



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DES SERVICES  
SOCIAUX DU DISTRICT DE MANITOULIN-SUDBURY

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**MINUTES**  
of the  
**MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING**  
held at the Espanola DSSAB Mead Street Board Room  
**September 22, 2005**

Present: Pat Best, Fern Bidal, Ray Chénier, Earle Freeborn,  
Les Gamble, Frank Gillis, Bruce Killah, Mike Lehoux, Laurier Low,  
Bud Rohn, Richard Stephens, Maureen Van Alstine, Dale Van Every

Staff: Gary R. Champagne, CAO  
Suzanne Bouchard, E.A. (Recording Secretary)  
Connie Morphet, Director of Finance  
Fern Dominelli, Director of Social Services  
Peter Bradley, Manager, Housing Services  
Aurel Malo, HR Services  
Jeff Horseman, Director of EMS  
Michael Maclsaac, EMS Operations Manager  
Karen Dominick, Community Programs Supervisor

Regrets: Collin Bourgeois

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Ray Chénier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed members back to this their first meeting since the summer recess.

**2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Fern Bidal asked that Cambrian College's closure of the Alpha en Partage Program in Sudbury-East be added to Other Business.

**Resolution No. 05-77 Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Les Gamble  
THAT the agenda be adopted as amended. **Carried**

**3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**4.0 CLOSED SESSION**

**Resolution No. 05-78 Moved by:** Pat Best **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every  
THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:05 a.m. to discuss Human Resources and Property matters. **Carried**

**Resolution No. 05-79 Moved by:** Frank Gillis **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine  
THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:15 a.m. and report. **Carried**

The Chair underlined the presence of Jeff Horseman, Director of EMS and Michael Maclsaac, EMS Operations Manager as this was the first Board meeting they had the opportunity of attending since becoming members of the DSSAB team some months back. Board members in turn introduced themselves to Jeff and Michael.

**5.0 MINUTES**

**5.1. Adoption of Minutes of June 23, 2005**

**Resolution No. 05-80 Moved by:** Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine  
THAT the minutes of the June 23, 2005 Board meeting be approved. **Carried**

**6.0. BUSINESS ITEMS****6.1. Closed Session Report**

Items discussed during the Closed Session included:

- EMS Management
- Surplus land in Espanola
- Chapleau Ambulance Station developments
- Espanola Ambulance Station lease developments
- Wikwemikong Ambulance Station and MOHLTC relationship
- C.A. MacMillan Place ownership transfer developments
- CUPE correspondence
- Human Resources Management contract

**6.2. Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Resolution**

The CAO indicated that the resolution before them for their consideration spoke to the concerns that members had often times raised over the past years relative to the role that Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (DSSABs/CMSMs) have when it comes to the ODSP program. E.g. The ODSP program is directly run by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. While DSSABs must provide the Ministry with a great deal of detail re: the costs incurred in the DSSAB's administration of the OW program; the Province is not required to provide the same detail to municipalities re: its management of its directly run ODSP program: and this despite the fact that the provincial-municipal cost sharing arrangement relative to both programs are identical. The cost of the Ministry-run ODSP program have been continually escalating over each of the last six years whereas the cost of the DSSAB run OW program have gone down over this same time frame. Our DSSAB previously petitioned MCSS to either provide 100% funding for its ODSP program or divest the management of the program to the DSSAB since DSSAB case managers often know the ODSP clients better than their Ministry workers do given that DSSAB case managers tend to have more dealings with these clients as a result of the special needs and supports that these clients have to call on DSSABs to provide to them.

AMO has of late added its voice to that of the province's CMSMs/DSSABs who are advocating to see this provincially run program 100% funded by the Province. The main arguments for same are that it is a program that is directly run by the Province and in fact a "long term income security" program and should as such not be funded by way of the municipal property tax base any more than any other long term income security program (i.e. - CPP).

In the discussion that followed Board members decided to this time refrain from making any mention of the option that the Ministry divest the operation of the ODSP program to the municipal services managers if its cost sharing funding is to remain unchanged.

