



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING

Minutes

February 15, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Board Room

Members Present: Paul Branconnier
Angela Kelly
Kevin Burke
Bruce Killah
Rob Campbell
Al MacNevin
John Deforge
Denise Portelance-Godin
Ken Duplessis
David Santi
Vern Gorham
Steven Olsen

Regrets: Ryan Bignucolo
Jim Cahill

Staff Present: Donna Stewart
Lori Clark
Connie Morphet
Paul Myre
Bryan Welsh
Josh Parkinson
Amy Winnington-Ingram

Others Present: Iain Stephen, Information Systems Manager
Michael Erskine, Manitoulin Expositor

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Land Acknowledgement**

We begin this meeting by acknowledging that we are all on land that has been inhabited by Anishnawbek Nations for 10's of thousands of years.

We'd like to acknowledge that we are here in the Robinson Huron Treaty territory and the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and we would like to give thanks for sharing this land in order for us to continue in our work.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Anishnabek nations from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to unite, live, work and play on this land.

3. Business Arising from Closed Session

Resolution 24- 09

Moved by: Angela Kelly

Seconded by: Ken Duplessis

WHEREAS the Property Committee has reviewed the tender results for the Supportive Housing in the Town of Espanola; and

WHEREAS the Property Committee is recommending that the Board proceed with the construction and award the tender.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Property Committees recommendations and awards the tender to Capital Construction in the amount of \$4,531,404.00 plus applicable taxes; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB finance the construction of the new build from our current accounts.

CARRIED

4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 24- 10

Moved by: Vern Gorham

Seconded by: David Santi

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

6. Adoption of the Minutes

Resolution 24- 11

Moved by: Denise Portelance-Godin

Seconded by: Paul Branconnier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the January 11, 2024 Board meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

7. Committee Meetings

7.1 Property Committee

At it's first meeting on February 14, 2023, Kevin Burke was elected Chair for the Property Committee.

7.1.1 Wiikwemkoong Paramedic Service Station Build

Paul Myre, Chief of Paramedic Services delivered a presentation to update the board on progress of the Wiikwemkoong Station Addition.

The addition to the Wiikwemkoong Station has been several years in the making and this necessary build was derailed due to the pandemic.

As previously reported to the board, the Ministry of Health revived this project by permitting us to accrue allocations from previous fiscal years. The Ministry further authorized the commencement of work prior to the receipt of funding letters due to the significant time constraints.

The contract was awarded on November 30th, 2024 to Capital Construction and primary mobilization occurred on December 11th.

The past 7 weeks have seen the property being excavated, preparations for footings, installation of concrete forms and rebar, foundation and outside walls completed, backfilled and compacted, structure and roof framing completed, and exterior wall and roof sheathing installed.

February will involve insulating and installing vapor barrier on all the walls; installing new overhead door, rough in plumbing and pour the bay concrete slab.

March will see exterior and roof cladding, all electrical work and last drywall and painting.

Staff are very please to report that the project schedule is on track to be substantially complete for end of March 2024.

7.2 Program Planning Committee

At it's first meeting on February 14, 2023, Kevin Burke was elected Chair for the Program Planning Committee.

7.2.1 Canadian Mental Health Association

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Humans Services, walked the Board through the [Canadian Mental Health Association 2023 Report](#).

Community Mobilization is a partnership of agencies from various community sectors including health, children's services, policing, education, mental health and addictions, housing, and municipal services.

It is not a stand-alone program or service. It is a way of mobilizing existing resources in a collaborative way.

The goal is to have a coordinated prevention of negative outcomes through an investment of community resources, rather than responding to harmful incidents after they have occurred.

It provides an opportunity for collaboration in the identification of situations of Acutely Elevated Risk and to support planning and intervention.

The mobilization table gathers de-identified data related to situations of acutely elevated risk and uses it to analyze local trends, strengths and challenges impacting human service systems and delivery.

There are 2 Community Mobilization Tables in the District: one for the LaCloche area and one for the Sudbury East. The report in your packages provides you with details about these tables since their inception. I will provide a brief overview:

The Espanola and Area Situation Table (EAST) launched in October 2018 and consists of 22 partner agencies. Since the launch, 24 referrals have been brought forward, 23 met the threshold for Acutely Elevated Risk (AER).

