

Chair D. Deans' Verbal Report, OPSB Meeting April 26, 2021

Good afternoon everyone.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the tragic events that unfolded in our City on Friday, and to express my condolences to the family of Carl Reinboth.

I would now like to provide an update on the motions that the Board carried last fall. The Board has been working diligently to move forward with the commitments that were made on a variety of topics.

The Finance and Audit working group continues to meet to explore options for how the 2022 draft budget can be reduced or frozen at 2021 levels.

The Policy and Governance Committee met earlier this month and approved a scope of work document for the Board's Strategic Planning process.

The Terms of Reference for the Community Engagement process were also approved, and we are actively working to recruit a consultant to complete this work.

Our Board is committed to improving community safety and fulfilling our responsibilities under the Police Services Act to provide adequate and effective policing in the City of Ottawa.

We recognize that having open dialogue with the community is key to meeting these objectives, and that we need to do more to build the trust and understanding that is required for community members to feel comfortable sharing their feedback with the Board.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that we are committed to pushing the OPS change agenda forward, and that we will continue to learn from our experience as we do so. We will not always get it right, but we will continue to try and to learn as we work together to advance change and to address the challenges that arise.

I would also like to acknowledge public concerns about the rapid spread of COVID-19 over the last several weeks, and the enforcement of public health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Chief Sloly has confirmed that OPS enforcement of COVID-19 measures will be guided by public health, and will rely on a combination of education, engagement and enforcement.

I have asked Chief Sloly to provide an update on COVID-19 protocols in his verbal report.

Finally, I would like to share an update on the recruitment of a new Chief Administration Officer.

The OPSB has retained the services of Odgers Berndston to help us conduct our recruitment process, and we hope to have the opportunity posted in the coming week so candidates can begin submitting their applications. We recognize that the CAO is a pivotal position in the Police Service, and the Board is committed to finding an outstanding candidate in as timely a fashion as possible.