**Resolution No. 05-81 Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Frank Gillis  
WHEREAS the Ministry of Community and Social Services has for the last five years downloaded costs for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) to the municipal sector through its ten District Social Services Administration Boards and thirty-seven Consolidated Municipal Service Managers;  
AND WHEREAS the costs for the Ontario Disability Support Program have continued to rise and now constitute 36% of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services

Administration Board's overall operating budget: the largest cost centre in the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB budget;  
 AND WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB has no control over these costs given that this is a provincially run program;  
 AND WHEREAS this is a long term income maintenance/pension program;  
 AND WHEREAS there is little evidence that the province is taking steps to contain, reduce or minimize the costs associated with this program;  
 AND WHEREAS the DSSAB is of the opinion that a long term social program providing long-term financial support should not be paid for from the municipal tax base;  
 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB petition the provincial government, through the Ministry of Community and Social Services, to resolve this matter by paying 100% of the cost of ODSP income maintenance and ODSP administration in the province of Ontario;  
 AND THAT this resolution will be forwarded to the other 46 CMSMs/DSSABs, NOSDA, NOMA, AMO, OMSSA, and local MPPs. **Carried**

### 6.3. Child Care - Best Start Program

Gary provided members an overview of Ontario's Best Start program. He began by noting:

- That the program has been made possible thanks to the Federal government's decision to massively invest in the expansion of the affordable regulated child care spaces available in each province that signed on to the terms of the Federal-Provincial Child Care and Learning Agreement.
- The "Best Start" program has a number of built-in program features and expectations that are unique to Ontario and that will not necessarily be found in other provinces.
- In announcing the program the then Minister of Child and Youth Services, Marie Bountrogianni, indicated that Ontario would replace Québec and set the "gold standard" when it came to child care in this country.
- Ontario's Best Start initiative is a ten-year strategy that is intended to give children the best possible start in life by providing them and their families with easy access to an integrated range of locally accessible developmental services and supports they might need to remove the barriers to their ability to maximize the likelihood of their success in school.
- In its first phase, Best Start involves the massive expansion of locally available, affordable, quality regulated child care.
- The initial focus is to see these new spaces established in neighbourhood schools with the primary target group consisting of child care geared to Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten age children.
- As a means of removing the barriers that prevent some families from accessing child care because of the costs involved, the province is working on the development of a new sliding income test that municipalities (DSSABs/CMSMs) will use to decide who is eligible for a child care subsidy.
- As a means of promoting municipal buy-in given the pivotal role they play, via their DSSABs, in the service management of the child care services infrastructures in their jurisdiction (via their DSSAB) the province has decided to eliminate the usual 20% municipal contribution that is required for all new licensed child care spaces created (over the next five years).
- In future phases, the initiative foresees the establishment of accessible early learning and care "hubs" via which families can access the range of publicly funded support services needed to promote the healthy development of their children. The ultimate longer term goal of Best Start is the establishment of a network of centrally located community hubs that will offer a single integrated, seamless point of access

- to services and supports based on local needs and available resources.
- The responsibility for the development of the “Best Start” child care plans rests with the province’s 47 CMSMs/DSSABs. The responsibility for the development and coordination of the more encompassing “Best Start” early learning and care “hubs” in the DSSAB’s jurisdiction rests with a planning table chaired by the DSSAB that also includes as its core members: local School Boards and Authorities, as well as the local Health Unit not to mention representatives from the Regional offices of both the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Education.
  - It is the province’s expectation that DSSABs will have their Best Start Child Care Plan signed off by their Boards by October 31, 2005 and the more encompassing Best Start Early Learning and Child Care Hubs implementation plan signed off by December 31, 2005.
  - The province has targeted the creation of 110 new child care spaces in our jurisdiction over the next three years. These new spaces will be 100% funded for the first five years. It is not known what the cost sharing arrangement will be beyond those five years. The province has also provided our DSSAB a capital funding allocation that is ours to allocate towards the physical plant modifications needed to adapt existing schools to accommodate new child care centres.
  - We have also been assured that we will receive a provincial allocation to be applied towards the extra costs that we will incur in the community planning and coordination work that must be carried out and that is expected of us to see this initiative successfully implemented in our jurisdiction.

Gary concluded his presentation by underlining the importance of the fact that the province’s decision to base the new Best Start funding provided to municipalities (DSSABs/CMSMs) “**on an equity model**” that includes the funding proportions of:

1. 40% based on proportional child population under the age of six; and
2. 60% based on equity factors including: low income population, education under grade nine, geographic dispersion, ... and community growth.”

