



Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer

Janice K. Jackson
Chief Education Officer

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Dear Members of the Jenner and Ogden school communities:

For nearly two years, your school communities have been contemplating whether it is in the best interest of your students to merge operations. In December, Chicago Public Schools announced a formal community process that would allow the Chicago Board of Education to consider a merger proposal for the 2018-19 school year.

For the past several months, CPS staff hosted three public meetings to listen to input from the broader community on this possible merger. The insight, ideas and questions that you brought forward at these meetings have been thought-provoking and productive as we evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of a merger. We continue to hear voices of the community that support this merger to strengthen and integrate both school communities, and we continue to hear from voices who oppose the merger because of the complex logistical questions it creates and concern that the merger makes it more challenging to focus on academics.

While some questions remain about the logistics of this action, as the leaders of Chicago Public Schools, we intend to recommend that the Chicago Board of Education move forward to make and implement a plan for merger of the schools, the precise components of which will be determined after additional community input.

You can expect several steps in the coming months.

CPS staff will draft a transition plan that we will present to the community this fall to hear feedback before making a formal recommendation to the Board. As we have done in public meetings to date, we will work to gather input from the broader community to provide key insights into many of the remaining questions, such as academic programming, managing the three-building footprint, school climate and culture, and staffing levels. Among the outstanding questions:

- What curriculum will be used at the merged school for core subjects such as math, reading, science, social studies and other subjects?
- How will grade levels be divided among the merged school's various campuses?
- What programs from each school will remain, be eliminated or be expanded?
- What professional development will be needed to prepare staff, including certification in teaching International Baccalaureate programs, and how will staff transition?
- How will the school sustainably manage three buildings spread over more than four miles in the city?

Then, CPS publishes its annual recommendations for “school actions” no later than Dec. 1 of each year. At the earliest, the Board would vote on the final merger plan at its February 2018 meeting. If approved by the Board, the merger plan would be implemented in the 2018-19 school year.

Please look forward to hearing more from us on additional public meetings after the draft transition plan is published this fall, and thank you again for your participation in this process so far.

Sincerely,



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Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools



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