



**Halifax Regional Library Board Meeting**  
January 18, 2024  
Central Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom

**Present**

Marika Warren  
Christian Browne  
Kathryn Morse  
Tony Mancini  
Sue Murtagh  
Kim Brooks  
Chi Harris

**Staff**

Åsa Kachan  
Alison Lucio  
Cathy Maddigan

**Regrets**

Ayo Aladejebi

**1.0 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda**  
**Approval of Minutes of November 2, 2023**

Marika Warren called the meeting to order.  
Christian Browne put forward a motion to approve the agenda as circulated.  
This motion was seconded by Kathryn Morse.  
*Motion approved.*

Tony Mancini put forward a motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2023.  
This motion was seconded by Kathryn Morse.  
*Motion approved.*

**2.0 In-Camera Session**

Marika Warren put forward a motion to move to an in-camera session to discuss the following:

- Board Correspondence
- Collective Bargaining Update
- CEO Update

3.0 Cyber Security

Tony Mancini put forward a motion to return to the Business portion of the meeting. This motion was seconded by Christian Browne.

*Motion Approved.*

#### **4.0 Chair's Report**

Board Chair Marika Warren confirmed that the Library has not received any update from the province regarding the two outstanding provincial library board appointments.

Members welcomed newly appointed board member Sue Murtagh as it was her first in-person meeting of the Board.

#### **5.0 Chief Librarian & CEO Report**

Director of Facilities Megan Gainer spoke to the facilities report which was included in the Board package. Keshen Goodman renovations are well underway and we would be happy to tour any Board members throughout the construction space. The architect firm for both Keshen Goodman and Sheet Harbour (Rec and Fire) is Arch49.

A team from the Library has been meeting with the architects regarding Children's Play-based learning. It is anticipated that overall concept and approach for the Central's children's space can be also used in other branches.

Åsa Kachan provided a CEO update. Highlights included:

- National Temperature Check: cyber security continues to be a point of discussion for public libraries. OLA is happening next week, Åsa shared she will be having conversations with the CEO group regarding the current cyber security incidents with TPL and London Public Library.
- AI and disinformation continues to be a priority – especially with respect to upcoming elections.
- Intellectual Freedom remains a focus. There are instances where communities are demanding time with the Board to argue whether particular books should be within the collection. This makes it incredibly difficult to engage the community and appropriately govern under these circumstances.
- CORL (NS CEOs) continue to work with the province regarding the implementation of a new formula formulation. Åsa shared that she has been asked to be part of the discussion team. NS Libraries have a bridge funding request submitted to the government which is being considered.

#### **6.0 Board Committees**

##### **6.1 Board Executive**

The Board Executive Committee did not meet.

## **6.2 Finance & Audit**

The current financials were included in the meeting package. The Library's Business Plan was also included. The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee shared that there were no concerns from the Committee with the current financials and budget for the Library.

Marika Warren, Interim Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, put forward the following motion:

THAT the Terms of Reference for the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee be approved as circulated.

This motion was seconded by Christian Browne.

*Motion approved.*

### **Business Plan**

The Business Plan presentation was included in the Board package. Mairead Barry provided an overview of the presentation and Business Plan documents. Business Plan documents. The Library is not requesting additional funds, and the only significant area of difference is within salaries because of the retroactive increase. Council approved an increase to the Collection at an earlier Budget meeting. We are so grateful for the work we did with Cathie O'Toole and team regarding the improved collection budget that was approved as part of the consent agenda. This year's process has been collaborative and insightful.

The Library's biggest challenge exists with reaching the lofty vacancy management target. Reaching this target will likely result in slight gapping of positions, etc.

Marika Warren put forward a motion to approve the Business Plan as presented. This motion was seconded by Chi Harris.

*Motion approved.*

## **6.3 Planning & Performance Committee**

The Planning & Performance Committee met twice between scheduled Board meetings. Chi Harris put forward a motion to approve the Terms of Reference of the Planning & Performance Committee as circulated.

This motion was seconded by Marika Warren.

*Motion approved.*

## **7.0 Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Tony Mancini put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Kathryn Morse.

Motion approved, meeting adjourned.