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Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001
RE: CASE # 17022

Dear Chairman Griffis:

As a Ward 3 resident and parent at the Edmund Burke School, I am writing to ask your support of the school's proposal to expand its facilities that is now pending before the BZA (Case # 17022).

I am also writing as a DC resident who believes in reasonable growth for our private schools. More than 17,000 children attend private schools in the District, representing thousands of district households, private school education as an essential resource for District residents. We need to preserve these vital educational options for District residents and our private schools need to be renovated and updated so they can continue to provide their essential services. Reasonable growth of the kind now proposed by Edmund Burke is essential for the District maintain its residential tax base and to reach its goal of bringing 100,000 new residents to the city within ten years.

Regarding Burke's application, the school has made many changes over the past year to be responsive to the concerns of the ANC, the DDOT and our neighbors:

- Over the past year, Burke has instituted monthly meetings with an advisory board of neighbors. This has led to an improved plan and new compliance and accountability measures, which are reflected in the school's new submission to the BZA.
- For the past year, the school has followed a strict traffic management plan that has dramatically decreased traffic volume and congestion on all surrounding streets and alleys.
- Burke's new building and traffic plans will further reduce traffic congestion in the neighborhood. The new building reorients school traffic to Connecticut Avenue, a major commercial thoroughfare, and provides for a traffic lane that loops around the school entirely on the school's own property.
- Burke's expansion plans are reasonable and were developed in response to desires of the neighborhood, the ANC and the DDOT. Burke's new plans are modest and have been shaped by the input of all these groups.
- Burke has made itself available to its neighbors in new ways, including weekly litter pick-up, library usage, invitations to Burke performances, fitness sessions and more – all to become a more useful and vibrant resource for its neighbors.
- Urban private schools need to be able to modernize and enhance their facilities in order to sustain quality education. The new building will prove to be an asset to the District's children and to the entire community.

Please support our children's needs for quality education in quality environments. Please support Edmund Burke's proposal before the BZA.

Thank you,

Jennifer Kaplan
3715 Morrison Street NW
Washington, DC 20015

BZA
Case No. 17022
Exhibit No. 36

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17022
EXHIBIT NO. 36