



Minutes
of the June 28, 2018
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING
held in Espanola's 210 Mead Blvd. DSB Boardroom

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

Regrets : Bruce Killah, Paul Schoppmann

Staff : Fern Dominelli, Donna Stewart, Connie Morphet, Melody Ouellette, Robert Smith

Media: Michael Erskine, the Manitoulin Expositor

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

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. 18-54

Moved by: Jim Rook

Seconded by: Bill Baker

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 Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation

Jeffery C. Kolibash, Affordable Housing Consultant Norther Ontario, spoke to the Board about Canada's first ever [National Housing Strategy](#) and the new opportunity for the provision of capital contributions and/or low-cost loans to build new affordable housing and repair/renew existing affordable and community housing.

5.0 Closed Session

Resolution 18-55

Moved by: Dean Wenborne

Seconded by: Al MacNevin

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:40 a.m.

Carried

Resolution 18-56

Moved by: Vern Gorham

Seconded by: Ken Duplessis

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:45 a.m.

Carried

6.0 Business Arising from Closed Session

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

7.0 Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 18-57

Moved by: Eric Russell

Seconded by: Ray Dufour

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the [May 24, 2018](#) Board meeting be approved.

Carried

8.0 Committee Reports

Program Planning Committee

David Leonard, Program Planning Committee Chair, gave the Board a brief update on items discussed at the June 27, 2018 meeting.

8.1 Accessibility for Seniors

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance & Administration, walked the Board through the Accessibility for Seniors – Issue Report.

The Municipality of French River [requested](#) the DSB consider installing a chair lift in the DSB owned Social Housing building in Noëlville. Municipal members have received multiple inquiries from Social Housing tenants regarding improving accessibility to the second floor of Social Housing buildings. In response, Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB staff were tasked with an initial investigation of stair chairlift options for Social Housing buildings, including regulations, feasibility and costs.

Staff contacted licensed Technical Standards and Safety Authority supply and installation companies to assist with the investigations as this is a specialized skillset and trade.

Many of the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB buildings were built without consideration of accessibility and as such halls and stairwells are narrower than current Ontario Building Code Standards.

Resolution No. 18-58

Moved by: David Leonard

Seconded by: Mike Levesque

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Accessibility Lift Investigation - 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 [Accessibility Lift Investigation - Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to investigate the feasibility of accessible chair lifts in all 12 two story DSB buildings including the determination of tenant accessibility needs.

Carried

8.2 Housing Benefit Update

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the Housing Benefit Update – Issue Report.

This report serves as a comparison of our Direct Shelter Subsidy and the calculation used for the Portable Housing Benefit. If the province were to inform the DSB that the current DSB Direct Shelter Subsidy program would no longer be funded and that the DSB must abide by the new Portable Housing Benefit calculation methodology for all DSS recipients, it would have the following affects on the 180 families.

32 Families or 18%:	would loose their housing benefit
99 Families or 55%:	would qualify for the PHB benefit but at a much-reduced rate because any amounts paid by the tenant for heat, hydro or other utility costs utilities are not included in PHB
15 Families or 8%:	would see no change as their rent includes all utilities
34 Families or 19%:	would be at an advantage with the PHB however the amount of money allocated to them would not include the full shelter costs.

Based on our current analysis **131 families or 73%** of the 180 families currently receiving Direct Shelter Subsidy would be worse off using the provincial Portable Housing Benefit calculation if it became the new standard for all forms of Provincial Portable Housing Benefits and possibly for the new Federal Housing Benefit.

Staff are recommending that the Board encourage the Federal and Provincial governments to ensure flexibility within their proposed Federal and Provincial Housing Benefits.

Creating a Provincial Portable Housing Benefit that does not consider the actual cost of rent, heat and utilities paid by tenants is a real concern for Northerners.

Furthermore, if the Ministry of Housing had indicated they would not honour the Board approved Market Rent when they were established in 2015, we would not be in the current situation.