He pointed out that while this funding allocation formula only applied to the province’s Best Start initiative, it was a significant move on the Province’s part to recognise that basing the formula we receive in Northern Ontario on a simple per capita basis as the province has spoken of doing when it came to our Ontario Works and Land Ambulance services funding would do little more than seriously strain Northern municipal coffers, seriously erode local service accessibility and definitely do nothing on the “provincial equity” front. **He underlined this allocation formula as definite good news for the North.** Karen Dominick emphasized that under this formula, our DSSAB was allocated a greater sum than most other DSSABs.

Appreciating that there is still a lot that remains to be confirmed regarding this initiative, Ray Chénier asked members for their comments.

While there was overall support for the infusion of the new dollars in our jurisdiction and concern re: the unknowns of the funding formula five years down the road, Richard Stephens asked to have it on record that he had a good deal of concern with the way this program was unfolding in Ontario. He indicated that he worried that the program’s real intent was to remove the barriers to having parents out of the home and in the work place earning an income rather than supporting them to stay at home with their children during their early formative years. He worried that the state is taking an ever greater role in raising our children when the responsibility primarily rests with the family. He indicated there would have been other ways and other choices that the province could have chosen to be of assistance to families whose children are experiencing

developmental challenges that impede their school readiness.

The Chair thanked Board members for their views, wished staff good luck with the work they had to accomplish in a very short time and indicated that the Board looked forward to receiving the Child Care Plan they apparently had to decide upon prior to October 31.

#### **6.4. Social Housing - Affordable Housing Program (AHP)**

Gary pointed out that the “**Affordable Housing Program**” also consisted of a new provincial initiative that came on the heels of a recently signed Federal-Provincial Agreement. He pointed out that there is much less known at this time about this program than there is about the just discussed Best Start program; that it too comes with tight deadlines as we must have a plan before the province by October 31<sup>st</sup> and that it too sees the usual municipal share (50%) set aside for a five year period.

Peter Bradley joined Gary in explaining that the initiative seemed to in fact consist of three different programs, each with its own set of rules and expectations.

Gary and Peter indicated that while they had already started to receive a number of inquiries re: the program from member municipalities and others, they could do little more than refer them to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing’s (MMAH) website at this time since none of the details and guidelines re: the program(s) were yet available. Peter indicated that he hoped to be in a better position re: the details subsequent to a September 28<sup>th</sup> program briefing session that the MMAH would be having for the North’s DSSABs.

Gary pointed out that the key worry he and his Northern peers had at this time rested in the fact that the hoops and hurdles that appeared to be known about the new initiative led them to believe that most of Northern Ontario might not be in a position to be able to meet the demands of the programs.

It appeared at first blush that the initiatives that came under the heading of the **Affordable Housing Program** were primarily designed to address the social housing needs of “growth communities” and that there was little flexibility available when it came to addressing the identified social housing problems and pressures particular to the North’s primarily rural and/or remote communities, most if not all of which are what is referred to as flat or declining (growth) communities.

The key concern is that there is not much flexibility in what can be done with the available dollars and, for the most part, it seems to be tied to expansion of new housing units which we may not necessarily have the ability to sustain. It would appear that this DSSAB has been allocated capital funding for 50 new units at \$25,000 per unit, with no commitment for funding beyond five years.

The DSSAB’s Administration will have a more comprehensive report for the Board at the October Board meeting.

## **7.0. REPORTS**

### **7.1. BOARD COMMITTEES**

#### **7.1.1. Property Committee**

Committee Chair Mike Lehoux reported that the Committee had met the night before.

**Land Ambulance Stations** –Mike reported that the DSSAB was proceeding with its plans to build a new Chapleau Ambulance Station: that we were in the process of buying the previously discussed piece of property from the French Language Catholic School Board and that the RFP to contractors re: their interest in the new construction was

underway. He reported that the CAO would be meeting with the Hospital's CAO to discuss the outstanding details that needed to be solved to see the Espanola General Hospital Ambulance Station lease renewed for a new five year term. He reported that the Administration would be writing to the French River municipality regarding the DSSAB's interest in renewing the Noëlville land ambulance garage lease.

He reported that the DSSAB's Administration was clear as to the need to work closely with its solicitor re: the matter of agreements to be signed with the Band and /or the MOHLTC regarding the DSSAB's tenancy at the new Land Ambulance station built by the Wikwemikong Band in consultation with the MOHLTC's Emergency Health Services Branch.

