

Ogden/Jenner Community Meeting
March 18th, 2017- Jenner School

Attendance:

Jim Dispensa, Herald Chip Johnson, Network 6 staff

Alderman Walter Burnett, Staff-2nd Ward Aldermanic Office, Staff- 42nd Ward Aldermanic Office

Approximately 60-70 people in attendance

Presentation- 25 min (CPS)

- Purpose of community meeting
- Previous meeting recap
- The Process
- Area of Focus: How a transition could work, facility configuration, demographics, programs & curriculum

Public Participation (90 min)

Speaker 1: As a parent of two students who attend Ogden, I am concerned of the transportation between 3 campuses. Our family currently struggles getting our children between 2 campuses. Adding a third campus would make it even more difficult.

I'm also concerned on the management of the school. There's been countless amount of turnover and I am concerned with who will be managing the schools.

This seems like a political issue.

Speaker 2: Parent with a child going to kindergarten next year. I support a Jenner and Ogden merger. I witnessed people leave the area because there were no options for schools. I hope all options are considered.

Speaker 3: (Tracy Alveraz) Parent who lives near Jenner, active volunteer. Would like to make a point there is a great number of kids in the area that are not school aged. Many of the parents who have kids who are not school aged come into Jenner to interact with families. We hope CPS can provide answers to the financial concerns parents have with this merger. Is supportive of a merger.

Speaker 4: Community member, does not have any children who attends either school, volunteers at Jenner. I encourage families who have school aged children to enroll them into Jenner. Don't be afraid

to bring your child to Jenner. I hope the merger goes through with at least east Ogden. If it does not go through, I encourage new community members to enroll their kids in to Jenner.

Speaker 5: We need to have a conversation about next steps sooner rather than later. My concern is the current school boundaries. We did not have to involve CPS into the conversation, we as a community could've solved this issue of underutilization.

Speaker 6: Jamie, parent at Jenner active volunteer at Jenner. I am supportive of the merger if it means helping Jenner's enrollment numbers. Pushing people away is not the answer.

Speaker 7: Michelle Dinzki. Supportive of the merger.

Speaker 8: Concepcion, 2 kids in Ogden (East and West campus), 10 years in the community. Supportive of the merger. The messaging regarding the merger should have more and clear information for all parents.

Speaker 9: Parent at Jenner. The merger is a great idea. I would recommend cps provide all facts and have a clear plan.

Speaker 10: Teacher at Jenner and a resident. I have no confidence in CPS to create a space for kids, based on their previous actions. My question is what will happen to teachers at Jenner? Will they keep their jobs? I dismiss the concerns of safety when it comes to Jenner. Jenner is a safe school, staff and families ensure all students are safe at all times.

Speaker 11: Community member at Jenner- upset of the segregation in the neighborhood and at the two schools. The actions of the adults are hurting our children.

Notes 12: Combining schools is not the answer

Speaker 13: Katie Welch- former AP at Jenner. There are many benefits for the two schools to merge. I encourage the board to consider the merger

Speaker 14: Kizy- parent at Jenner. Supporter of the merger. My only concern is the changing of the name. Jenner has a lot of history, I ask the board not to alter the name in any way.

Speaker 15: Community member, parent of a child who attended Ogden and Jenner, works for the park district. I support the merger.

Speaker16: Walter Payton student- Supporter of the merger. This would end the de facto segregation in the area. Personally collected 280 signatures from classmates at Walter Payton. This is not about property increase.

Speaker 17: 1st grade teacher at Jenner. Never felt endangered last 20yrs of teaching at the school. Jenner is a great school with dedicated staff. Encourage families to enroll their children at Jenner.

Speaker 18. Pastor Randall Blakey- chair for the community steering committee. Never communicated to the community that their property value would go up if there was a merger. There's a website with

all the information of the steering committee. Very appreciative of CPS' response and for holding these meetings.

Speaker 19: Parent at Ogden- concerns: last year it was mentioned about an annex. Now that has changed... why have we ruled that out? I would like to hear reports about grades and how the grades will be split? To gain the support of parents from Ogden there needs to be a discussion/plan for moving the middle school grades out of west campus.

Speaker 20. Ogden parent-supportive. (To audience) Do not use the consultant proposal that was shared a while back as the final plan. My question: where's the proposal?

Speaker 21: Rabbi Seth Limmer- asked if CPS will meet with the steering committee before April 25th?
CPS Response: Give us time to answer that. We cannot commit to that.

Speaker 22. Steering community member- if there are any changes merger or not, please keep Jenner as a neighborhood school.

NOTE CARD COMMENTS:

- Can CPS quantify the savings for the merger?
- Merger is a temporary solution. We need a longer term solution, what does the next 3 years look like?
- Does CPS have the money to do the merger? How much would it cost?
- Can CPS provide successful examples of schools merging?
- There was a comment that this is politically motivated... this is not true. This is community driven.

Alderman Burnett: I am supportive of the merger. I've talked with the mayor about this. I'm going to try to get more programming to Jenner. My goal is to get an IB program in Jenner.