The Sudbury East Mobilization Table (SEMT) launched its table in October 2019 and consists of seventeen partner agencies. Since inception there have been a total of 7 referrals and 5 met the AER criteria.

In February 2023, a general survey was distributed to members of EAST and SEMT. The goal of the survey was to gather feedback to ensure that the members had the appropriate supports and resources needed to facilitate meetings. Overall, members reported feeling supported and confident in their ability to participate.

Bi-monthly meetings are held for both EAST and SEMT. If a new referral is not presented, case studies are reviewed.

All new members of EAST and SEMT continue to receive an orientation session and related resources and the Situation Table and Risk Detection workshop will continue to be promoted and made available to all partner agencies.

The following Quality Improvement opportunities have been identified:

- Providing on going opportunities for training and resources
- Continuing to seek feedback from partners to support the development of meaningful engagement and capacity building activities.

Resolution 24- 12

Moved by: Kevin Burke

Seconded by: Al MacNevin

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Canadian Mental Health Association Sudbury/Manitoulin 12 Month Report and it is recommending approval to the board;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accept the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approve the Canadian Mental Health Association Sudbury/Manitoulin 12 Month Report and authorize staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

CARRIED

7.2.2 Elimination of Transitional Grant to Municipal Child Care Service System Managers

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Social Services walked the Board through the Transitional Grant Issue Report.

On November 30, 2023, the DSB received a [memo](#) from the Ministry of Education informing us of the elimination of the one-time transitional grant in 2024.

Initially, the government planned administrative funding changes for April 2019, but then delayed them to January 2020. These changes included sharing the costs 50/50 between the province and municipalities for child care funding and reducing the allowed administrative spending from 10% to 5%. Because of Covid-19 and CWELCC, the Ministry provided us with a one-time transitional grant from 2021 to 2023 to help.

[AMO](#), [OMSSA](#), and Service System Managers, have expressed concern about the grant being discontinued. We foresee challenges in effective planning and operational efficiency.

In our district, the grant was very helpful. We received \$231,054 in 2021, and \$414,902 in 2022 and 2023. This grant helped us with

flexibility in addressing various administrative, recruitment, and sustainability challenges, serving as a support mechanism during this transitional phase.

Smaller organizations typically have smaller budgets and fewer resources than larger counterparts. Additionally, they also may lack some of the efficiencies of larger organizations, making it harder to absorb cuts in funding. These smaller entities often operate with lean staffing and less overhead, leaving little room for further cost-cutting measures. So, any reduction in funding has an increased effect on operations.

With the grant ending, we'll have fewer resources for planning our system. Staff are recommending approval of the issue report in recognition of the increased challenges because of the reduction in administrative funding.

Resolution 24- 13

Moved by: Kevin Burke

Seconded by: John Deforge

WHEREAS the government's decision to eliminate the transitional grant to municipal child care service system managers which will directly result in inadequate system planning resources that are needed to successfully implement and sustain core services through the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care program for Ontario;

WHEREAS the changes to administrative funding will create significant challenges for the provincial program on a systems level; and

WHEREAS service managers are put in a tenuous position given that they are required to implement CWELCC and transform the existing system with a \$13.2B Federal allocation to Ontario over 6 years, with reduced resources and increasing system planning requirements; and

WHEREAS there will be intensive work with operators required in 2024 to implement the new funding formula; and

WHEREAS without adequate funding to plan, manage and deliver services, priorities will need to be set on what can be delivered, resulting in uneven implementation across the province and families experiencing differential access to service.

WHEREAS the expired transitional grant funding will add additional unsustainable pressure to the sector, with fiscal impact of a least \$85.5 million annually and increasing over time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB supports the call on the provincial government to restore the funding in

full and for an examination of the need for increasing service system planning resources must also be included in the Program Review in 2024 to determine what is needed going forward;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of the resolution be sent to the Honourable Stephen Lecce, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Deputy Minister Kate Manson-Smith, and Deputy Minister Martha Greenberg.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB member municipalities for endorsement and support via Council resolutions.

CARRIED

7.2.3 Ontario Works Service Plan

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Services walked the Board through the Ontario Works Service Plan Addendum.

Historically, the Ministry required all service system managers submit an Ontario Works Service Plan every 2-years.

The ministry acknowledges that, given the upcoming changes to Social Assistance because of Employment Services Transformation, many delivery sites would not have 2 years to achieve planned outcomes and has therefore requested a 1-year service plan addendum.

