



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 March 23, 2006
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held at Espanola's DSSAB Mead Street Board Room

Present: Pat Best, Fern Bidal, Collin Bourgeois, Ray Chénier, Earle Freeborn, Leslie 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
Karen Dominick, Community Programs Supervisor

Media: Michael Erskine, Manitoulin Expositor

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Ray Chénier, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Chair spoke to the fact that the DSSAB now had an "official gavel". He indicted to members that what made this particular gavel special was that it had been crafted by the DSSAB's Maintenance and Property Manager, Mr. Tony Cardamone.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA Resolution No. 06-17

Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4.0 CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 06-18 Moved by: Les Gamble **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:05 a.m. to discuss Human Resources and Property matters.

Carried

Resolution No. 06-19 Moved by: Les Gamble **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 11:25 a.m.

Carried

5.0 MINUTES

5.1 Adoption of Minutes of February 23, 2006

Resolution No. 06-20 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Collin Bourgeois
THAT the minutes of the February 23, 2006 Board meeting be approved.

Carried

6.0. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1. Closed Session Report

Items discussed during the Closed Session included

- DSSAB Property Rentals on Manitoulin Island
- Municipality of French River Correspondence

6.2. Province's Affordable Housing Program (AHP) Initiatives

Noting that the proposed DSSAB's Housing Allowance Take-Up Plan and Process had been circulated to members in advance of this meeting, the CAO pointed out that, as mentioned at their February meeting, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) expects the province's CMSMs and DSSABs to provide them a resolution by no later than the end of March, as to whether or not the DSSAB intends to take up the province on the dollars earmarked for our jurisdiction when it comes to the AHP's Housing Allowance program component.

Resolution No. 06-21 Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Mike Lehoux

WHEREAS the Manitoulin Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) has confirmation from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) that it has received a Housing Allowance allocation under the "new" Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program (AHP); and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB has advised the Ministry of the many challenges that it faces in delivering this program, as constituted, in its jurisdiction; and WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB wishes to see this Housing Allowance allocation available to its jurisdiction utilized within said jurisdiction, despite the many challenges that it faces in delivering this program; and

WHEREAS the DSSAB has received and approves of the DSSAB Report entitled Housing Allowance Implementation Plan,

BE IT HEREIN RESOLVED THAT the DSSAB's Administration be authorized to enter into an Administration Agreement (MOU) with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and that the MMAH be advised of the DSSAB's delivery plan and its intent to participate in the Housing Allowance component of the Ministry's Affordable Housing Program.

Carried

6.3. Best Start Phase I Integrated Implementation Plan

The CAO explained that, as also previously discussed, it is the expectation of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) that the DSSAB indicate, by way of a resolution to the Ministry, if it endorses the Best Start [Phase I Integrated Implementation Plan](#) prepared by the Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network.

The CAO pointed out that he had attempted to capture the expressed concerns of Board members in his crafting of the Resolution before them.

Resolution No. 06-22 Moved by: Frank Gillis **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is the province's designated child care service system manager for the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts (excluding the City of Greater Sudbury); and

WHEREAS the Province mandated the DSSAB to coordinate and oversee the Ontario government's Best Start community planning process in said Manitoulin-Sudbury District jurisdiction, an initiative that was made possible as a result of the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Early Learning and Care entered into between Ontario and the former Federal (Liberal) government; and

WHEREAS said Early Learning and Care community planning process called upon the DSSAB to establish a Manitoulin-Sudbury District Best Start Network whose specified role it was to identify the initial phase of the Manitoulin-Sudbury community's Best Start Integrated Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network did complete its Phase 1 Best Start Integrated Implementation Plan by the end of January of 2006; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB was asked to inform the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS) by resolution and by no later than March 31, 2006 of its endorsement or not of the Phase 1 - Best Start Integrated Implementation Plan prepared by its Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network, and

WHEREAS there is a great deal of uncertainty as to the future of Ontario's Best Start Early Learning and Care plans that comes with the new federal (Conservative) government's announced cancellation of the Canada-Ontario agreement and the impact this will have in that it terminates plans for the building of a significant number of school based hubs, licensed child care spaces, fee subsidy spaces, wage subsidy for child care employees, special needs resourcing for children and their families; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is prepared to continue, per the provincial government's instructions, with the Best Start implementation process; and

WHEREAS the continuation of the local Best Start implementation, under the standard 80-20 provincial-municipal cost sharing arrangement, could cost the DSSAB, and by extension its member municipalities, an additional \$371,520 municipal contribution in 2007-08;

BE IT HEREIN RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB indicate to the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS) that it endorses the Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Integrated Implementation Plan prepared by the Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network; and

