



**Minutes
of the October 22, 2020
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING**

Present: Jill Beer, Les Gamble, Vern Gorham, Arthur Hayden, David Santi, Maureen Van Alstine, Ned Whynott, Bruce Killah, Jim Rook, Paul Schoppmann and Richard Stephens

Regrets: Michael Levesque, David Ham and Ted Lovelace

Staff: Fern Dominelli, Connie Morphet, Donna Stewart, Melody Ouellette, Robert Smith, Paul Myre, Ehren Baldauf

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Les Gamble, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3.0 Closed Session

Resolution 20-71

Moved by: Ned Whynott

Seconded by: Maureen Van Alstine

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board move into closed session at 9:30 a.m.

Carried

Resolution 20-72

Moved by: Bruce Killah

Seconded by: Jim Rook

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:00 a.m. and move to the regular Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Board meeting.

Carried

Draft Minutes
of the October 22, 2020
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING

Present: Jill Beer, Les Gamble, Vern Gorham, Arthur Hayden, David Santi, Maureen Van Alstine, Ned Whynott, Bruce Killah, Paul Schoppmann, Jim Rook and Richard Stephens

Regrets: Michael Levesque, David Ham and Ted Lovelace

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

Media: Alicia McCutcheon, The Manitoulin Expositor
Tom Sasvari, The Manitoulin Recorder

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

2.0 Business Arising from Closed Session

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

3.0 Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. 20-73

Moved by: Richard Stephens

Seconded by: David Santi

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda be adopted.

Carried

4.0 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

5.0 Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 20-74

Moved by: Arthur Hayden

Seconded by: Jill Beer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the [September 24, 2020](#) meeting be approved.

Carried

6.0 Committee Reports

Program Planning Committee

Bruce Killah, Chair of the Program Planning Committee presented the items discussed at the Oct 21 committee meeting.

6.1 Building Condition Assessments

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [Housing Services Corporation 10-year Capital Management Plan](#) and [Building Condition Assessment – Issue Report](#).

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB owns 36 buildings including Community Housing, Administration and Paramedic Services locations. Each of these buildings represent an asset to the organizational structure of the DSB both from a social standpoint and a financial one. Ensuring that these assets are well maintained, safeguards the viability for the long-term goals of the organization. The objective is to maintain the buildings while remaining fiscally responsible to our member communities in the most cost-effective way possible.

It was identified that having a Building Condition Assessment done was crucial to effective and responsible financial planning. Therefore, Housing Services Corporation who has experienced staff on site, was contracted to provide the DSB with a fulsome assessment of all DSB owned properties and the financial commitments required to ensure the long-term viability of our assets.

The report highlights the critical items to be considered immediately and their estimated costs, followed by a schedule of required capital work over the next 10-years using both annual capital contributions and capital reserves.

Housing Services Corporation has made recommendations as to the immediate next steps to successfully implement the recommendations in the Plan as follows.

- Balcony studies
- Thermal scans of electrical equipment
- Sanitary drain line inspections
- Discussions with current trusted service providers (HVAC/Fire System Technicians) to better understand the current condition of the internal building components (i.e. make-up air units, sprinkler systems) to better prioritize and direct limited finances.

Staff are recommending that the DSB undertake the recommendations above. In addition, DSB staff would engage an outside management firm to provide oversight on the capital projects that require attention in 2021.

Over the course of the next 12 months these studies would be completed, and they would help develop the final 10-Year Capital Management Plan which would be presented to the Board in the fall 2021.

Based on the final 10-Year Capital Management Plan, the board will be in a better position to determine the makeup of its Community Housing staff, whether to hire in house for capital projects or to continue using an outside management firm to provide oversight for all major capital works required over the next ten years.

Resolution No. 20-75**Moved by:** Bruce Killah**Seconded by:** Vern Gorham

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Housing Services Corporation 10-Year Capital Management Plan and the Building Condition Assessment – Issue Report and is recommending approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves [Housing Services Corporation 10-Year Capital Management Plan](#) and the [Building Condition Assessment – Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried**6.2 Centralized Waitlist Policy**

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the revisions to the [Centralized Waitlist Policy](#).

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB currently has a Centralized Waitlist Policy which establishes local priorities for waiting applicants. In March 2017, the DSB established the following priorities, in the following order when ranking applicants on the Social Housing waiting list:

1. Victims of Family Violence
2. Homeless
3. Senior

Under the provincial housing legislation (the Housing Services Act) there is a special program called the Special Priority Program for households with current or recent experience of domestic abuse or **human trafficking** that gives them priority access to Rent-Geared-to-Income Housing, therefore the revisions to the Centralized Waitlist Policy effective October 1, 2020 will include Human Trafficking as the same priority status as Victims of Family Violence.

Resolution No. 20-76**Moved by:** Bruce Killah**Seconded by:** Richard Stephens

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the revisions to the Centralized Waitlist Policy and is recommending approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the revisions to the [Centralized Waitlist Policy](#) effective October 1, 2020 contained within the Community Housing Policy Manual.

