

Good afternoon OPSB,

I would like to start by expressing my deep disappointment at the format of this month's meeting, and the Board's refusal to grant accessibility accommodations for individuals who are unable to deliver their delegation in person. There is no reason to not offer a hybrid solution and allow community members to deliver their delegation virtually, especially with rising COVID-19 cases. Frankly, it is undemocratic, ableist, and irresponsible due to health risks. If this Board is committed to earning the community's trust - I urge you to provide the opportunity for people to deliver their delegations virtually next month.

As we're all aware, the OPS's acquiescence to the convoy occupation was outrageous. I, like many other community members, am extremely skeptical of the police services and their ability to demonstrate accountability. I urge the Board to work ASAP on launching a full, independent review of the Ottawa police's response to the occupation. Reports on how OPS members offered their support to the occupation either by allowing them to dig into the downtown core and at Coventry or directly aiding them by providing intelligence need to be investigated.

Ultimately, many of us who have been calling for the defunding of the police, and from whom you'll be hearing a lot today, are not surprised at the police's chummy response to the occupiers. Police do not keep the community safe. We will continue to advocate to defund the police and put funding back into the community.