Mike Lehoux noted that the Committee had also discussed two other items: (i) the transfer of the ownership of C.A. MacMillan Place; and (ii) the possible disposition of vacant lands in Espanola and that there were recommendations forthcoming re: each of these items.

**Resolution No. 05-82 Moved by:** Mike Lehoux **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal  
 THAT administration obtain appraisals for the vacant property owned by the DSSAB in the Espanola area and report back to the Board. **Carried**

**Resolution No. 05-83 Moved by:** Mike Lehoux **Seconded by:** Frank Gillis  
 WHEREAS the Board of the Directors of the C.A. MacMillan Non-Profit Housing Corporation has requested that divestment of the C.A. MacMillan building and assets to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB be explored; and  
 WHEREAS the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers has by way of their Motion 02-04 supported the request of the C.A. MacMillan Board of Directors; and  
 WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB Board of Directors, by way of its Resolution No. 04-16, resolved that its Administration be directed to explore the possibility of divestment of the C.A. MacMillan building and assets from the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB; and  
 WHEREAS its Administration has conducted the required exploration and has been advised by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that ministerial consent to transfer 10 O'Neil Street in Webbwood, Ontario is granted subject to the following conditions:

- The project continue to operate according to the operational framework legislated by the SHRA and therefore separately from the public housing portfolio managed by the DSSAB;
- In consenting to this transfer the Ministry is not agreeing to pay for any legal fees incurred and it is understood that C.A. MacMillan Non-Profit Housing Corporation and the Township will pay for any of the mortgagee's legal work;

AND WHEREAS the DSSAB Property Committee is satisfied that its Administration's findings indicate that divestment under these conditions is acceptable and something the DSSAB should act on provided such is still the desire of the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Property Committee recommends to the Board of the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB that it direct its Administration to proceed to inform the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers that the DSSAB is prepared to proceed with the January 1, 2006 divestment of the C.A. MacMillan Non-Profit Housing Corporation to the DSSAB provided the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers confirms that it wishes that the DSSAB proceed with such according to the terms stipulated by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. **Carried**

**Resolution No. 05-84 Moved by:** Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn  
 THAT the Board accept the Report of the Property Committee. **Carried**

### 7.1.2. EMS Planning Committee

Les Gamble, EMS Planning Committee Chair, reported that the Committee had met on September 21<sup>st</sup> and that the items discussed included: a review of the Committee's Terms of Reference, the difficulty in getting the MOHLTC to provide us the requested "geoplots" re: the Sudbury-East region, and the extent and the nature of community consultation process as well as the upcoming November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Emergency First Response Teams (EFRT) in the DSSAB's catchment area.

The Committee recommended that the DSSAB's Administration not proceed with the extensive community consultation process proposed as it risked raising expectations re: what more could be done when the issues at hand pertained to our DSSAB's ability to sustain its current EMS service levels with the budget at its disposal. Les Gamble pointed out that it was the Committee's recommendation that its Administration provide the Committee with its recommendations of that to the strategic directions the DSSAB should pursue and that Committee discussions and recommendations to the Board be based on the Committee's discussions of its Management's recommended directions.

Fern Bidal suggested that instead of simply seeking to renew the land ambulance lease now in place in Noëlville, the DSSAB should conduct a market survey to see what else is available in the area. This is to be referred back to the EMS Planning Committee.

**Resolution No. 05-85 Moved by:** Mike Lehoux **Seconded by:** Pat Best

THAT the Board accept the Report of the EMS Planning Committee.

**Carried**

## 7.2 CAO REPORT

### 7.2.1 Operational Management Reports

#### 1. Ontario Municipal Social Services Association's (OMSSA's) Campaign 47

Campaign 47 was launched by OMSSA. Gary gave an overview of the OMSSA Campaign 47, indicating that the 47 in the title relates to the 47 CMSMs/DSSABs in Ontario. *(There are 37 CMSMs in Ontario. They primarily consist of Upper Tier Municipalities, most of which are County governments. The only CMSM in Northern Ontario is the City of Greater Sudbury. The Northern counterpart to Southern Ontario's CMSMs is DSSABs. They are ten in number. DSSABs are quite often referred to by the Province as either UTMs or municipalities even though they are clearly not municipalities. They exist by virtue of the fact that there were no corresponding UTMs (County governments or District governments in Northern Ontario) to whom the previous provincial government could divest or download the services it wanted to see municipally service managed by other than single tier municipalities in Northern Ontario). (There exists one District government in Ontario. It is the District Municipality of Muskoka. It is one of the province's 37 CMSMs.)*

