

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jenner/Ogden Steering Committee

Rev. Randall K. Blakey
LaSalle Street Church

Rabbi Seth Limmer
Chicago Sinai Congregation

Aaron Balsam
Jenner Community

Deidre Brewster
Near North Community

Cira Conley
Ogden Parent - Community

Michele Dreczynski
Near North Unity Program

Thea Kachoris Flores
Ogden Parent - Community

Dharma Seda Gonzalez
Walter Payton Student

Ms. Hattie
Jenner Caregiver

Ashley Linzy
Jenner Parent

Ianna Kachoris Ori
Ogden Parent - Community

Ellen Schor
Chicago Sinai – Jenner

Debbie Sherriff
Jenner Teacher

Heidi Wagman
Chicago Sinai – Jenner

Rebecca Wells
Ogden Parent - Community

Sharon Wheeler
Near North Unity Program

Brendan Vaughan
Ogden Teacher

JENNER/OGDEN COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE

www.jenner-ogden-merger.com

December 1, 2017

The Jenner Ogden Community Steering Committee (JOCSC) applauds the moral and political courage of Chicago Public Schools CEO, Forest Claypool and CEo, Janice Jackson for their leadership towards merging Jenner Academy of the Arts and Ogden International School of Chicago. Today, Mr. Claypool formally recommended that the Board of Education consider a consolidation of Jenner into Ogden. This means that after December 1st, two community meetings will be held and one public hearing will occur in January. Following these meetings and hearing, CPS may request that the Board of Education vote on this proposal to consolidate Jenner and Ogden as early as February of 2018.

Realizing that educational equity was severely lacking in the Near North community, for the last 2 years the JOCSC addressed this concern by organizing around and advocating for a merger that would adhere to the following principles:

- Jenner and Ogden students alike should be exposed to high-quality, rigorous academic programs.
- Each school has a strong culture and history, both of which will continue to be honored, and blended into a shared and inclusive community culture.
- The merger of these two schools is about more than facilities but rather about our current students and those to come.
- We are committed to supporting our best assets---our teachers and staff---to be the best they can be for our students.

The JOCSC has appreciated being in direct, robust and sincere dialogue with CPS. Throughout the duration of this process the JOCSC will remain agents of accountability to see to it that the aforementioned principles are primary components of the final plan.

“Today we are witnessing the authentic beginnings of an intentional and thoughtful process to dismantle the separate and unequal educational practices existing on Chicago’s North side.” Reverend Randall K. Blakey

“The CEO’s action today opens the door for unprecedented cross cultural learning and collaboration that these school communities have never experienced before. From an educational point of view, it’s the realization of Dr. King’s Beloved Community.” Rabbi Seth M. Limmer



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