

Rogers Transition To EMS Working Group

Overview & Recommendation

July 22, 2008

Amended Resolution Passed By Board of Education Provides The Foundation For Our Work

Resolution 05-08-08:122b

BE IT RESOLVED that beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, the Board of Education of Stamford Public Schools will operate according to Scenario 2, Option 2B as outlined at the Public Hearing of May 5, 2008. As per this scenario, the Board of Education will close Rogers and open EMS in September, 2009. Current staff and students at Rogers will move to EMS in September 2009. All of the current district for Rogers will become the preference zone for EMS. Students moving over from Rogers to EMS will be guaranteed admission into the 6th grade at EMS beginning in 2010.

Amendment #1 - Students moving over from Rogers to EMS will be guaranteed admission into the 6th grade at EMS beginning in 2009 if that program is offered.

Amendment #2 - In furtherance of this resolution a Working Group be established comprised of Board of Education members, teachers, school administrators along with the Superintendent or his designee, and Rogers School parents and that said working group be charged with making recommendations to the full Board concerning an Operational Plan, including a recommendation to the full Board regarding the issues of operating the school on a K-5 basis or a K-8 basis.

Amendment #3 - The Board expresses the preference for a K-5 model. The timeline for the Committee shall be 60 days and a second vote of the Board shall be required to approve the Committee's recommendation.

Our Task

To Prepare and present recommended action plan for 2 scenarios transitioning current Rogers IB program, students and staff to EMS in 2009-2010.

- Scenario 1: K-5 Model (BOE preference)
- Scenario 2: K-8 Model

This Path Represents A Fundamental Change From How EMS Originally Conceived

Originally:

- Opening a new, 13th elementary school (pre-K-8 model)

Rogers Scenarios:

- Transitioning current Rogers IB program (with any necessary modifications to meet EMS guidelines), students, and staff to EMS building (K-5 or K-8)
 - Note: Rogers current IB Program of Inquiry is based on State standards for Science, Social Studies, etc. and does not need to be changed for EMS.

Recommendation Consists Of The Following Components

- Attendance/preference zone
- Stamford Magnet population (if any)
- Path forwarded on Rogers / EMS staffing
- Scenario Assessment
- Preliminary redistricting / busing implications
- Key Timelines
 - State approval in operating plan (grade level/IB program)
 - Waiver to confirm Construction reimbursement
 - Application for reimbursement of FF&E costs
- Other considerations/issues that will need to be addressed which are beyond the scope of the working group

Recommendation Based On Collective Viewpoint & Input Of Multiple Constituencies

Constituency	Key Issues
Rogers Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ IB program and entirety of Rogers students and staff transition together to EMS and stay through 5th/8th grade (depending on scenario) ▶ Rogers attendance zone (at minimum) attend EMS ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Grandfathering, Sibling policy, ongoing magnet opportunities ▶ Opportunity to expand IB to MYP ASAP (and ultimately to diploma program) ▶ Achieve balanced population ▶ Address significant Rogers facility issues (\$9-\$15MM capital required)
Rogers Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ All staff move together ▶ Not supportive of scenario if all staff members not included
Broader Stamford Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Minimal changes to “my” school/attendance zone ▶ Retain magnet seats/magnet choices
Board of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fiscal considerations (Operating and Capital budgets) ▶ Magnet seats/busing (i.e., redistricting considerations)
Central Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Contractual issues ▶ Fiscal considerations (Operating & Capital budgets)
Partner Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Compelling, unique program (approach, curriculum, grade levels) that will be seen as attractive to their residents ▶ Need approval for program and grade changes
State of Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Program changes must be consistent with guidelines and spirit of EMS ▶ Enrollment plan must be consistent with spirit of EMS/Interdistrict Magnet (e.g., balance/choice) ▶ All changes must be approved by the State to get reimbursement both for construction costs and partner district attendees
SEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ “Fairness” to its membership with opportunity to work in new school ▶ Specificity on 6-6 programming and implications

Attendance / Preference Zone Assumptions Across Scenarios

- 36 classrooms. Total EMS capacity of 720 (20 students per classroom)
 - Note: 20 students/classroom is an average and we could have 7 classrooms in K-1 @ 17/class, 6 in Grade 2-3 @ 20/class, 5 in Grades 4-5 @ 23/class
- 25% of attendance from outside Stamford district¹
 - 80% advantaged (similar to AITE experience)
 - Note: Almost all interdistrict magnet schools in CT are not meeting 25% out of district attendance goal and ALL continue to receive state reimbursement. One New Haven school has not reached this goal in any of its 8 years in operation and it still receives reimbursement.
- Overall balance: Strive for +/- 5% of district average advantaged (52%) / disadvantaged (48%)
- Stamford Magnet (if any):
 - Assume 50/50 advantaged / disadvantaged similar to Rogers current magnet population

¹ Per guidance from Mayor Malloy/A. Barbarotta to facilitate discussions with the state

Scenario 1: K-5 Assumptions And Overview

- 6 Classroom Model: 120 students / grade
- 90 Stamford seats / grade
- 17 Stamford magnet seats/grade (100 Magnet seats in total for K-5).

