with Back-to-School night, October 9. It is important to have no school parking on neighborhood streets during these evenings. **We urge all of you to use public transportation if possible or to park on Connecticut Avenue or the public parking lot at the Giant supermarket at the end of Veazey Street on the east side of Connecticut Avenue.**

The parking lot near Giant is a short, two-block walk from the school and has ample parking, especially after 6:00 p.m. The lot closes at 10:30 p.m., so be mindful of the time. The cost is $7 and if you submit a receipt to Katie Reidl in the Business Office, we'll split the cost with you. Thank you.

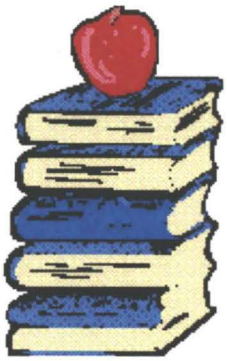
David

David Shapiro

Upcoming Burke Events

Oct. 3	Homecoming
Oct. 6	Yom Kippur *(school closed)*
Oct. 9	Back-To-School Night
Oct. 13 - 17	Annual Fund Pledge Week
Oct. 15 - 17	6th Grade Trip to St. Mary's
Oct. 16 - 17	HS Leadership Retreat 8th Grade Overnight
Oct. 23	Family Conferences *(2:35 p.m. dismissal)*
Oct. 24	Family Conferences *(no school)*
Oct. 27	Faculty In-Service Day *(no school)*
Nov. 1	Open House
Nov. 7	International Festival
Nov. 11	Grandparents Day
Nov. 14 & 17	Theatre/Music Festival
Nov. 21	Faculty/Parent Talent Show
Nov. 26	Evaluation Day *(no school)*
Nov. 27 - 28	Thanksgiving Holiday *(school closed)*

Back-to-School Night



Please come out on the evening of Thursday, October 9 for Edmund Burke's 2003 Back-to-School Night. You'll follow an abbreviated version of your child's schedule as Burke teachers give short talks or presentations about their courses. **Please arrive promptly at 6:45 p.m.**; the program will be over at approximately 9:00 p.m. High school parents should begin by going to the gym to pick up their folders; middle school parents should begin by going to the upstairs middle school hallway (located outside of the Art Room).

Back-to-School Night is meant to give families a chance to put faces to the names of their children's teachers and to get a general idea of course content and expectations. Each teacher has ten minutes per class to indicate the course's theme and to relate a few important points. Some teachers leave most of the time for questions; some give typical problems or quizzes; others stage mildly (or wildly) dramatic activities to capture the essence of the course.

The evening begins with **homeroom meetings** when you can speak with your children's advisors and get answers to any questions that you might have about the evening. Your folder will include your **individual schedule for the evening**, describing which classes you will be visiting during which periods, where you will be meeting, and who teaches each class. On the back, there will be a **map of the building** which should be helpful in finding your way around. Student Guides will also be more than happy to help you. In the atrium you will find the Hope House Book Project (see article on page 2), light refreshments and a table where you may purchase a yearbook.

See Back-to-School Night, Page 2