



Minutes
of the September 28, 2017
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING
held in Espanola's 210 Mead Blvd. DSB Boardroom

Present: Bill Baker, Vern Gorham, Les Gamble, Al MacNevin, Ken Duplessis, Eric Russell, Ned Whynott, Dean Wenborne, Ted Lovelace, Ray Dufour, Bruce Killah, David Leonard, Michael Levesque

Regrets : Paul Schoppmann

Staff : Fern Dominelli, Donna Stewart, Connie Morphet, Melody Ouellette, Ehren Baldauf

Media: Robin Burridge, Manitoulin Expositor

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Les Gamble, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 17-53

Moved by: Al MacNevin

Seconded by: Ray Dufour

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted.

Carried

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4.0 Closed Session

Resolution 17-54

Moved by: Dean Wenborne

Seconded by: Bill Baker

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:00 a.m.

Carried

Resolution 17-55

Moved by: Dean Wenborne

Seconded by: Bruce Killah

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:25 a.m.

Carried

5.0 Business Arising from Closed Session

During its Closed Session, the Board discussed Property and Human Resources Issues.

Resolution 17-56

Moved by: David Leonard

Seconded by: Ted Lovelace

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Paramedic Services Reorganization – Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [Paramedic Services Reorganization – Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried

6.0 Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 17-57

Moved by: Vern Gorham

Seconded by: Ken Duplessis

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the [June 22, 2017](#) Board meeting be approved.

Carried

7.0 Committee Reports

Property Planning Committee

Vern Gorham, Chair of the Property Planning Committee, provided the Board a brief update on the items discussed at the September 27, 2017 meeting.

7.1.1 Social Housing Portfolio – Issue Report

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration, walked the Board through the [Revised Social Housing Portfolio – Issue Report](#).

The Revised Social Housing Portfolio – Issue Report aimed to inform the Board of a plan to assess and review the Social Housing Portfolio. This report from April 2017 has been updated to include Federal Funding Revenues and Debentures or Mortgage costs per building.

Financial viability of Social Housing buildings is a critical factor to consider when assessing sustainability of a portfolio. The report provides a snapshot of the cost per square foot, the unit demand from the waitlist and the average cost per unit by building.

Staff will continue to review options on sustainability and viability and will report back to the Board.

Resolution 17-58**Moved by:** Vern Gorham**Seconded by:** Eric Russell

WHEREAS the Property Committee has reviewed the Revised Social Housing Portfolio Review - Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Property Committees recommendation and approves the [Revised Social Housing Portfolio Review - Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried**7.1.2 347 Second Avenue Tender**

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration, walked the Board through the [347 Second Avenue Tender – Issue Report](#).

The Board was advised of issues with the roof and the envelope of the administrative building at 347 Second Ave. Staff were directed by the Board to go to tender, the results of which are contained within the report.

Resolution 17-59**Moved by:** Vern Gorham**Seconded by:** Bill Baker

WHEREAS the Property Committee has reviewed the 347 Second Avenue Tender Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Property Committees recommendation and approves the [347 Second Avenue Tender - Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried**7.1.3 HSC**

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration, walked the Board through the [Housing Services Corporation – Issue Report](#).

In a [letter](#) dated August 31, 2017, the Ministry of Housing (MOH) requested the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB's opinion on the Housing Services Corporation(HSC) services to inform the development of potential government policy.

HSC is an independent, not-for-profit organization that is mandated to offer services to the majority of social housing providers in the province.

HSC is led by a Board of Directors with representation from across the housing sector, and its programs and mandate are established under the current Housing Services Act, 2011 (HSA)

HSC provides three core services.

- Group Property Insurance Program
- Bulk Natural Gas Purchasing Program
- Pooled Capital Reserve Investment Program

Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB and Housing Services Corporation have had a good working relationship since 2002.

Staff are recommending that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Board support that Housing Service Corporation remain as a mandatory service provider.

The Issue Report and Resolution to be mailed to the Minister of Housing which supports maintaining HSC as a mandatory service provider.