2009-2010

- EMS opens as K-5
 - K-1 as EMS, adding 1 grade/year
 - Grades 2-5 current Rogers
 - EMS K-5 transition complete in 2013-2014

Scenario 1: K-5 With 100 Magnet Seats

Ongoing Attendees

- 25% out of Stamford (80%/20% advantaged/disadvantaged)
- Attendance Zone 1: All current Rogers attendance zone [340 students (222 disadvantaged/118 advantaged)]
- Attendance Zone 2: Most of Toquam 2 [100 seats (81 disadv./19 adv.)]
 - Note: Total of 100 seats for a second attendance zone. Toquam 2 selected solely due to geographic proximity--EMS is within Toquam 2 attendance area. BOE may instead choose portion of KT Murphy attendance area and/or Westover 1 & 2 or some combination.
- 100 Stamford Magnet seats (50 disadvantaged/50 advantaged)
 - Similar to Rogers magnet seats today (105). 20% of total EMS Stamford seats.

Rogers to EMS: Scenario 1
Scenario 1: K-5 With 100 Magnet Seats

	Total	Disadv	Adv
Out of Stamford	180	36	144
Rogers District/Pref. Zone #1 (1)	340	222	118
Toquam 2/Pref Zone #2 (2)	100	81	19
Stamford Magnet	100	50	50
Total Stamford	540	353	187
Total Enrollment	720	389	331
Balance		54%	46%

- (1) Preference Zone #1: Rogers attendance zone
 --320-340 seats for 340 students
- (2) Pref. Zone #2: Could be Toquam 2, Westover 1&2, KT Murphy
 --100 seats available

Scenario 2: K-8 Assumptions And Overview

- 4 Classroom Model: 80 students/grade. 60 Stamford students / grade

2009-2010

- EMS opens as K-6
 - K-1 as EMS, adding 1 grade/year
 - Grades 2-6 current Rogers, staying through 8th grade
 - EMS K-8 transition complete in 2016-2017

Ongoing Attendees

- 25% out of Stamford
- All current Rogers attendance zone: 340 K-5 students today for 360 K-5 EMS slots (20 openings)
- 540 Stamford students in total including grades 6-8
- 30 remaining seats in K-8. A few seats which BOE may choose to use for Stamford magnet seats, grandfathering/siblings of current Rogers magnet students, for other attendance zones (e.g., Toquam 2, KT Murphy, etc.), to retain flexibility to achieve 25% out of district and/or for fluctuations in Rogers attendance zone population

Scenario 2: K-8

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Disadv</u>	<u>Adv</u>
<i>Out of Stamford</i>	180	36	144
Rogers Attendance Zone K-5 (1)	340	222	118
Rogers Attendance Zone 6-8	170	111	59
Remaining Stamford (2)	30	20	10
<i>Total Stamford</i>	540	353	187
<i>Total Enrollment</i>	720	389	331
<i>Balance</i>		54%	46%

Note:

- (1) Current Rogers attendance zone has 340 students K-5
 (2) 30 slots remain K-8 (3.3 slots per grade) which could be used as magnet seats, added pref zone seats, or for flexibility for Rogers population fluctuation or for out of district balance

Preliminary Redistricting / Busing Implications

All scenarios require some busing out of Cove neighborhood to balance and address capacity limitations at KT Murphy & EMS.

K-5 Scenario 1 (100 Stamford Magnet seats at EMS)

- Same or slightly reduced in busing vs. today (100 Toquam 2 students walk to EMS vs. bused today)
 - Note: BOE may use KT Murphy and/or Westover 1 & 2 as additional attendance/preference area to Rogers instead of Toquam 2.
- Toquam can potentially be used to address KT Murphy balance / capacity (approx. 60-80 students)
 - Replace Toquam 2 students (now in EMS) with a portion of KT Murphy attendance zone
- Westover 1 & 2 can be added back to Westover attendance zone, helping ensure Westover achieves balance
 - Buses already run from these attendance zones

