



Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer

Janice Jackson
Chief Education Officer

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Dear Ogden/Jenner Community Member:

For more than a year, your school communities have been contemplating whether it is in the best interest of your students to merge operations. As the leaders of Chicago Public Schools, we have observed this process, and worked to provide our best insight and guidance on the opportunities this merger would present, as well as the challenges that it could pose to your children's education.

Based on formal requests from community groups involved in this process, we are announcing today that CPS is moving forward with a more formal community process that could allow the Board of Education to consider a merger proposal for the 2018-19 school year.

As NextLevel, an advisory group that has advocated for the merger pointed out in its report, "Because of the critical importance of these pre-merger activities, NextLevel would encourage consideration of a longer planning, preparation and community partnership period, with the merged schools in operation for the 2018/2019 school year."

We believe that additional conversations must be held to ensure the entire community can thoughtfully and carefully evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of a merger, as well as provide insights into how it would work day-to-day. To move forward, CPS will hold community meetings on the campuses of both schools to ask for community input in the following areas that would be impacted by a merger:

- 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?
- Given the lower poverty rate for the merged school, how will the funding shortfall from the loss of federal Title I funds be addressed?
- How will the school sustainably manage three buildings spread over more than four miles in the city?

Gathering input from the broader community will provide key insights into these and other thought-provoking questions presented by a possible merger.

To address these issues, we are announcing three community meetings in the coming months.

Community Meeting 1

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

5:00-7:00pm

Ogden EAST Campus

24 West Walton Street

Community Meeting 2

Saturday, March 18, 2017

12:00-2:00pm

Jenner Elementary School

1119 North Cleveland Avenue

Community Meeting 3

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

5:00-7:00pm

Ogden WEST Campus

1250 West Erie Street

If needed, additional community meetings will be scheduled to continue the discussion around a possible merger. We look forward to hearing your thoughts, ideas and questions.

Sincerely,



Forrest Claypool
CEO, Chicago Public Schools



Janice Jackson
Chief Education Officer, Chicago Public Schools