The Ministry of Housing is arbitrarily changing the rules and in this case re-victimizing Victims of Family Violence as the Market Rents established by the DSB will not be used to determine PHB-SPP eligibility.

Resolution No. 18-59

Moved by: David Leonard

Seconded by: Al MacNevin

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Housing Benefit Update - Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is extremely concerned that the Provincial Portable Housing Benefit - Special Priority does not consider the actual rent paid or utilities costs in the calculation; and

WHEREAS this is of particular concern in Northern Ontario where natural gas is not available in many communities and Hydro One rates are exorbitant and creating a Provincial Portable Housing Benefit that **does not** include the actual costs of heat and utilities paid by the tenant is a real concern for Northerners.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [Housing Benefit Update - Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB encourage the Federal and Provincial governments to ensure flexibility within their proposed Federal and Provincial Housing Benefits as one size fits all does not work well for Northern Ontario, particularly for small rural and remote communities whose existing resources are stretched to the maximum; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT both levels of government ensure the that the actual cost of rent, heat and utilities paid by tenants is included in the calculation of the Housing Benefit; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this resolution and Issue Report be forwarded to the Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and the new Provincial Minister responsible for Housing in Ontario; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB share this motion and supporting materials with DSB member municipalities, AMO, FONOM, NOMA, OMSSA, HSC, ONPHA, MP Carol Hughes and MPP Mike Mantha.

Carried

8.3 Child Care Quality Assurance

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the Child Care Quality Assurance – Issue Report.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB provides funding and program support to 9 agencies who deliver 17 Child Care programs and 4 EarlyON centres, with extensive outreach, throughout the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB jurisdiction.

In March the [Child Care Quality Assurance - Issue Report](#) was shared with the Board along with the 2018 Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board [Child Care Quality Assurance Report](#) which contains several recommendations that will benefit programs across the district.

Programs need to be supported in their efforts to be responsive to child and family interests and needs to support development, health and well-being. Increased partnerships between the Quality Assurance Program and Special Needs Resource program are needed to support an inclusive and responsive environment for all children.

The Ontario PC Party has spoken against the Liberal and NDP plans for “government daycare” and their platform calls for a tax credit up to 75% (to a maximum of \$6,750) based on a sliding scale for income.

They have not mentioned any promises to create additional spaces or continue with the 100,000 licensed child care spaces promised by the previous government.

Given the absence of further detail in the PC Party's platform, the incoming government's direction in terms of children services is largely unclear.

Staff consulted with other service system managers to determine best practices and review existing quality assurance programs. Since the consultation a new government was formed, and it is unknown at this time if child care will be impacted. Quality Assurance is currently being contracted to Our Children Our Future and will remain status quo until we receive our funding allocation.

Resolution 18-60**Moved by:** David Leonard**Seconded by:** Ken Duplessis

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Child Care Quality Assurance - 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 [Child Care Quality Assurance – Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried**8.4 Paramedic Intravenous Therapy**

Robert Smith, Chief of Paramedic Services, walked the Board through the Paramedic Intravenous Therapy – Issue Report.

Staff continue collaborative work with our community partners and our Paramedics ensure advancements in service delivery and scope of practice match evidence-based patient needs, and that have been adopted by the profession.

The introduction of autonomous IV therapy into the PCP scope of practice would permit specific benefits for our patients, given the rural and remote nature of the response area, and the lengthy out of hospital times. From resuscitative efforts in trauma, to improved facilitation medication delivery, the initiation of intravenous therapy allows for positive patient outcomes.

An analysis of our 2017 call volumes and call types suggested that between 660 and 800 patients might benefit from intravenous initiation and either fluid or medication therapy. There would also be a direct benefit by the facilitate of more appropriate medications.