Staff expect that reporting will change as the provinces vision for social assistance continues to evolve. The vision is *“To create an efficient, effective and streamlined social services system that focuses on people, providing them with a range of services and supports to respond to their unique needs and address barriers to success so they can move towards employment and independence.”*

Staff will continue to update the board as we phase into the transformation. The province’s social assistance vision aligns with the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB’s integrated approach as our staff have in-depth knowledge of all DSB programs and local community programs to help support life stabilization.

An overview of our 2024 service plan addendum includes:

- upcoming training and skills we hope to build with staff as we move towards Employment Services Transformation.
- an outline of our employment outcomes for 2023.
- employment programs we offer.

- breakdown of our caseload by geography, family composition, and length of time on assistance.
- our average Ontario Works caseload from 2003-2022.
- overview of the local labour market.
- overview of community engagement by geography as it relates to education/training, employment, and other community services.
- overview of program management including service delivery rationale, Ontario Works Intake and Eligibility Verification Process.
- our operation indicators for December 2023 compared to December 2022 and how we compare to the province and to the north.
- detailed outcome strategies
- contracting out with various stakeholders including Cambrian College, Alpha-en-Partage and Canadian Mental Health Association for programming. We will be able to maintain these programs for 2024 but may not have the funding to support contracting out these programs moving forward.

Resolution 24- 14

Moved by: Al MacNevin

Seconded by: Denise Portelance-Godin

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Ontario Works Service Plan Addendum 2024 and is recommending approval to the Board;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board accept the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approve the Ontario Works Service Plan Addendum 2024 and direct staff to action the recommendations in the report.

CARRIED

8. New Business

8.1 Apportionment

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration walked the Board through the 2024 Apportionment.

The apportionment formula is determined by the DSSAB Act.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB uses a modified default formula; apportionment is distributed to the municipalities based on DSB weighted assessment using the prior year tax ratios and includes payments in lieu and power dam assessments.

We have confirmation of the weighted assessment calculations from all municipalities except one that has disputed the use of last years tax ratio by-law which has been the process for the past 20 years.

The 2024 Apportionment invoices will be issued to the municipalities after the Board meeting.

8.2 Public Health Sudbury & Districts

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Human Services, walked the Board through the Public Health letter regarding household food insecurity.

Staff received a [letter](#) to Premier Ford from Public Health Sudbury and Districts which included a copy of a resolution from the January 18, 2024, Board of Health meeting.

The resolution highlights that food security is a chronic and worsening health issue.

Staff are proposing a resolution supporting the call on the provincial government to incorporate local food affordability findings in determining adequacy of social assistance levels to reflect the current costs of living and to guide Ontario Works rates to inflation moving forward.

Resolution 24- 15

Moved by: Rob Campbell

Seconded by: Angela Kelly

WHEREAS food insecurity means inadequate or insecure access to food because of financial constraints.

WHEREAS the health consequences of food insecurity have serious adverse effects on people's physical and mental health and the ability to lead productive lives.

WHEREAS the health consequences of food insecurity are a significant burden on our province's healthcare and social service system. Income-

based policies that effectively reduce food insecurity offset considerable public expenditures on healthcare and social services in Ontario by reducing demands on these services and reducing costs.

WHEREAS the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts in recognition of the root causes of food insecurity, call on the provincial government to incorporate local food affordability findings in determining adequacy of social assistance levels; and

WHEREAS the Board of Health reaffirm its support for the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) resolutions: [AO5-18](#) (*Adequate Nutrition for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program*), [A18-02](#) (*Minimum Wage that is a Living Wage*), [A15-04](#) (*Basic Income Guarantee*), and [A23-05](#) (*Monitoring Food Affordability in Ontario and the Inadequacy of Social Assistance Rates*);

WHEREAS the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts intensify its work with relevant area agencies and community groups, and municipalities to shift the focus of food insecurity initiatives from food charity to income-based solutions, including but not limited to the sharing of data and evidence-based income solutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB supports the call on the provincial government to incorporate local food affordability findings in determining adequacy of social assistance rates to reflect the current costs of living and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward; and

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Health; and to local members of parliament; and to Public Health Sudbury & Districts, and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and the Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council, and the Local Food Manitoulin, and the Manitoulin Family Resources, and all Ontario Boards of Health, and to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB member municipalities for endorsement and support via Council resolutions.