K-8 Scenario

- Likely results in increased busing vs. today due to other redistricting issues (not specific to this scenario)
 - Toquam 2 and Westover 1 & 2 remain bused as they are today
 - KT Murphy balance / capacity issues met through incremental busing vs. today

Implementation/Transition Issues

Minimal student population implementation issues exist for these two scenarios

- Issues only exist for 2008-2009 Rogers Kindergarten class (planned at 85 students—60 current Rogers attendance zone/25 magnet) which will be EMS Grade 1 in 2009-2010. Consistent with communication provided to parents when signing up for Kindergarten, some students from the Kindergarten class may need to be sent to other schools in 2009-2010:
 - Scenario 1: 90 Stamford seats (60 Rogers, 20 Pref Zone #2, 10 magnet). May need to move 15 '08-'09 Kindergarten magnet students to other schools. Alternatively, BOE can keep all '08-'09 K magnet students in place and delay moving attendance zone #2 to EMS for one year.
 - Scenario 2: 60 Stamford seats. 25 students (all '08-'09 Kindergarten magnet students) would need to be sent to other schools
- No other capacity or student disruption issues exist in implementation

Summary & Comparison Of Benefits By Scenario

Constituency / Benefits	Scenario	
	1	2
<u>Rogers Parents</u>		
• Allows current Rogers attendance/grandfathering	✓	✓
• Allows sibling/magnet opportunities	✓+	✓
• EMS is balanced	✓	✓
• Rogers facilities' issues addressed	✓	✓
• IB expansion to middle years ¹	✓	✓+
<u>Rogers Staff</u>		
• Allows all Rogers staff to move to EMS together (pending SEA contractual issue resolution)	✓	✓
<u>Broader Stamford Community</u>		
• Minimizes disruption and impact on “my” school	✓	✓
• Allows Stamford Magnet seats at EMS	✓	✓-
<u>Board of Education</u>		
• Avoids \$5.4MM cost of operating 13 th elementary school	✓	✓
• Avoids \$10-\$15MM Rogers capital costs	✓	✓
• Impact to busing	✓	✓-
• IB Modification to program impact on State/partner districts	✓+	✓+
• Grade level change to program impact on State/partner districts	✓-	✓
• State Construction Cost Reimbursement	✓-	✓
<u>SEA²</u>		
• Allows some openings for non-Rogers staff ³	✓	✓
• Allows 5 openings per year ongoing (historical Rogers attrition)	✓	✓

1 Assumes MYP implemented at Rippowan for Scenario 1 K-5

2 Wholesale changes to Rogers staff at EMS puts IB re-authorization at risk

3 TBD--Approximately 5-6 (10%) EMS accredited positions for non-Rogers staff when EMS opens not including historic Rogers turnover of 5 positions annually.

Each Scenario Carries Issues That Need To Be Addressed Once Desired Scenario Selected

Issue	Comments		Action Needed /Timing
	K-5	K-8	
Potential Loss of State reimbursement of \$39.5MM construction/FF&E costs	Biggest Issue	No Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mayor, Stamford delegation, BOE, Central Administration to work with state to gain approval ▶ <u>Timing</u>: Work begins Q3 2008. Application to State by 10/1/2008. Should have partner district approval in advance. ▶ Reimbursement can occur post school opening
State approval to change in programs and grades	Slightly Bigger Issue	Smaller Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Central administration /BOE / Mayor reach out to state ▶ <u>Timing</u>: As soon as scenario selected
Partner District Approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ IB likely a positive ▶ Fewer grade levels (no pre-K/middle school) may be an issue 	Slightly Bigger Issue	Smaller Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Central administration, Mayor to reach out to partner districts ▶ <u>Timing</u>: As soon as scenario selected
SEA Contractual Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must gain agreement to Rogers staff moving together to EMS 	Issue TBD	Issue TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ BOE, Central Administration, Mayor (?) to work with SEA to gain agreement ▶ <u>Note</u>: Need SEA approval or Rogers Staff/Parents support NEITHER scenario ▶ <u>Timing</u>: As soon as scenario selected