Resolution 17-60

Moved by: Vern Gorham

Seconded by: Ken Duplessis

WHEREAS the Property Committee has reviewed the Housing Services Corporation - Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB approves the [Housing Services Corporation – Issue Report](#) and authorizes staff to action the recommendations contained with the report.

Carried

7.2 Program Planning

David Leonard, Chair of the Program Planning Committee, provided the Board a brief update on the items discussed at the meeting held on September 27,2017.

7.2.1 French Language Services Plan

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [Ministry of Education's French Language Services Plan](#).

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB's annual French Language Service plan is required to be submitted to the Ministry of Education by the end of September.

The DSB's Board has developed its own [French Language Services \(FLS\) Plan](#) to ensure that the content and the intent of the French Language Services Act are followed in the delivery of services.

Resolution 17-61**Moved by:** David Leonard**Seconded by:** Michael Levesque

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Ministry of Education French Language Services Plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [Ministry of Education French Language Services Plan](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the plans.

Carried**7.2.2 Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFC)**

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, provided the Board a verbal update on the OEYCFC plan.

On February 19, 2016, the Premier announced the provincial plan for moving forward with the integration and transformation of child and family programs to establish OEYCFC by 2018. These centres will be managed locally by CMSMs/DSSABs as part of our existing responsibility for the Service System Management of Child Care and other Human Services.

In June, the Ministry of Education released the 2018 funding allocations for the OEYCFC. The Ministry announced a total annual investment of \$141 million to support OEYCFC. The 2018 allocation for OEYCFCs for the Manitoulin-Sudbury District is \$1,441,809. Staff will be working on a local policy to determine local allocations this fall in anticipation of the transition to OEYCFC programs in January 2018.

Staff have been working with the Best Start Network and our Data Analysis Coordinator to develop a community plan for OEYCFC's. Over the last several months meetings have occurred with existing service providers, parents and community partners. Staff will be submitting our draft community plan to the Ministry of Education on September 29, 2017.

Since 2018 will be a transition year, DSB staff will be supporting the existing providers in their efforts to meet all requirements of OEYCFC's and to align their efforts to be responsive to community need, details regarding the plan will be provided in October.

The three agencies providing service (Our Children Our Future-Lacloche, Sudbury East, Manitoulin Family Resources-Manitoulin and Chapleau Child Care Centre-Sudbury North) are currently developing workplans with DSB staff support to guide the transition and assess outreach needs in their respective communities.

The work plans will be reviewed in June and December of 2018 with the expectation that 2019 plans will be developed in the fall of 2018.

A more detailed report will be brought to Program Planning Committee and the Board in October.

7.2.3 Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) Funding

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, provided the Board a verbal update on the SIF-IAH Funding for 2018-19.

On August 9, 2017, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB received a [letter](#) from the Minister of the Ministry of Housing indicating that there is need for more affordable housing in communities across Ontario and that municipalities cannot meet that need on their own.

As part of Ontario's continued commitment to increasing affordable housing options across the province, the DSB will receive an allocation of \$191,900 in 2018-19 under the Investment in Affordable Housing program.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB will invest these dollars into the Direct Shelter Subsidy Program to help more families achieve affordable housing.

7.2.4 The Journey Together

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, provided the Board a verbal update on the proposal for The Journey Together.

Staff submitted a capacity funding proposal to Ministry of Education to support the implementation of the Ministry of Education's early years initiatives under The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

The initiative is intended to enhance access to culturally relevant, Indigenous-led early years programs and services off reserve.

Staff worked with Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute (KTEI) to develop a capacity building proposal intended to engage in meaningful, collaborative discussions across our district.

The DSB received confirmation on January 19, 2017 that our proposal was approved and the DSB received the full allocation of \$49,800. Aboriginal Cultural Competency Learning sessions and family engagement activities were held last spring across the district.

8.0 New Business

8.1 CAO Quarterly Report

Fern Dominelli, CAO, walked the board through the CAO Quarterly Report. This report will be shared with member municipalities who are encouraged to add it to Council agenda packages

Resolution 17-62

Moved by: Bill Baker

Seconded by: Dean Wenborne

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the [2017 CAO Second Quarter Activity Report](#) be approved as presented.

Carried

8.2 2017 Second Quarter Unaudited Financial Report.

