Dear Ogden Community,

It's been a wild couple of months. We have gone from overcrowded to under-enrolled, when in fact we are both. You should have also heard or read of our exploratory committee looking into ways to solve the overcrowding situation, which this email primarily addresses.

First, let's clear up some potential misunderstandings:

- Ogden is currently overcrowded, but only slightly at around 103% over capacity. This is a facilities issue, meaning we are running out of classrooms.
- Ogden is also "under-enrolled" according to our budget, because CPS projected we would be about 110% over capacity, which we are not reaching this year, so we might have to give funds back, but we'll be OK. This is a budget issue.
- Ogden will almost certainly be massively overcrowded in 2-3 years, with thousands of new residential units going up in our neighborhood. This is a facilities issue (see list of construction at the end of this email).

Our exploratory committee has been investigating ways to resolve the facilities and capacity issue. This process started in July with an email announcement to the Ogden community and a CPS representative was at the LSC meeting where this process started. About a dozen parents volunteered to investigate several options to resolve the overcrowding issue. After much work and even more discussion, we have a tentative proposal. Please understand nothing is set in stone, and the Ogden community can always back out if CPS or the City of Chicago does not work with us to help improve our community.

We are proposing the following to the LSC on Monday. These are four aspects of a cohesive plan, and not four options. We must do all of these to proactively plan to prevent overcrowding at Ogden. If the LSC gives tentative approval, we will bring the proposal to the CPS Board of Education. If the BOE approves, we will begin working out details with CPS, the Mayor's office and City Council. If the plan is created in a manner in which the Ogden community benefits, we will
move forward.

*Tentative plan from exploratory committee:*

1. **Consolidate Ogden with Jenner in the 2016-2017 school year***
   A. All faculty, staff, and administration from both schools will remain; a co-principal model will be created, similar to Sprye school
   B. Jenner will become "The Ogden International School at the Jenner Campus"
   C. Ogden will potentially house preK-3rd and Jenner will house 4th-8th
   D. Ogden will remain the only K-12 IB school in Illinois

2. **Revise boundaries of both schools to prevent immediate overcrowding**
   A. All current Ogden families would be grandfathered into the boundaries
   B. Re-alignment so the new developments around Jenner do not lead to immediate over-crowding. Revisions of boundaries can happen again if and when an annex to Jenner is built

3. **Work with City Council to dedicate TIF funds to build an annex onto Jenner**
   A. The downtown area contains some of the wealthiest TIFs, with more than a dozen residential buildings in the Ogden boundary already-built, under construction, or planned, with little to no urban planning focused on schools. Dedicating TIF funds to increase capacity of the Ogden / Jenner school is necessary.
   B. Ogden has no space to build, whereas Jenner has ample space to build.
   C. This would take multiple years but would relieve overcrowding as residential units continue to be built (see list below).

4. **Identify lead and supporting partners to help in the consolidation of the Ogden and Jenner schools.**
   A. Universities, religious organizations, and charities can help facilitate the consolidation of two communities so that there is a wealth of resources, enabling a smooth transition.

*Please know that Principal Beyer has been working with Principal Croston at Jenner, along with Alderman Burnett. We see this consolidation as a win for both communities, as Jenner is currently under-enrolled with only 200 students in a building that can house nearly 1,000. The consolidation will decrease segregation while ensuring Ogden has continued room to grow.*
If you are interested in learning more about this tentative plan, please join us this Saturday at 11:00 AM at the Ogden East Cafeteria after the CIWP meeting at 10:00, which you are also welcome to attend.

Sincerely,

Principal Michael Beyer

Below is a list compiled by a parent on our exploratory committee which includes recently completed, under-construction and proposed high-rise residential buildings within Ogden's boundaries. This is not an exhaustive list as there might be additional projects that have been overlooked.

Completed this year

- 845 N. State
- 805 N. LaSalle
- 220 W. Illinois
- 340 E. North Water
- 435 North Park Drive

Under construction

- State and Walton
- 833 N. Clark
- 4 E. Elm
- 707 N. Wells
- 720 N. LaSalle
- 350 West Mart Center Drive
- 444 W. Lake
- 200 E. Illinois
- 545 N. McClurg

Proposed

- Clark and Division
- 750 N. Hudson
- 400 W. Huron
- 633 N. Wells
- 640 N. Wells
Once we began exploring the Jenner option, we learned there has been an existing group outside of Ogden in the Near North Community encouraging this transformation for some time.

The Near North Unity Project (NNUP) has created a list of opportunities and benefits, along with examining the socio-economics of the merger. Please see THIS attachment and the explanation below.

From NNUP:

There are a lot of places we can see success in our own CPS system where schools are maximizing the educational benefits of socio-economic integration as witnessed by the many successful Magnet and Neighborhood CPS schools we all know about. Sharing this data could make a merger seem much less scary to people I hope.

As of May 20, 2014 Ogden ES school has 23.6% low income and Jenner has 96.9%. Ogden/Jenner together would have only 39.45% low income kids based on the number of kids from each school, which is still on par or lower than other highly successful CPS schools like LaSalle (38%), Franklin (44.6%), Andrew Jackson (44.6%), Disney (62.9%), South Loop (31.3%), Agassiz (45.5%), Newberry (65.1%), Sheridan (65.1%), Pritzker (52.4%), LaSalle 2 (46.4%) etc... (info from CPS.edu)

If you were to put above school data on a linear graph you'd see the low income threshold that may be in question is certainly much higher than the 39% of our combined school. The CPS low-income average at a city school looks like it's 86%. Our consolidated schools would be way on the other side of this measure. We would not be at any tipping point as I heard suggested.

Our Near North Community's Plan for Transformation by design is balancing...
the socio-economic tiers that are associated with income so the consolidated Jenner/Ogden Neighborhood school is the beneficiary of this. The school winds up having a student population much like a magnet school by design.

Thanks,
Michele
Co-Chair NNUP Youth and Family Committee

The link for average CPS stats is here: http://cps.edu/About_CPS/At-a-glance/Pages/Stats_and_facts.aspx