Scenario Assessment For Key Constituencies

Constituency	Assessment / Issues
Rogers Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Any scenario allows Rogers attendance zone to attend with grandfathering current attendees ▶ Any scenario achieves balance ▶ K-5 Scenario 1 provides opportunity for sibling policy and Stamford magnet seats ▶ K-8 Scenario 2 (30 open seats) may allow sibling policy for current magnet students ▶ Any scenario addresses Rogers facility issues ▶ K-8 Scenario 2 provides MYP expansion with highest probability of success ▶ MYP addressed in K-5 Scenario 1 via Rippowam. Needs resources / focus to ensure success
Rogers Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ TBD K-8 Scenario 2 may not allow all staff to move to EMS (4 classroom model). (Rogers a 5+ classroom model, including bilingual.) ▶ TBD K-5 Scenario 1 allows all staff to move to EMS, with add'l openings for other teachers
Broader Stamford Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ All scenarios uniquely minimize impact to other elementary schools ▶ K-5 Scenario 1 allows 100 Stamford Magnet seats ▶ K-8 Scenario 2 allows 30 potential Stamford Magnet seats
Board of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Closing Rogers avoids \$5.4 MM incremental cost of operating 13th elementary school ▶ Closing Rogers avoids \$10-\$15MM Rogers capital costs ▶ K-5 Scenario 1 allows all Rogers attendance zone plus most of Toquam 2 to attend EMS ▶ K-5 Scenario 1 presents \$6.7MM risk to construction reimbursement ▶ K-5 Scenario 1 requires attracting 36 students per grade from partner districts, vs. 24 in K-8
Central Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Contractual issues still need to be addressed ▶ Operating budget likely neutral to other options. Capital budget impact positive vs. keeping Rogers open. ▶ Need State approval to ensure capital reimbursement in K-5 scenario
Partnering Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ IB program modification may be seen as a positive ▶ Reduction in grade levels a potential issue, more so for K-5 Scenario 1 ▶ Pre-K might be addressed via CLC
State of Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ IB program modification may be a positive at best and a smaller issue at worse ▶ Reduction in grades an issue, but likely manageable ▶ K-5 Scenario 1 construction reimbursement likely biggest issue
SEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Must understand/agree to fundamental change in EMS from opening new school to transitioning Rogers program and staff to EMS ▶ Rogers Staff not transitioning to EMS negates Rogers Staff/Parent support and puts IB authorization at risk ▶ TBD K-5 Scenario 1 allows potentially at 5 least openings immediately, plus 5 certified

Construction Cost Reimbursement Risk of \$39.5MM Represents By Far The Greatest Concern for Scenario 1 (K-5)

Per conversations with State Director of Bureau of School Facilities David Wedge, Scenario 1 (K-5) poses substantial risk to receiving State reimbursement of construction funds.

- Total Risk is \$39.5MM (\$37.7MM for Construction and \$1.8MM for FF&E)
 - Total Construction Costs are \$58MM.
 - Current EMS State Reimb. @ 95%: \$55.1MM
 - Normal Reimbursement @ 30% is \$17.4MM
 - Space standard waiver for K-5 vs. K-8 puts an additional \$6.7MM at risk
 - FF&E Costs are \$2.8MM
 - Current EMS State Reimbursement @ 95% is \$2.66MM
 - Normal State Reimbursement at 30% is \$0.84MM
- Timetable for State approval implies BOE must make a decision to move forward without clarity from the State.
 - October 1, 2008: Deadline to apply to State for approval of change via general assembly
 - Should have approvals from Partner districts and Bill Magnotta on changes to grades and program prior to State application
 - General Assembly approval may not come until end of 2008-2009 legislative session (June 2009)
- Waiting for potential State approval of K-5 delays opening of EMS and re-districting.

Scenario 2 (K-8) Recommendation Supported by Consensus of Working Group

Working group recommends Scenario 2 (K-8)

- While Scenario 1 (K-5) meets criteria for Rogers attendees, area walkers, and Stamford magnet seats, it carries significant (\$39.5MM) risk to construction cost reimbursement should State not approve change to K-5 model.
- Scenario 2 meets goals of Resolution while minimizing impact to other Stamford elementary schools. Although it does not offer as significant Stamford magnet seat opportunity or increase area walkers, it does *not* present construction reimbursement risk.
 - Note: Scenario 2 likely results in 32-52 MORE total Stamford Magnet seats than does an alternative scenario of closing Toquam.
 - Scenario 2 has 105 fewer Stamford magnet seats vs. current (eliminates Rogers 105 current magnet seats).
 - Closing Toquam has net reduction of approximately 137-157 magnet seats vs. current.
 - Closing Toquam removes 291 current magnet seats
 - EMS K-8 would likely have approximately 130-150 magnet seats. Total K-5 340 Stamford Students: Toquam 2 126 students; Balance KT Murphy moving 60-80 students to EMS. Remaining 134-154 magnet
 - Toquam has 148 seats *additional* capacity that might be used to increase magnet seats.
- In Scenario 2, desired expansion of IB program for more Stamford students may be accommodated by offering the program at other Stamford elementary schools and Rippowam Middle School (as currently planned).