

JENNER/OGDEN COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE

Jenner/Ogden Steering Committee

Rev. Randall K. Blakey
LaSalle Street Church

Rabbi Seth Limmer
Chicago Sinai Congregation

Aaron Balsam
*Jenner Neighborhood
Community Member*

Deidre Brewster
*Near North Community
Member*

Cira Conley
*Ogden School Community
Member*

Michele Dreczynski
Near North Unity Program

Hattie Dennis
*Jenner School Caregiver/
Community Member*

Betsy Olesker Tomas
*Ogden School Community
Member*

Muna Walker
*Ogden School Community
Member*

Sharon Wheeler
Near North Unity Program

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Response to CPS School Action

December 1, 2016

The Jenner Ogden Community Steering Committee is pleased to hear that CPS has accepted its recommendation to merge Jenner and Ogden, and gratified that CPS will be formally facilitating Community Meetings during the early part of next year to hear multiple voices and share information about merger specifics.

The Steering Committee believes that the community-driven effort and the work of its consultant over the last several months provides a sound basis for moving forward now with an implementation plan for a merger. We are hopeful that CPS will finally address the inequities that exist within and across CPS schools and take a thoughtful and sagacious approach in proceeding with the integration of these two schools.

We look forward to continuing a working relationship with CPS to ensure that its process is inclusive, respectful, fiscally responsible and evidence-based. Our expectation is that a detailed plan for merging the schools will be developed that address the questions raised by the communities.

*“Unless our children begin to learn together,
there is little hope that our people will ever learn to live together.”*

Justice Thurgood Marshall

Our children deserve to experience the power of racial and socioeconomic diversity and cross cultural learning.

www.jenner-ogden-merger.com

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