



**Halifax Regional Library Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 12, 2024**  
Zoom

**Board Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Marika Warren  
Ayo Aladejebi  
Kathryn Morse  
Sue Murtagh  
Christian Browne  
Kim Brooks  
Tony Mancini

**Staff:**

Åsa Kachan  
Mairead Barry  
Cathy Maddigan  
Alison Lucio  
Megan Gainer  
Dave MacNeil

*\*Large public contingent (approximately 120 people) attended the public portion of the meeting via Zoom.*

**1.0 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda**

Marika Warren called the meeting to order.

Ayo Aladejebi put forward a motion to approve the agenda as circulated. This motion was seconded by Christian Browne.

*Motion approved.*

Kathryn Morse put forward a motion to approve the minutes of July 25, 2024. This motion was seconded by Chi Harris.

*Motion approved.*

**2.0 Chair's Report**

Board Chair Marika Warren spoke to the correspondence regarding the current labour situation at the library. Marika shared that the overall tone of the correspondence speaks to the importance of libraries, and a wish for the parties to come to an agreement so the well-loved library spaces can re-open to the public.

Marika spoke the recent provincial appointment made to the Library Board. In addition, it is expected that the municipal appointments to the Library Board will be made public very soon as Regional Council has approved the appointments of three individuals as new members of the Halifax Regional Library Board. Thank you to the Clerk's office, and especially to Annie Sherry, the Public Appointments Coordinator with the Municipal Clerk's Office. Incoming Board members will receive orientation to the library board once appointed.

Keshen Goodman recently re-opened after extensive renovations to the space. Marika Warren provided an overview of the successful public reopening and festivities that happened throughout the re-opening weekend of July 26. Marika spoke to how the renovations and event reflect the Library's values and impact to the community. A community bbq was held, and many provided their thanks and appreciation for the hallal menu. A number of dignitaries spoke at the event, and the re-opening weekend was incredibly well attended. Thank you to all that provided time, energy, and expertise into the reopening event and renovations. Board Chair Marika Warren shared that Director of Facilities Megan Gainer will provide a more technical update on the building later in the meeting.

### **3.0 Public Participation**

The Library Board is committed to conducting its meetings in a productive and efficient manner that assures that the regular agenda of the Board is completed in a reasonable period of time and honours the voluntary nature of the Board's time. It is important to remember that the Board conducts its meetings in public, but that the regularly scheduled business meetings are not public forums.

For the Board to fulfill its obligations to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at scheduled business meetings of the Board. Public participation shall be limited to comments or questions concerning items on that meeting's agenda.

Board Chair Marika Warren shared that she anticipates that many of the guests and speakers will be addressing the labour disruption at Halifax Public Libraries and shared that the Board appreciates the commitment of community members and staff that wish to speak on this matter and are here to listen to your feedback.

Speaker 1: Ali Breen

Speaker 2: Natasha Williams

Speaker 3: Sarah Ziolkowska

Speaker 4: John Dulong

The four speakers provided their feedback to the Board, and Marika Warren thanked them for their participation and input.

#### **4.0 Board Committee Reports**

##### **4.1 Board Executive Committee**

The Board Executive Committee did not meet between meetings.

##### **4.2 Finance & Audit Committee**

Marika Warren shared that the Library's audit remains open. The auditors have not made any recent requests of the finance team, nor have they voiced any concerns to date. This increased time to conduct the audit is a similar experience to every year post-covid. The Committee and the Board will continue to monitor, and will alert the Board if the date for the Annual Meeting needs to be adjusted based on the date the audit concludes.

##### **4.3 Planning & Performance Committee**

The Planning & Performance Committee did not meet between meetings.

#### **5.0 CEO Update**

Åsa Kachan provided a brief verbal CEO Update.

#### **6.0 In Camera Session**

Ayo Aladejebi put forward a motion to move in-camera to discuss the following agenda items:

##### **6.1 Labour Update**

##### **6.2 Library Leases**

With no further business, Marika Warren called for the adjournment of the meeting.  
*Motion approved.*