BE IT HEREIN FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSSAB indicate to the Ministry of Child and Youth Services that said endorsement of this Plan remains conditional upon the MCYS indication that the DSSAB, and by extension its member municipalities, will not have to bear any portion of the ongoing costs associated with the Ministry's approved implementation of any portion of the Best Start Network's Best Start initiatives;

AND BE IT HEREIN FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSSAB also indicate to the Ministry of Child and Youth Services that it can not and will not, at this time, commit the DSSAB to the future funding or cost sharing of any portion of the Early Learning and Child Care (Best Start) programs and initiatives that the province might approve for implementation, as the DSSAB has no knowledge of either the cost of said programs or the municipal cost-sharing terms and expectations of the province, if any, with respect to these programs and initiatives; and

THAT the DSSAB's Chair write to the Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development to recommend that the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Child Care continue for its full term, until 2010;

AND FURTHER, THAT the DSSAB's Chair write to the Provincial Minister of Children and Youth Services to recommend that the province continue to provide Best Start funding to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB as planned through March 2008, should federal funding be decreased or terminated;

AND FURTHER, THAT the DSSAB copy all of our jurisdiction's MPs and MPPs on correspondence concerning Best Start;

AND FURTHER THAT the DSSAB implement the 2005/06 Transition plan and the Integrated Implementation Plan utilizing the 2005/06 unconditional grant in a manner that supports the DSSAB's child care system without creating the on-going expectation for additional DSSAB/municipal funding;

AND FURTHER, THAT unless Provincial funding for the Best Start program is continued beyond 2006, the fee and wages subsidies, special needs program funding, administration and other program funding implemented in 2005 and 2006 as part of the Best Start program be phased out through 2007/2010, using the remaining Best Start unconditional grant. **Carried**

7.0. REPORTS

7.1. BOARD COMMITTEES

7.1.1. Finance Committee

(i) **March 7, 2006 Joint Meeting with EMS Planning Committee** – Finance Committee Chair Fern Bidal reported that the Finance Committee and EMS Planning Committee had met on March 7, 2006 to enable the members of both Committees to fully discuss and factor in the estimated cost of all anticipated EMS service enhancements to be recommended to the Board for implementation with its adoption of the 2006 Budget Year recommended by the Finance Committee.

Les Gamble, EMS Committee Chair reported that he had nothing to add to the Finance Committee Chair's report. .

(ii) **March 22, 2006 Meeting with the DSSAB's Auditors** - Fern Bidal prefaced his report on the March 22nd meeting to review the DSSAB Auditor's Financial Statements for the year 2005 by noting last year's Board decision to have its Finance/Audit Committee meet separately with the Auditors rather than continue the previous practice of meeting with the Auditors during the course of a regular monthly meeting of the Board.

That background provided, Mr. Bidal noted that the meeting with the Auditors had taken place the prior evening. He indicated, and his fellow Committee members concurred, that the format was a good one in that it enabled Committee members more time to delve with greater depth into more areas and ask some questions than might otherwise be the case at a regular Board meeting where this is but one matter amongst many before the Board.

He pointed out that it was a good meeting, that there were no Auditor's conditions or notes attached to the Financial Statements examined. Noting that while his committee recommended that the Statements be approved, he was not able to provide a copy of the Final Report as the copies examined had the word "Draft" on them and the word could not be removed in time for this a.m.'s meeting. He pointed out that while the Final 2005 Financial Statements could be circulated to members within the week, they would not be the subject of collective Board review and discussion until the April 27th Board meeting.

He asked Board members if they were prepared to accept the suggestion that Mr. Houle not be asked to present the report at the April meeting and instead rely on the validity of the review done by the Board's Finance/Audit Committee and base their decision to accept or deny the Statements on the recommendation of the Finance/Audit Committee re: same. There was Board consensus re: same.

Resolution No. 06-23 Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
THAT the Board accept the Finance Committee's recommendation that the Audited Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2005, as prepared by the Board's Auditors be accepted. **Carried**

(iii) **DSSAB's Year 2006 Operating Budget** –

The Finance Committee recommended **Year 2006 Operating Budget** was circulated to all members as was a copy of the below noted resolution.

Fern Bidal began by thanking his fellow Committee members for the hard work and time dedicated to the Budget's preparation. He similarly thanked the DSSAB's Program Support and Department Heads "who worked extremely hard on a very demanding Budget process" to come up with the additional cuts needed to see the Budget come in within the numbers that Committee sought.