With all of the attention that municipalities have had to dedicate to matters such as municipal water and sewers, the aim of OMSSA's Campaign 47 is to remind municipalities that the health and vitality of their communities requires solid and sustainable municipal infrastructures and that these infrastructures in turn consist of not only the bricks and mortar that one routinely associates with municipal infrastructures but also consists of the municipal health and social services infrastructures that are a critical component of the sustainable municipal infrastructure required to ensure a healthy community.

While there is little doubt that bricks and mortar consume a lot of a municipality's money and resources, the municipal health and social services infrastructures that are managed by our Health Unit and our DSSAB are equally important. Municipalities typically invest anywhere between 30% and 45% of their municipal tax revenues on their

community health and social services infrastructures. The slogan between OMSSA's Campaign 47 is that "**Investing In People Makes Sense**".

OMSSA has asked its 47 CMSM and DSSAB members to speak to their member municipalities re: the importance of their community health and social services investment to the sustainability of their municipal infrastructures and to indicate their readiness and willingness to speak to municipal councils and associations re: same. Gary informed Board members that the DSSAB administration is more than willing to do just that and also informed members that they could obtain more information on a lot of the data behind OMSSA's claim that **Investing In People Makes Sense** from OMSSA's website that can be accessed via the Links section of the DSSAB's [www.msdsb.net](http://www.msdsb.net) website.

### 7.2.2 Operational Management Reports

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- **Ontario Works Report**
- **Children's Services Report**
- **Social Housing Report**
- **Emergency Medical Services**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report**

Questions were raised regarding the EMS Report and the Quarterly Financial Report.

#### **EMS Report**

Mike Lehoux mentioned his talk with the local hospital's administration about the \$45 fee that hospitals were able to bill certain patients for the ambulance services provided to them. Gary noted that beyond what was stipulated in his e-memo to members re: same; it appeared that some hospitals chose to simply not bill because of the high default payments rates often incurred. He also noted that the matter had been discussed at the recent NOSDA meeting and that whereas not all DSSABs are certain they would like to assume the administrative collection responsibilities associated with applicable calls, most were in agreement that it was difficult to accept that whereas the Ministry of Health that co-funds ambulance services would receive 33% of all sums collected, yet the municipalities that also co-fund the service (to the tune of 65% of the bill in our DDDSA jurisdiction) would not receive any of the sums collected.

Building on Jeff horseman's comment that there were some 260 calls missing in the latest call volume report provided to us by the MOHLTC for our area, Maureen Van Alstine wondered if we would be attaining our 90<sup>th</sup> percentile standard if the statistics were more complete. Jeff Horseman replied that there is no way of knowing the answer to that one until the statistics provided by the Ministry become more accurate.

Laurier Low expressed concern regarding ambulance drivers who are not familiar with the geographic area they are working in resulting in their having difficulty getting to the patient(s) in a timely manner. Jeff Horseman pointed out that while it is not unusual to have calls where the Emergency First Response Team (EFRT) arrives at the scene before the ambulance does, concerns that paramedic responses would have been longer than they should have been due to the fact that the ambulance drivers do not know their way around is a concern. Jeff encouraged members to document any such occurrences that they might become aware of and report them to the DSSAB thus permitting a proper investigation to be carried out.

Fern Bidal asked about the status of the Cross-Border Billing issue. Gary replied that

the Ministry has indicated that it understands the issue and that they are working on it. Gary and Jeff spoke to the hope that many are placing in one Dr. Chris Mazza that the Minister of Health would have recently appointed to identify the solution to a number of systemic EMS problems. We trust this is one of the matters he will be addressing.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report**

Connie Morphet gave an overview of the circulated report indicating that there is a \$185,000 deficit forecast for 2005. In stating same, Connie pointed out that while our expenditures are on line with our projections, the problem lies more in the area of our receivables. Asked by Mr. Freeborn to elaborate on this, Connie pointed out that we began the budget year with a known probable revenue shortfall of \$138,400 when it comes the amount we build into our EMS budget as a X-Border receivable even though history has shown that Cross-border revenues payable to us are never forthcoming. Connie went on to cite that with the changes that the MOHLTC unilaterally imposed on us when it comes to the TWOMO (municipal) share payable for EMS also mean that we will likely receive less than the TWOMO allocation we believe we are legitimately entitled to. It was also pointed out that the "projected deficit" includes the approximately \$40,000 that the Board approved be spent to maintain the EMS coverage "status quo" at both the Noëlville and Foleyet stations after the present year's operating budget had been struck.

