



THE
Intergenerational
SCHOOLS
A COMMUNITY OF LIFELONG LEARNERS

December 13, 2016

Dear Near West Intergenerational School Family Member,

Since our founding, Near West Intergenerational School, along with Lakeshore Intergenerational School and The Intergenerational School, has been a part of the Breakthrough Charter Schools network. This partnership has provided valuable support to us as the Intergenerational Schools have grown from one to three outstanding schools.

However, this week, after many months of negotiation and mediation, our Boards of Directors have voted to accept the proposed terms of an agreement that would allow the three Intergenerational Schools to separate from the Breakthrough Charter Schools Network and operate independently with transitional support from BCS and Friends of Breakthrough (FOB). The agreement was reached after extensive and thorough review of potential options and modifications to the network's operating agreement, which was up for renewal. The Boards of Directors for BCS and FOB will vote on the measure later this week.

As a founding member of the Breakthrough network, the Intergenerational Schools share a common vision with BCS that having a variety of school choices is the best way of ensuring that the children we serve have the opportunity to receive an excellent education. Therefore, this decision is not a reflection on the Breakthrough network or any of its member schools that we have been in partnership with over the last six years. Rather, it is a decision that is being made in the best interests of the children we currently serve and those we hope to serve in the future.

With a model of education that focuses on individualized student learning, with strong community participation, smaller class sizes, collaboration with the elder community and specialized teacher training, this natural evolution of our award-winning model provides an opportunity to focus even more energy onto the core mission and vision of our Schools.

All three IG Schools will continue to thrive, striving to provide their more than 600 students with the best education possible. The schools will continue to rely upon a mix of public funding, philanthropic and other community support, including from the more than 300 lifelong learners – most of them elders - who interact with IG students on a daily basis.

Please join us at a school community meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. We will be able to share additional details with you and answer the questions that you may have.

We understand that this announcement may come as a surprise; please know that we are committed to making this a seamless transition for you and your children as we continue to offer the same high-quality, student-centered education that you expect from our schools. Please feel free to call Mary Ann Vogel, Chief Educator of the IG Schools at 216-721-0120 ext. 1137 or send an email to info@tisonline.org for more information.

We thank you for trusting our Boards of Directors in this decision and as always, we appreciate your support and are truly thankful that you are a part of our school community.

Mary Ann Vogel
Chief Educator

Mark Saffran
Board Chair