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June 26, 2003

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

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Benjamin L. Viglianti and I am an alumnus of Edmund Burke School (2955 Upton Street, NW Washington DC 20008). It has come to my attention that Burke is attempting to expand its enrollment and is requesting permission from your office to do so. Consequently, there are individuals in the neighborhood that want to minimize the footprint that Burke has and is trying to block this expansion. The concerns of these individuals need to be addressed. However, I strongly suggest that a remedy to this situation be found that allows for this expansion. Without attempting to boast, my academic record can attest to the excellent preparations that Edmund Burke School gave me.

I was diagnosed with dyslexia in spring of 1987 and spent that year receiving intensive tutoring at Center School, which specialized in educating children with my disability. Center School closed in the spring of 1988 and I transferred to Burke in the fall. Burke gave me extra assistance in overcoming my disability, providing the tools necessary to succeed. I graduated from Burke in 1994 and went to Lafayette College graduating in 1998 (B.S. with honors in Chemical Engineering). I then entered Duke University and received my M.S. in Biomedical Engineering in December of 2000. I am currently pursuing my Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at Duke and should defend in 2003. This past fall (2002) I applied to medical school and have chosen to stay at Duke and will enroll in their medical school in 2004.

When I look back on these academic accomplishments I realize that they could not have occurred without the support of my parents and education by the faculty of Edmund Burke School. Burke provided the foundation in study skills and love of learning that has allowed me to succeed and overcome my disability.

Burke is an asset to the community and the students that have the opportunity to attend. Its expansion should go forward with the appropriate concerns being addressed. If I can provide additional assistance please fell free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Viglianti

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17022
EXHIBIT NO. 50