Resolution No. 06-24 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every
WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board's Budget Committee has presented the Board with a Year 2006 DSSAB operating budget in the amount of \$29,585,323; and

WHEREAS it is understood that this \$29,585,323 amount represents an overall year over year total budget increase of 2.41% over the DSSAB's 2005 approved operating budget; and

WHEREAS it is understood that the approval of this budget means that the municipal share payable by, and apportioned to, the DSSAB's member municipalities, both organized and unorganized, for the Year 2006 operating year is in the amount of \$9,527,877; and

WHEREAS it is understood that this \$9,527,877 municipal share payable amount represents a year over year overall municipal share payable increase of \$391,917 or 4.29% over the \$9,135,960 municipal share payable in 2005; and

WHEREAS it is the Budget Committee's recommendation that 1.29% or \$117,838 of said year over year \$391,917 municipal increase be drawn from the DSSAB's Reserves with the remaining 3% or \$274,079 increase being added to last year's \$9,135,960 municipal share payable for a total 2006 municipally apportioned share payable in the amount of \$9,527,877;

IT IS HEREIN RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board accepts its Budget Committee's recommendation that it adopt the 2006 Operating Budget in the amount of \$29,585,323. **Carried**

(Recorded Vote: YEAS – 13; NAYS – 1 - Les Gamble)

Mr. Bidal concluded the Committee's 2006 Budget Report by giving all Department Heads the opportunity to speak to key points they might like to highlight.

A summary of the key cost drivers that come with the DSSAB's adoption of its 2006 Operating budget are its incorporation of:

- the costs associated with external-to-DSSAB control changes such as the MMAH introduced changes to Non-Profit Housing Benchmark implemented in April 2005 and the costs of OMERS increase changes (from 6% to 6.5% and 8.8% to 9.6%);
- the costs associated with the payment of contractually negotiated Year over Year Salary and Benefit increases;
- the costs associated with Board decision to annualize the cost of EMS service delivery changes implemented with "one year guarantee" in 2005
- the costs associated with Board decision to add one FTE position to Social Housing department;
- the costs associated with the decision to proceed with EMS Committee's EMS service delivery enhancement recommendations

Gary Champagne reminded members that the DSSAB's approved 2006 Operating Budget did not include the budget associated with the Wikwemikong Land Ambulance station's operations which are 100% funded by the MOHLTC or the costs associated with the province's Best Start initiative which is also 100% funded by Ontario.

(iv) **Banking and Investment Services Tender** - Mr. Bidal informed the Board that the Finance Committee has received a number of tenders in response to its RFP. He outlined the process the Committee would be undertaking to come to a Board recommendation on the matter over the course of the coming weeks. A report will be provided to the Board when the process is complete.

(v) **DSSAB Auditors Name Change** – Mr. Bidal informed members that the Committee would be bringing a draft resolution to the Board at the April meeting re: the Board's recorded confirmation that its auditors will henceforth be identified as Freelandt Caldwell Reilly. The "change" rests in the fact that our Auditing firm, that is to say Heale & Houle Chartered Accountants, will be operating under that name as a result of a merger between both firms that is primarily due to the retirement of Mr. Ron Heale.

Resolution No. 06-25 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Richard Stephens
That the Board accept the report of the Finance Committee. **Carried**

7.2. CAO REPORT

7.2.1. Operational Management Reports

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- **Children's Services Report**
- **Ontario Works Report**
- **Social Housing Report**
- **Emergency Medical Services Report**

Children's Services Report Questions –

Q – OEYC funding - *Les Gamble asked if the DSSAB had yet received any MCYS response to this DSSAB's ongoing efforts to see an equitable share of the 100% Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) provincial funding allocated to the Wawa-based OEYC and the Walden-based OEYC annually earmarked - and guaranteed by that Ministry as having to be spent on the proportionate number of children and families who live in the Sudbury and Manitoulin District portions of the electoral ridings that they are mandated by that provincial ministry to provide OEYC services to?*

A - Gary Champagne replied that the Ministry had still not come to any decisions re: what its Regional Office has come to publicly acknowledge as a flawed situation that needs to be addressed either:

i - by making sure that we get our equitable share of the OEYC dollars intended for the children in our portions of the political riding jurisdictions of the Wawa and Walden OEYCs under the planning control of the DSSAB when it comes to the resources we need to know are ours to assume we have some directional control over when it comes to what the province claims to be the DSSAB's provincially mandated service system management responsibilities as pertains the early learning and child care needs of the residents, and more specifically the children and families of the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts; or

ii – provide the 100% needed to have an OEYC for our Manitoulin-Sudbury jurisdiction.

Gary pointed out that while both options were presented to MCYS in the Best Start Child Care Plan that the DSSAB submitted to MCYS by October 31st, 2005 and while MCYS acknowledges that the item has to be resolved to let us get on with effectively exercising the local child care service coordination, planning and management mandate the DSSAB has been mandated to play on behalf of its member municipalities.

Gary pointed out that MCYS had hoped to correct the situation through the Best Start window that was opening up.