Carried

6.3 Rent Freeze

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [2021 Rent Freeze – Issue Report](#).

On October 1, 2020, Bill 204 – Helping Tenants and Small Businesses Act, 2020 received Royal Assent, to freeze rent at 2020 levels.

This means that rents will not increase in 2021 for the majority of rented units covered under the *Residential Tenancies Act*.

- This includes a revision the 2021 rent increase guideline to make it zero percent; and
- Households paying geared-to-income rent, low-end of market rent and households living in affordable rental housing units.

Under Bill 204, the rent freeze (or “cap”) means that geared-to-income rent would not increase in 2021 as household income increases. Service System Managers and housing providers continue to be obligated to comply with the RGI rules under the HSA.

- This includes rules for annual reviews and in-year recalculations of rent, which would continue to be completed in 2021.
- During the rent freeze period, any calculated rent increase resulting from an annual or in-year review would not take effect in 2021.
- However, if a household experiences a decrease in income, their rent may decrease as required under provincial regulations.

The actual financial impact of this RGI change is difficult to predict, as the RGI calculation is based on the tenant’s income. In any year, there would normally be tenants whose income increases, resulting in an increase rent paid by them for the year. This is somewhat offset by tenants whose income decreases, resulting in a lower rent paid by them for the coming year.

Resolution No. 20-77

Moved by: Bruce Killah

Seconded by: Jim Rook

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the 2021 Rent Freeze - Issue Report and is recommending approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [2021 Rent Freeze – Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Board direct the Chair to send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting funding to offset revenue losses resulting from this provincial policy change as it will result in a higher levy in 2021 to member municipalities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this resolution and a copy of the letter to the Minister be circulated to all DSB member municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

6.4 2021 Response Time Standard

Paul Myre, Deputy Chief of Paramedic Services, walked the Board through the [2021 Response Time Standard – Issue Report](#).

Paramedic Services has, as set out in Legislation, prepared our 2021 Response Time Standard (RTS) performance plan. This plan is appended to this report and will be submitted to the Ministry of Health by October 31st.

2021 will be the eighth year where response time submission plans have been required under Provincial Legislation. We consider this document as a living product that helps to inform and drive system change.

It should be noted that the service established some measured goals in 2019, that remained in place for 2020. These goals will, for the purpose of this RTS Plan remain unchanged for 2021. Paramedic Services has cautiously increased our expected response time for cardiac arrest calls within the mandated 6 minutes over the past number of years, and in 2019 our plan required we achieve response success in 30% of incidents.

Paramedic Services continues to monitor both emergency system performance and non-urgent system evolution.

Resolution No. 20-78

Moved by: Bruce Killah

Seconded by: Maureen Van Alstine

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the 2021 Response Time Standard – Issue Report and is recommending approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [2021 Response Time Standard– Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried

6.5 2021 Deployment Plan Pilot

Robert Smith, Chief of Paramedic Services, walked the Board through the [2021 Deployment Plan Pilot – Issue Report](#).

The current budget for 2020 was approved in the fall of 2019, based upon known 2018 Ministry funding. In 2020, Ministry funding was announced in late spring of 2020 and included annual and ongoing provincial funding of \$289,000.

Staff have examined data to address increasing need for service deployment in Chapleau, Gore Bay, LaCloche and Manitoulin areas. The concept being proposed today continues to use the premise of prudent and responsible reasoning and as such is being brought forward as a pilot project.

- This pilot project would see the movement of both Chapleau and Gore Bay Paramedic Services stations to 24/7 deployment for 16 weeks each year, from mid-May to early September.
- Additionally, the pilot would allow for a single transport ambulance in the LaCloche/Manitoulin area out of the Little Current Paramedic Services Station from 9am to 9pm each day to mitigate resource loss due to challenges explained within this issue report.

Due to the seasonal nature of this plan, Paramedic Services would utilize part time personnel for coverage to ensure flexibility with a total increase to staffing of 8,232 hours.

The financial impact of this plan, on the 2021 budget will be presented to the Finance Committee as part of their budget deliberation for their consideration.

The proposed amended deployment model would be managed as a pilot for 2021, with no change to the permanent fulltime staffing profile. This plan would allow staff the chance to assess efficacy of the changes, specifically related to patient outcomes, response degradation, and health and safety impact on Paramedics. The pilot would be analyzed with a full report delivered to the Board in time for the 2022 budget deliberations.

Resolution No. 20-79

Moved by: Bruce Killah

Seconded by: Jill Beer

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the 2021 Deployment Plan Pilot – Issue Report and is recommending that the Board approve the plan in principle and direct the Finance Committee to consider the implementation of the pilot during the 2021 budget deliberations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [2021 Deployment Plan Pilot – Issue Report](#) in principle and directs the Finance Committee to consider the implementation of the Deployment Plan Pilot during the 2021 budget deliberations.

Carried

7.0 New Business

7.1 Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, discussed the Child Care Workers and Early Childhood Educators Appreciation Day.

October 22nd, 2020 is the 20th annual Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.

This year's theme is *Rising Up!* This day recognizes the commitment, hard work and education of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and all staff who work with young children.

