6309 33rd St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20015
11 July 2003

Chairman Geoffrey Gillis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street N.W.
Suite 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Case 17022 (Edmund Burke School)

Dear BZA members,

I know you have a difficult task weighing the interests of Edmund Burke School and those who live near it and oppose its expansion. Over the past year, Burke has worked very hard to respond to concerns expressed by the neighbors and issues you raised in rejecting the school's application last year. I write to urge you to endorse Burke's new application.

As a D.C. resident and as a Burke parent, I've been impressed by the lengths to which the school and the families of its students have gone to reduce the stress on the neighborhood and on nearby streets. New traffic patterns have worked well to relieve congestion on Upton Street and the school has been diligent in enforcing self-imposed restrictions. This traffic plan is no longer a promise; it is a reality. The school also has reached out to neighborhoods, both informally and formally and is proposing an intelligent forum for resolving future difficulties. It truly has been a model citizen.

Edmund Burke School is located in a lively urban neighborhood along a busy stretch of Connecticut Avenue. The expansion it proposes will not change the character of the neighborhood nor will it add to the traffic and parking problems that occur in any such neighborhood. In fact, the parking space in the new Burke building and new traffic patterns would improve matters.

There is a growing demand from residents of our city for private schools, both from those who can afford the tuition and those who benefit from the increasing amounts of financial aid that Burke offers. As a community, we should embrace these valuable institutions and be glad that they are prospering enough to expand among us. Burke's modest expansion plans are reasonable and responsive to the neighbors' concerns. I hope you will support Burke's application.

Yours,

David M. Wessel

BZA
Case No. 17022
Exhibit No. 94

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17022
EXHIBIT NO. 94