That said she pointed out that there have been a few recent developments since the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter report that lead us to believe the deficit may not be there by year end. Gary cited as an example, a recently received letter from the MOLTC that spoke to an increase in the amount the MOHLTC was according to us for our TWOMO (municipal) share purpose for the twelve month period commencing April 1/05. Gary pointed out that while the dollars were most certainly welcome and would help us come within budget, he still believed the amount we were being accorded for TWOMO purposes for the 2005/06 EMS budget year was less than the amount we believed we were legitimately entitled to receive per the TWOMO allocation determination clauses of the Ambulance Act.

### **7.2.3. Strategic Issues Report**

Gary reported that he had attended the NOSDA Annual General Meeting in September, along with Chair, Ray Chénier. He noted that the three resolutions advanced at the meeting by our DSSAB had been supported. The resolutions related to: a meeting with Minister Bartolucci re DSSAB Cost of Administration; the request that the findings of the DSSAB Governance & Accountability Study undertaken over a year ago be released to DSSABs; and a resolution that OSIFA funding available to municipalities for social housing purposes also be made available to DSSABs since, in the North, it is DSSABs and not municipalities that have municipal service management responsibility for the social housing portfolio.

Ray Chénier noted that there were a number of other important resolutions adopted at the Timmins meeting and that he would have the DSSAB's Administration bring these to the attention of Board members at a future point in time.

**Resolution No. 05-86 Moved by:** Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Les Gamble

THAT the CAO's Operational Management and Strategic Issues Reports be accepted.  
**Carried**

## **8.0. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1. AFMO Meeting**

Fern Bidal reported that he and Collin Bourgeois had represented the DSSAB at the

Annual Meeting of the Association française des Municipalités de l'Ontario. He added that it is thought that the AFMO voice is being heard clearly at government levels and that the Association could be very helpful to the DSSABs when it comes to the funding DSSABs would require to meet the costs associated with the French language service delivery obligations some of them may encounter to meeting the responsibilities that the Province previously had on this front and divested to municipalities through LSR as well as the new obligations that may be forthcoming with the province's Best Start initiative given its School First provisions and the close ties that this requires with local French language as well as English language School Boards be they public or catholic.

### **8.2. 2005 Staff Christmas Party**

**Resolution No. 05-87 Moved by:** Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn  
 THAT the Board contribute \$1000 towards the 2005 DSSAB Staff Christmas Party.

**Carried**

### **8.3. Cancellation of Alpha en Partage Program in Sudbury East**

Fern Bidal reported that Cambrian College had cancelled its Sudbury East based English Language Adult Education program, known as the Alpha Program, just as it had previously started to do in Manitoulin over one year ago. Mr. Bidal asked if there was anything the DSSAB could do to help get the program back up and running. Fern Dominelli indicated that he was aware of this recent development and again upset that Cambrian College would not have informed the DSSAB of its plans to close the program given the importance of the program to a number of clients and our partnership with Cambrian when it comes to identifying clients for them and the key role we play in transporting clients to their classes. He had hoped that after the Manitoulin experience which they hadn't given any forewarning of, they might have differently managed the matter this time round. Fern indicated he would investigate what could be done and indicated that we would poll Board members re: any possible measures that needed to be taken that extended beyond those that were within the discretion of the administrative authority to undertake.

## **9.0. UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **9.1. ONPHA Conference—November 4-6, 2005, Niagara Falls**

**Resolution No. 05-88 Moved by:** Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every  
 THAT Frank Gillis and Earle Freeborn be authorized to be the DSSAB Board members in attendance at this year's 2005 ONPHA Conference.

**Carried**

## **10.0. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution No. 05-89 Moved by:** Laurier Low **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every  
 THAT we do now adjourn at 12:15 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on October 27, 2005 in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room.

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Chair

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Chief Administrative Officer  
 (Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)