Resolution 18-61**Moved by:** David Leonard**Seconded by:** Eric Russell

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Program Planning Committee has reviewed the PCP Autonomous Intravenous Therapy - 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 Intravenous Therapy - Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried

8.5 Paramedic Services Strategic Deployment Plan

Robert Smith, Chief of Paramedic Services, walked the Board through the Paramedic Services Strategic Deployment Plan – Issue Report.

In October of 2017, as part of budget deliberations, the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Service Board approved the implementation of a strategic deployment plan for Paramedic Services. At that time, the approval was contingent on successful implementation of the North East LHIN's nonurgent program, something expected to be operational early in 2018.

Recently, staff have learned that no contract for LHIN Non-Urgent Patient Transfer project has been signed, and that the tactical implementation is likely delayed until 2019. Until then, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB pilot program that has been operational for more than 5 years will continue.

The 2018 budget approval was based upon known Ministry funding from 2016. The 2017 funding approvals had not been received prior to budget deliberation. This past May, the 2018 Ministry funding announced, and it included an additional unexpected \$157,459 for Paramedic Services.

Given the 2018 funding, staff have determined that implementation of the Strategic Deployment Plan as set out for the Board can be fully implemented, and that an interim PRU in the LaCloche area can be staffed 8 hours from Monday to Friday. This PRU would serve as a safety net during the period of transition to the LHIN permanent nonurgent model, and there would be no change to the Service's Full-Time staffing compliment.

The change to the Deployment model scheduled for September 7, 2018 will expand on-site emergency coverage as follows:

- **Noëlville** Paramedic Services station moving from 20 hours on site and 4 hours on call 7 days per week to 24 hours all site 7 days a week
- **Massey** Paramedic Services station moving from 20 hours on site and 4 hours on call 7 days per week to 24 hours all site 7 days a week
- **Killarney** Paramedic Services station moving from 10 hours on site and 14 hours on call 7 days per week to 12 hours all site and 12 hours on call 7 days a week

- **Foleyet** Paramedic Services station moving from 10 hours on site and 14 hours on call 7 days per week to 12 hours all site and 12 hours on call 7 days a week
- **Gogama** Paramedic Services station moving from 10 hours on site and 14 hours on call 7 days per week to 12 hours all site and 12 hours on call 7 days a week
- **Mindemoya** Elimination of the “Day 8” ambulance in Mindemoya, inclusive of the proposed Mindemoya 8-hour PRU

Resolution 18-62**Moved by:** David Leonard**Seconded by:** Ted Lovelace

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Paramedic Services Strategic Deployment Plan - 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 Strategic Deployment Plan - Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried**9.0 New Business****9.1 Social Assistance Changes**

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the possible changes that will take place for Social Assistance.

The Ontario government has approved amendments to the Ontario Works regulations and other policy changes. These changes support the implementation of the first phase of a multi-year Income Security Reform Plan that includes an immediate focus on social assistance transformation.

For the next 3 years, changes are being made to begin to transform, streamline and simplify social assistance, reduce the poverty gap for people in deepest need, improve health, employment and social inclusion outcomes, and help provide a better quality of life for Ontarians, including Indigenous peoples.

The changes that will be occurring this year, (some changes have taken effect already) are:

- Increasing rates by 3% for Ontario Works and ODSP and increasing various other allowances (Temporary Care Assistance) by 2%;
- Eliminating the board and lodge rate category – moving towards a flat rate;
- Increasing monthly flat earnings exemptions for social assistance from \$200 to \$400 – allowing earners to make \$400 without reducing their assistance;
- Aligning the definition of spouse with the Family Law Act (3 years);
- Exempting gifts or other voluntary payments as income; and
- A number of other improvements that will make it easier for people to get help and for staff to deliver the programs.
- Maintain dependent children/adults who are attending school away from their primary residence in the parental benefit unit (this includes post-secondary education)
- Increase access to funding for Discretionary needs for all low-income people living in First Nations communities

Social Assistance Modernization is a key enabler to, and part of, income security reform. Modernization will make it simpler for individuals to access income supports and other programs under OW and ODSP. It will also reduce the administrative workload, so staff can focus on supporting clients who need help.

