
Redistricting Committee Meeting:
Toquam – Environmental Magnet
Transition Proposal

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Stamford Public Schools

EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.

Stamford Environmental Interdistrict Magnet School (EMS)



Facts:

- Scheduled to open in September 2009 at 2 Blachley Rd.
- PreK – 8 Program to accommodate 660 students
- Each grade can accommodate 45 Stamford students, 15 out-of-district students
- 75% of student population from Stamford / 25% of students from other towns in Southern Fairfield County
- 58 million dollar project, 95% of construction costs to be reimbursed by the State
- A “Six to Six” School



Planned Opening for EMS



- School is phased in beginning in 2009-10, adding one grade each year.
- EMS Teachers participate in professional development to prepare them to teach an environmentally-focused, project-based curriculum
- EMS Teachers are hired who are committed to the EMS program and to utilizing the green features of the building in instruction
- A unique program is developed, beginning in 2008, that will make the school attractive to students from Southern Fairfield County

Redistricting Committee Proposal



- Relocate Toquam staff and students to the Environmental Magnet School
- Maintain 20 schools instead of adding a 21st school to realize ~\$5.4 million
- The State will allow Toquam to be housed in the EMS facility during the phase-in of the Environmental Magnet School (and as long as seats are not being taken from students who would be in the EMS program)

State Requirements for EMS

to obtain State funding



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- All students at the EMS school, in all grades, must be admitted through the same lottery process, using the same criteria.
- At least 50% of the Stamford population at EMS must be admitted from the district's at large lottery (this means that 22 children per grade could be in a preferred geographic zone).
- A sibling policy is permitted by the State.
- 75% in-district students / 25% out-of-district students (funding dependent on this balance).

Proposed Transition Plan



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- Toquam students and teachers for Grades 2-5 are relocated to the EMS facility in September of 2009.
- EMS opens grades PreK – Grade 1 in 2009, and Grade 6 in 2010.
- 1st floor used by EMS, 2nd floor by Toquam as it is phased out

	Environmental Magnet School	Toquam Magnet Elementary School
September 2009	Open Grades PreK – Grade 1	House Grades 2-5 at the EMS school site. Students who will be entering Grade 1 from Toquam will enroll in the EMS in 2009.
September 2010	Open Grades 2 and Grade 6	House Grades 3-5 at the EMS site.
September 2011	Open Grades 3 and Grade 7	House Grades 4-5 at the EMS site.
September 2012	Open Grades 4 and Grade 8	House Grade 5 at the EMS site.
September 2013	Open Grade 5	Toquam has been completely phased-out.

EMS Middle School



- Proposal is to open Grade 6 in 2010-2011, phasing in one grade each year afterwards.
- Stamford will be reimbursed by the State with approximately \$256,500 for each grade, each year.
- Each grade can accommodate 60 students, 45 from Stamford.
- Funding is dependent on utilizing a consistent selection process that requires:
 - Students phased in for PreK, K, Grade 1, 2, and so on to be selected using the same criteria as those who attend the EMS middle school.
 - Although the Board may choose to establish a preference zone for the EMS, about 50% of Stamford's student population must come from the district's at-large lottery.
- We will apply for a waiver in the use of this selection criteria in admitting students to the EMS middle school.

Admissions to Toquam in 2008



- Grade 1 will be opened at the EMS in 2009 with in-district and out-of-district students to receive State funding.
- Kindergarteners admitted to Toquam in September 2008 become students at the EMS when they enter Grade 1 in 2009.
- To abide by State admissions criteria, only siblings can be admitted to Toquam's 2008 kindergarten class.
- Students in Toquam's attendance area who will be entering kindergarten in 2008 will be redistricted to other elementary schools.



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Questions?

