



Janice K. Jackson
Chief Education Officer

42 West Madison, 3rd Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60602

May 5, 2016

Terry Mazany
President and CEO
The Chicago Community Trust
225 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2200
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Mr. Mazany,

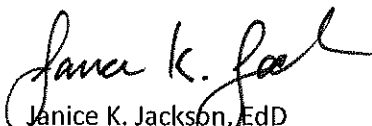
On behalf of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), I am pleased to provide this letter to The Chicago Community Trust in support of a project to explore whether a school merger could help address the different utilization and academic needs that exist between Ogden International School of Chicago and Jenner Academy of the Arts.

I understand and acknowledge that both schools engaged in a joint planning Task Force in fall 2015 that developed an initial plan to consolidate the two schools and that the Task Force voted to pursue consolidating the two schools. CPS is in receipt of that initial plan. However, further engagement in partnership with all key stakeholders is required to determine whether this option is the best option. A thoughtful, community-driven process that engages and seeks extensive input from both school communities is necessary. Further, I agree that there is a need for outside support to lead and manage such a process.

A recommendation and detailed plan will be delivered to CPS that will include an analysis of all viable options that may emerge through this process. CPS will carefully consider the recommendation this process generates and, pending Board approval, it will work with the school communities to implement the solution that meets the needs of both schools.

We are grateful for the Trust's willingness to support these two school communities in exploring these options and to do so in an inclusive and deliberative way. Please let us know how we can be of assistance during the process.

Sincerely,


Janice K. Jackson, EdD
Chief Education Officer
Chicago Public Schools