- In May, changes were implemented to Income Reporting making it easier for clients to complete.
- Prepopulated OAS/GIS applications are being mailed to clients 11 months before they turn 65, this will help those applications to be processed on time.
- Paperless Drug Cards will be coming in August. This means, clients who are in receipt of OW/ODSP will be able to use their Ontario Health card or any form of Government identification (passports, driver's license) to access prescription drugs and eye exams.
- Offices across the province including the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB are diligently working on SAMS clean up as we move towards Third Party DBD – this means vendors such as the utility companies, landlord will be able to receive their funds through direct bank deposit. This implementation is scheduled for the spring of 2019.

At this point it is unclear if the new provincial government has any intentions of making any changes to these announcements.

9.2 Provincial Election

Fern Dominelli, CAO, reviewed the [OMSSA Post Election Report](#) with the Board.

Income Security

On Income Security Reform recommendations, Ontario Works, ODSP and social assistance, the PC Party platform has been silent. PCs promised a tax cut for those making minimum wage.

Social Housing

The Ontario PC Party has been silent on social housing.

They did however cancel the GreenON program and that could affect the \$100,956 that the DSB was awarded by the Housing Services Corporation out of the 25M allocated for apartment buildings under 100 units.

There has been no mention of the National Housing Strategy or funds to repair or build new units.

They have spoken about creating affordable housing but have mostly focused on the private real estate market.

Child Care

The Ontario PC Party has spoken against the Liberal and NDP plans for “government daycare” and their platform calls for a tax credit up to 75% based on a sliding scale for income.

They have not mentioned any promises to create additional spaces or continue with the 100,000 licensed child care spaces promised by the previous government.

Health

The PC Party promised to increase spending to reduce hospital wait times, invest in mental health supports and cover some dental costs for seniors.

General

Given the absence of further detail in the PC Party's platform, the incoming government's direction in terms of human services is largely unclear. This uncertainty can represent both a risk and an opportunity.

What is clear is that the PCs intend to reduce the budget of each Ministry by 6% and find efficiencies in government to balance the budget.

9.2 Container Gardening Events

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, gave the Board an update on the container gardening events that took place in Espanola and Chapleau.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board and the LaCloche Best Start Hub hosted its annual Family Container Gardening Event on Saturday June 2, 2018 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Red McCarthy Ball Field Pavilion.

Espanola Volunteer Fire Department, Espanola Police Services, and our local Paramedic Services attended the event and had great interaction with all participants. The assistance of the Espanola Horticultural Society in helping the young gardeners learn about their plants and gardening was greatly appreciated.

Attendance was down this year with 160 people attending the event (86 children and 74 Adults). The day was cool and very windy, and let's not forget we were in full tent caterpillar season.

Local businesses continue to support this popular event with donations of the Commercial BBQ from Garnet's Rental; soil and all our vegetable plants from Winkles, a gift card for Canadian Tire from McCulloch Insurance for additional supplies, and various compost products from Espanola Home Hardware; These items are greatly appreciated and keep the costs down.

An advertisement of Thank You has gone out in the Around and About.

Community Container Gardening Event for Chapleau:

This year, the Sudbury North Community Gardening Event and BBQ was hosted by the Sudbury North Best Start Hub at the DSB Housing Building on June 26, 2018 from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

We had approximately 140 people took part in the event, consisting of 62 children and 78 adults. Our local Paramedic Services attended the event and had great interaction with all participants.

Both community events had children and adults alike create a fun container garden, learn about plant care and food safety and good food choices. A free barbecue was also held for all in attendance.

10.0 Other Business

11.0 Next Meeting – September 27, 2018

12.0 Adjournment

Resolution 18-63

Moved by: Al MacNevin


Seconded by: Vern Gorham

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 September 27, 2018.

Carried



Chair



CAO (Secretary-Treasurer
of the Corporation)