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration, walked the Board through the 2017 First Quarter Financial Report which is projecting a **year-end deficit of \$95,309**. This deficit is attributed to an estimated \$680,241 Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB) New Experimental Experience Rating (NEER) assessment.

Resolution 17-63

Moved by: Ted Lovelace

Seconded by: Michael Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the [2017 Second Quarter Unaudited Financial Report](#) be approved as presented.

Carried

8.3 Wikwemikong Paramedic Services Audited Financial Statement

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration, walked the Board through the Wikwemikong Paramedic Services Audited Financial Statement.

The financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2017 for this Ambulance Service were audited during the summer months and reported to Ministry. The total expenses of \$1,758,696 were within budget and are 100% funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Resolution 17-64

Moved by: David Leonard

Seconded by: Bruce Killah

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accept receipt of the Wikwemikong Paramedic Services [Audited Financial Statement](#) for the year ended March 31, 2017, as prepared by the Freelandt, Caldwell, and Reilly Accountants.

Carried

8.4 Portable Housing Benefit

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the Portable Housing Benefit Program.

On September 6, 2017 the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB received a [letter](#) informing of recent regulatory amendments under the Housing Services Act (HSA) that establish a framework for a portable housing benefit effective September 1, 2017. Service System Managers will now have the option to offer a locally-funded monthly benefit to low-income households that would count towards the Service System Manager's social housing Service Level Standards if the benefit meets the conditions set out in the amended regulations.

Unlike rent-geared-to-income and other housing assistance, the portable housing benefit is tied to the household and not the physical housing unit, allowing the benefit to move with the household. The benefit also provides greater social inclusion for social housing tenants because it gives Service System Managers the ability to diversify their housing portfolio and create more vibrant mixed-income communities.

In addition, the benefit supports economic inclusion for recipients because unlike the rent-geared-to-income (RGI) system where any monthly income change impacts monthly rent assistance, the portable housing benefit is based on annual income. This means recipients would not have their subsidy immediately recalculated and would be able to keep more of what they earn during the year.

The amended regulations allow Service System Managers to use municipal resources to offer portable housing benefits as an optional alternative to the current rent-geared-to-income assistance.

8.5 Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the Survivors of Domestic Violence – Portable Housing Benefit Pilot program launched in September 2016.

In a [letter](#) dated September 8, 2017, the Minister of Housing reports that the take-up of the program has steadily increased since launched. In the first ten months of the program, over 650 survivors and their families could access housing assistance under the program.

The Pilot has been effective in providing a viable alternative to social housing for survivors, giving them more choice as to where to live, helping them find housing more quickly, and providing greater housing stability. Nearly all participating households surveyed as part of the program evaluation (95 per cent) would recommend the Pilot to others who have experienced domestic violence.

The Survivors of Domestic Violence – Portable Housing Benefit Pilot will conclude on March 31, 2018.

Following up on the results of the Pilot program, the 2017 provincial budget announced an investment of \$30 million over the next three years to eventually support up to 3,000 survivors of domestic violence.

As a result, this funding will be available across the province on an ongoing basis, subject to annual provincial budget approvals, and fulfilment of accountability requirements. Funding will be made available on a first come, first served basis to survivors who are designated under the Special Priority Policy, as well as current recipients under the Pilot program.

In addition, to allow for province-wide portability of the housing benefit, the province will directly deliver this program beginning in April 2018, as Service Managers work with survivors designated under the Special Priority Policy to submit application forms. A formal announcement and more information will be available soon.

8.6 Home for Good

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, provided the Board an update on the Home for Good Proposal submitted by the DSB.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB put forth a [proposal](#) for a two-part project:

- a Transitional Community Support Worker for Manitoulin Island as the DSB would like to expand this program to other residents in other parts of our jurisdiction.
- a .5 FTE position to support 4 rent supplement units and in turn the NE-LHIN has agreed to match this proposal if the Home for Good Proposal is accepted by the Ministry of Housing.

Our application included a funding proposal totaling \$161,200 for the first year and \$165,200 for the second year for both projects.

