



MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 19-125

TO: Trustees
Student Trustees

FROM: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board
Michèle Giroux, Executive Officer, Corporate Services
Mary Jane Farrish, Superintendent of Instruction

DATE: 8 November 2019

RE: **Additional Information Regarding Transition Monitoring of the Gloucester-Rideau Amalgamation**

Attached please find a copy of the most recent Transition Monitoring Report (TMR) on the Gloucester Rideau amalgamation of schools. This report is being provided to you in advance of the upcoming November 19, 2019 COW deliberation about the ongoing production of the report.

The development of the report was the result of a Board motion adopted on 7 March 2017. The purpose of the motion was to ensure ongoing monitoring of the transition process on student achievement and to inform future amalgamation decisions.

The motion required the production of a report for February 2018 and every year thereafter for three years. To date, reports have been presented to Committee of the Whole on 1 May 2018 and 28 May 2019. The third report will be presented in May 2020, unless otherwise directed.

The production of the report requires approximately 105 - 140 hours of READ staff time to generate, as well as support from staff in both Business & Learning Technologies and the Planning Department. Key tasks include the identification, retrieval and verification of student achievement and enrolment data, and the disaggregation of data based on former school boundaries. Once these data files have been prepared, analysis of the data helps to determine if there are differences in trends between students who reside in the former Gloucester school boundary versus those who reside in the former Rideau school boundary.

After two years of reporting, the data suggests that since amalgamation of the two schools, enrolment is relatively stable and attrition rates have declined, credit accumulation is consistent with the district average and success rates on the OSSLT were similar to those observed prior to amalgamation. In addition, parent ratings of school inclusivity, how welcome they feel at Gloucester, how well the school supports positive behavior and learning, and school safety have all increased compared to

OurSCHOOL School Climate Survey parent results for Gloucester HS prior to the amalgamation.

In addition to the quantitative data, the motion requires the collection of qualitative data. This is collected by school staff and shared with READ for inclusion in the report. From the outset, the school has raised concern that the collection of school level data is counter-productive to the school's efforts to build a unified community. In addition, the data collection process becomes more challenging each year as the student population has less affiliation with the former Rideau HS. Students who would have previously attended the former Rideau HS would be in their fourth year of high school, many of whom will be graduating this year. In October 2018, there were 152 former Rideau students enrolled at Gloucester, representing 15% of the total school population; nearly two-thirds of these students were in grade 12 in 2018-2019.

One consideration in making a decision about the continuation of this report is how the information in the report will help to inform future accommodation review decisions related to school closures.

Staff will be available at the meeting to answer any questions.

Attach.

Cc Senior Staff
Manager of Board Services
Corporate Records