He indicated that it was his opinion that, with the uncertainties that come with the Harper government's early learning and child care funding decision the province is scrambling to determine where it plans to go from here with the withdrawal of the federal dollar guarantee that was driving the Ontario Best Start initiative.

Q – Best Start Funding Commitments – Bud Rohn asked if we had committed any of our Best Start funding to any community groups.

A – Karen Dominick pointed out that the Gore Bay and Espanola school-based child care programs licensed by the Province want some of the Start-Up operating and/or capital dollars that the DSSAB has for Best Start purposes. Gary pointed out that Administration is presently determining the criteria via which it will allocate the funds it will make available to those ends but assured Bud that the DSSAB had not and would not commit the DSSAB to anything beyond the one time funding of specific start up or capital initiatives.

Q – School-based Hubs - Pat Best indicated she'd read the *Best Start Phase 1- Integrated Implementation Plan* from cover to cover. She noted that while she would need to know more about the validity of the EDI results and how they were arrived at, her real question had to do with the seriousness of the paper's recommendation that there be Hubs at all 28 elementary schools in the DSSAB's jurisdiction that she quite frankly saw as "pie in the sky" thinking.

A – Gary pointed out that while the Network saw it as a very ambitious plan that would entail a **significant redesign** of the way services are presently organised to locally provide the early year developmental supports available to children and families at the local community level, it must be remembered that what is presented in the Report is the fruit of less than four months of unprecedented multi-stakeholder input and planning in what the province had rolled out (**Best Start**) as a well financed, ten year early learning and child care planning and implementation undertaking that was intended to be locally coordinated by UTMs and DSSABs.

Pointing out that while the Harper government decision threw the province's Best Start plans into a tailspin, Gary pointed out that he personally was very suspect as to the Province's plans to ever spend any of the new monies on the "Hubs" portion of the Plans. He noted that while MCYS Regional Office people spoke of the Hub side of the planning, the Ministry's Corporate level officials only spoke of the "licensed child care spaces" component of the Best Start initiative.

He noted that the DSSAB itself had entered into the local Best Start Network planning with its long standing contention that there should be four hubs in our jurisdiction: that is to say one in each of our four geographic service regions.

He pointed out that all orders of government are facing some very real longer term sustainability issues when it comes to the inefficiencies, inequities and limited client responsiveness that come with the continued perpetuation of the lack of systemic service integration that presently exists.

Gary pointed out that the gridlock that exists as a result of the federal-provincial early learning and child care disconnect is in some ways a good thing as there was a lot of waste built into the haste with which the province was driving the Best Start initiative's implementation.

Gary pointed out that he believes the province's 47 child care service system managers could play a far more significant and pivotal role than they presently are in bringing about the coordinated community level service system integration that all agree should exist, but that this will likely not occur until the province support their CMSMs and DSSABs as local service system managers in more than rhetorical ways.

If the province wants us to be service system managers they have to let us have more time at the wheel of the local service system management bus.

Our DSSAB will work within the Best Start dollars we have and without hiring any new permanent staff to:

- Refine what the Early Learning and Care Plan should look like in our jurisdiction and map out how we should go about implementing it, in phases, over time;
- work at the development of a sustainable cost efficient community input process for a jurisdiction as vast and sparsely populated as ours; and
- determine the means via which this community stakeholders input process can be tied to the role which municipalities have to vehicle/voice/coordinate the voices of the constituents and communities of interest within each of the DSSAB's four service regions. A "Pay for Say"/"Say for Pay" reality.

Social Housing Report

Bud Rohn questioned the statement re the DSSAB's anticipation that there will be added costs associated with the Chapleau Ambulance Station's construction due to pricing changes experienced over the winter. Peter Bradley explained that, due to preparation and start-up problems that were last year experienced between the time the RFP went out and the OK to proceed was confirmed, the early winter weather conditions, unidentified poorer than identified soil conditions and the DSSAB's request of the contractors to halt construction until spring as a cost saving measure, it is possible that the cost of materials might have increased over the winter months and these additional costs would have to be borne by the DSSAB. Peter indicated that the Board would be kept apprised of all cost changes.

Ontario Works and EMS Reports - There were no questions on these reports.

Resolution No. 06-26 Moved by: Pat Best **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine
 THAT the CAO's Operational and Strategic Issues Management Reports be accepted. **Carried**

8.0. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1. TWOMO Elections

Gary informed the Board that the province again expected the DSSAB to manage the TWOMO election with up to \$15,000 of funding attributed to such.

The province realises that we have a problem if TWOMO election terms remain as three year terms and municipal election terms are changed to four year terms.

9.0. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 06-27 Moved by: Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
 THAT we do now adjourn at 12:25 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 27, 2006 in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Blvd. Board Room. **Carried**

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
 (Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)