Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Case #17149

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I am writing to urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to examine Case #17149 with extraordinary care because the Sidwell expansion plan imposes objectionable conditions upon its surrounding neighborhood.

1. One of these conditions is ecological. Wisconsin Avenue sits upon the Appalacian Ridge; on the western crest of this ridge (including Mc Lean Gardens) groundwater drains into the Potomac River, whereas on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue (the Sidwell side) it flows down to 37th street across the Hearst School and recreation center funneling into Springland Lane where it enters Rock Creek at Reno Road. This influx of water has resulted in massive erosion to the playground of Hearst School and widespread deterioration of the woods below. Dozens of mature trees have collapsed because the soil can no longer sustain their roots, and the wooded areas between Rodman and Tilden streets are in an advanced state of decay.

   This entire sector of this land is uniquely vulnerable and fragile because it is fed by springs and it has far less capacity to absorb and distribute the runoff than do other neighborhoods. Brick and mortar above creates oversaturation and erosion below and the deterioration of our green space is testimony of the critical importance of restraining further building in this community.

2. Reasonable conditions that the Board should impose are the following:

   A. Requiring that Sidwell require all students to park on campus and that *they enforce this rule stringently*. Periodic gridlock occurs on 37th street *whether or not school is in session*. Even without further building our neighborhood is stressed and overly compacted because of school and other institutional development and expansion. It is time for a reality check. I do, however, support the ANC 3C requirement that the garage be completed and that there be a successful demonstration that their transportation management plan will alleviate the conditions that now prevail.

   B. Middle school redesign. See #1 above.

   C. Enrollment. Sidwell has exceeded its enrollment cap of 780 and wants an increase of 850. It is ingenuous of Sidwell to assure us of its commitment of preserving the character of its school community when such a large proposed increase demonstrates otherwise. Sidwell must give a greater earnest of its intent to maintain and enhance the quality of its education while preserving the integrity of its neighborhood community by restraining its wish to expand. I ask that you sustain the current enrollment cap at 780.

Very truly yours,

Trudy Kendrew

Trudy Kendrew
3551 Springland Lane, NW

June 19, 2004

BZA
Case No. 17149
Exhibit No. 54

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17149
EXHIBIT NO. 54