On May 18, 2017, Louise Paquette Chief Executive Officer of the NE-LHIN submitted a [letter](#) to the Ministry of Housing stating that they are in full support of the applications submitted by the eight area Service System Managers to Home for Good – Expression of Interest. Staff from the NE LHIN have met with each of the District Social Services Administration Boards for the Algoma, Cochrane, City of Greater Sudbury, Manitoulin-Sudbury, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sault Ste. Marie, Timiskaming and the City of Greater Sudbury Service System Managers and/or Chief Administrative Officer to discuss the continued partnership.

Because of our collaboration the NE-LHIN committed to providing funding for half a full time equivalent staff person and four rent supplements in each of the eight Service System Manager areas.

In return, the eight Service System Managers have agreed to match this funding through the Home for Good – Expression of Interest. This will enable both agencies to leverage the NE-LHIN funding and Ministry of Housing funding available through Home for Good.

They also state in their letter that this model has been piloted by the local NE LHIN, Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB and the Canadian Mental Health Association to provide both housing and support to those in the town of Espanola.

On September 11, 2017, the Ministry of Housing announced that our proposal under the Expression of Interest process for the Province's Home for Good Initiative was denied due to limited funding.

The [letter](#) indicates that Ministry staff would be pleased to provide us with a debrief on the evaluation of our submission, if desired. The DSB CAO met with the Ministry of Housing on Monday September 18, 2017 face-to-face to discuss the reason for the DSB proposal not being selected. The Ministry staff indicated the proposal was good but there were 46 proposals submitted and the Ministry only had sufficient funding to approve 22 of the proposals.

Of the NOSDA members, 5 of the 10 received approval for their proposals; they include Cochrane, Timiskaming, Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Kenora.

8.7 DSSAB Act Review

Fern Dominelli, CAO, provided the Board a verbal update on the DSSAB Act Review that took place with the DSB staff, Board members and Municipalities in early September. The consultants hired to complete the review should complete all the consultation sessions by the end of October. The consultant's report is expected in late fall 2017.

8.8 AMO

Fern Dominelli, CAO, provided the brief update on the delegations at the AMO AGM.

Minister of Community and Social Services Helena Jaczek

NOSDA met with Minister Helena Jaczek, Janet Menard Deputy Minister, Richard Steele Assistant Deputy Minister and staff to discuss the DSSAB Act Review, the alignment of the results of the DSSAB Act with the Municipal Act and concerns that NOSDA has about TWOMOs in the context of the DSSAB Act review.

Every point made in the AGM NOSDA resolution was covered and the Minister was very accepting of NOSDA's recommendations. NOSDA pressed the Minister on the fact that the province has not left a lot of time between the review and the upcoming election. NOSDA was not interested experiencing a review process without there being a meaningful outcome.

Minister of Housing Peter Milczyn

NOSDA met with the new Minister of Housing, Laurie LeBlanc Deputy Minister, Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister. NOSDA's concerns raised at the AGM regarding housing data collection, reporting timelines, transfer of Surplus school properties were presented.

Associate Minister of Education, Indira Naidoo Harris

NOSDA met with the Associate Minister, Indira Naidoo Harris and Shannon Fuller Assistant Deputy Minister.

The Minister was receptive to NOSDA's concern regarding the capital funding being allocated to school boards as opposed to the Service System Manager for the child care expansion. NOSDA stressed the importance of having consistent and equitable administrative funding to ensure Service System Managers in Northern Ontario are going to be successful in integrating and bringing together the current separate and distinct systems.

A general commitment was made by the Ministry that any unintended consequences will be addressed because of the new legislation impacting home child care operators.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development Deb Matthews

NOSDA met with the Deputy Premier and Minister Deb Matthews of Advanced Education and Skills Development regarding Employment Ontario. NOSDA is asking that the Ministry move forward with the integration of Employment Services and for the Province to engage with CMSM/DSSABs as full partners in managing and planning employment services in their communities.

9.0 Next Meeting – October 26, 2017

10.0 Adjournment

Resolution 17-65

Moved by: Ted Lovelace

Seconded by: Ray Dufour

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 11:50 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held, in the DSB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room on October 26, 2017.

Carried



Chair



CAO (Secretary-Treasurer
of the Corporation)