Each year the day is proclaimed by municipalities and school boards across Ontario and marked in hundreds of childcare centres. The day draws attention to the value of ECEs and childcare workers in communities.

We are asking that the Board recognize October 22, 2020 as the 20th annual "Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day" in recognition of the education, dedication and commitment of child care workers to children, their families and quality of life of the community.

Resolution No. 20-80

Moved by: Richard Stephens

Seconded by: Maureen Van Alstine

WHEREAS years of research confirms the experiences children have in the early years have an extraordinary impact on children's intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development and later life outcomes; and

WHEREAS quality Child Care and EarlyON experiences promote the well-being of children and respond to the needs of parents, Child Care workers and the broader community by supporting quality of life so that citizens can fully participate in and contribute to the economic and social life of their community; and

WHEREAS many studies show trained and knowledgeable Early Childhood Educators and early years staff are the most important element in quality Child Care and EarlyON programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT October 22, 2020 be designated the 20th annual “Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day” in recognition of the education, dedication, and commitment of Child Care workers to children, their families and quality of life of the community.

Carried

7.2 Ministry of Education

7.2.1 2020 Licensed Child Care Data Profiles

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [2020 Annual Report](#) and [Licensed Child Care Data](#).

On October 2, 2020 Ministry of Education released the 2020 Annual Report and Licenced Child Care Data. The annual report is a snapshot of the childcare and early years sector and is based on reports submitted to Ministry of Education directly from providers.

Most of the data presented in this report was collected between March 2019-March 2020. The numbers reflect the period immediately prior to the emergency closure of childcare due to COVID-19.

7.2.2 Consultation on Proposed Regulatory Amendments, and Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2020.

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the Consultation on Proposed Regulatory Amendments.

On [October 2, 2020](#) Ministry of Education released *Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario*, a report on the five-year review of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA).

The CCEYA came into effect on August 31, 2015, it was designed to strengthen compliance, health, and safety in childcare settings. The CCEYA requires a review of the legislation within five years of its coming into effect and public report on the outcome of the review.

Ministry of Education has identified six action areas to improve the early years and childcare system, including an immediate consultation on regulatory amendments and exploring broader policy initiatives that would:

- Support quality in childcare and early years settings
- Create flexible options for families and providers.
- Update staffing qualifications to support workforce retention.
- Clarify requirements for inclusion of children with special needs.
- Support Indigenous-led and culturally relevant programming and
- Reduce administrative burden and address technical issues and gaps.

The proposed regulatory amendments are posted on the Ontario Regulatory Registry for public consultation until **November 20, 2020**. Ministry of Education has categorized the proposed amendments as follows:

- Flexibility and responsiveness
- Qualification requirements
- Administrative/regulatory burden
- Health and safety
- Regulations requiring clarification of intent.
- Technical matters

Staff are currently reviewing the proposed amendments and will be working with NOSDA and OMSSA to prepare a submission to Ministry of Education in response to the proposed changes.

7.3 Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services walked the Board through the [Social Assistant Recovery Planning](#).

The government recently announced its plan to support economic recovery and employment through a new recovery and renewal plan for social assistance.

Building on what the province has learned during the COVID-19 outbreak, and the need to fundamentally change ways of delivering services, the first phase of the social assistance recovery and renewal plan, to roll out over the next few months, will be focused on four key areas

Accelerated digital delivery solutions including the launch of a new and easy to use Social Assistance Digital Application and expansion of the MyBenefits digital platform to improve access for people receiving social assistance and allow two-way digital messaging between clients and caseworkers.

Centralized and automated delivery, beginning with centralized intake pilots across several municipalities and centralization of benefits in several ODSP offices that reduce paperwork, giving caseworkers more time to support clients through crisis and helping them get back to work. Centralized benefits processing for participating ODSP sites will begin November 23, 2020.

The Ministry will be piloting a new [centralized intake process](#) for social assistance beginning on October 30th, 2020 with the following pilot municipalities: City of Hamilton, York Region, Chatham-Kent, Parry Sound DSSAB, Durham, Greater Sudbury, County of Renfrew

Risk-based eligibility review, to be developed alongside the centralized intake pilots, that uses provincial, federal and third-party sources to make financial assistance processing faster, while strengthening program integrity.

Access to employment and training, partnering with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development to support people to get back to work, including people with disabilities who have been particularly hard hit by job losses during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Administration of key ODSP health benefits will be centralized. This means that for some ODSP sites, benefits applications will be processed by a central team rather than at the local office.

Ontario Works applicants will benefit from a seamless onboarding process that allows their first caseworker interactions to focus on building a good relationship and building a plan for the future rather than on administration. Clients will be contacted by their local office as needed, and the province will utilize the MCCSS website and social media to ensure clients are made aware of any changes as they take place.

8.0 Next Meeting – November 26, 2020

9.0 Adjournment

Resolution 20-81

Moved by: Richard Stephens

Seconded by: Art Hayden

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 11:20 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on November 26, 2020.

Carried



Chair



CAO (Secretary-Treasurer
of the Corporation)