Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chair

Board of Zoning Adjustment

441 4th Street, Suite 210 South

Washington DC 20001.

Dear Mr. Griffis:

We are residents of Cleveland Park who are directly affected by the pending Sidwell Friends School expansion. We are writing not to oppose the project, but to ask that you impose reasonable conditions on it. You have the power and obligation to pursue a final decision that looks at the interests of the neighbors with at least as much weight as the exceptions being sought by Sidwell School.

We believe Sidwell has taken all of the steps that it should.

Among the reasonable conditions that the Board should impose are the following:

1. Requiring that Sidwell not permit the drop off or pick up of any students on 37th Street. This is a narrow street, there are already terrific and dangerous traffic jams on this street, and this practice should cease.

2. Requiring that all construction access take place from Wisconsin Ave. and not 37th St. NW. It was promised by the school originally and should be firmly included in your decisions.

3. Provide that Sidwell requires all students to park on campus. If Sidwell is now committed to building sufficient parking on campus to permit its students to park on campus, it is a small step to make that commitment a formal requirement. Section 206.3 requires that there be "Ample parking space, but not less than that required in chapter 21 of this title, shall be provided to accommodate the students, teachers and visitors likely to come to the site by automobile." We know the congestion and danger to students that takes place when Sidwell and Hearst disembark students together. That problem would be substantially removed if the parking plan, as required by 206.3, specifies that all students and faculty park on campus and not on 37th St. NW.

3. Requiring that Sidwell reduce the mass of the Middle School. It should be required to move the entrance to the other side of the building, set back the building and otherwise reduce its monolithic design.

4. Requiring that Sidwell design a sustainable landscape.

BZA
Case No. 17149
Exhibit No. 53

5. Requiring that Sidwell comply with a ceiling set by the Board on its enrollment. And it should not be permitted to increase its enrollment until it has shown that its transportation plan is being implemented and works. It made the statement early on acknowledging that somehow it had violated its earlier ceiling and that was one justification for the need for the facility to expand its size. That is not quite the way the process should work.

We note that Section 206.2 of the code requires that "private school[s] shall be located so that it is not likely to become objectionable to adjoining and nearby property because of noise, traffic, number of students, or otherwise objectionable conditions." We would urge that your decision follow that standard.

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17149
EXHIBIT NO. 53

Thank you very much for your consideration of these critical matters.

Sincerely,

Mark and Susan Schneider
3517 Tilden St. NW
Washington, DC 20008

Susan Schneider Mark Schneider

Sincerely,