CARRIED

8.3 Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy

Donna Stewart, CAO, walked the Board through the Reaching Home Program.

On January 10th, the Board Chairs and CAO's of NOSDA met to discuss the [Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy](#).

The Reaching Home Program allocations will be reducing over the next three years. This funding is used strictly for Homelessness, By-Names List, and shelter solutions.

Although not all DSSABs are currently recipients of this funding, including us, the reduction is going to be devastating in Northern Ontario. The Federal government announced funding opportunities that will benefit urban areas and there is a belief that they will be using the funds from Reaching Home to pay for the new opportunities. For Northern Ontario this is a 57% reduction which will result in the loss of \$2.8M in Northern Ontario. Homelessness affects our population and Canada needs to be an equal partner with the province when funding is allocated. All DSSAB's should be receiving Reaching Home Funding.

Lobbying efforts need to demonstrate that a reduction is unacceptable, and funding should be available to all NOSDA member municipalities.

NOSDA drafted a resolution on the impacts to northern communities and municipalities. This motion includes the 57% reduction and shared with all 144 municipalities in the North, MP's, MPP's, and Indigenous partners. The motion will be used also as an education piece of the funding and identify the severity of the reduction and identify key points for all NOSDA members. Canada needs to be an equal partner in ending homelessness.

Resolution 24- 16

Moved by: Vern Gorham

Seconded by: Al MacNevin

WHEREAS Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness across Canada. This program provides funding to urban, Indigenous, rural, and remote communities to help them address their local homelessness needs; and

WHEREAS Reaching Home supports the goals of the [National Housing Strategy](#), by supporting the most vulnerable Canadians in maintaining safe, stable, and affordable housing and to reduce chronic homelessness nationally by 50% by fiscal year 2027 to 2028; and

WHEREAS Homelessness has an impact on every community in Canada. It affects individuals, families, women fleeing violence, youth, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. In 2016, an estimated 129,000

people experienced homelessness at an emergency shelter. In 2019, Reaching Home was launched by the Federal government who committed \$2.2 billion to tackle homelessness across the country and increased their commitment to nearly \$4 billion over 9 years. This included over \$1.1 billion in new investments through Budgets 2021 and 2022; and

WHEREAS only five of the 11 NOSDA members are funded to deliver the Reaching Home Program and they have been informed that their reaching home funding will be cut 57 % in fiscal 2026-27; and

WHEREAS this 57% reduction will mean that the 5 NOSDA members who deliver Reaching Home will lose 2.6 million annualized by fiscal 2026-27.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (MSDSB) calls on the government of Canada to meet its obligations as announced in 2016 and reaffirmed in 2022 by immediately reversing the decision to reduce the Reaching Home Funding by 57%; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MSDSB call on the Federal government to increase the annualized funding allocated for Reaching Home and provide Reaching Home Funding for all eleven NOSDA members; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MSDSB calls on the Federal Government to maintain its commitment to reduce chronic homelessness nationally by 50% by fiscal year 2027-28; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MSDSB calls on the Federal Government to work hand in hand with the Province of Ontario to meet the provinces' goal of creating 1.5 million new homes by 2030.

CARRIED

8.4 Ministry of Health

Connie Morphet, Director of Integrated Human Services, walked the Board through the 2023/24 Wiikwemkoong Paramedic Services funding.

The Board Chair and CAO received a letter from the Ministry of Health on January 30, 2024 detailing the approval of the Wikwemikong Budget for 2023/2024.

This budget fiscal period is April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024.

The Wikwemikong 2023/2024 Budget includes one-time funding of \$555,645 to support the purchase of a new ambulance and for the capital addition to the building.

The letter also includes an increase of \$158,744 to the base budget which includes ongoing regular increases for salaries and benefits due to the 2023 OPSEU finalized collective agreement; and an increase to vehicle operating expenses.

The Wikwemikong 2023/24 Budget was included in the DSB Budget that was approved in October 2023, this budget is 100% Provincially Funded.

8.5 Clip Training

Iain Stephen, Information Systems Manager, gave the Board a presentation on Clip Training.

CDW Canada is one of Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB main vendors for Information Technology.

They have offered us a secured access to a Learning Management System shortened to LMS. This is at no cost.

The LMS is pre-populated with thousands of hours of short video courses, quizzes and exams related to Microsoft Office Software as well as Cybersecurity and several other areas. The end-user, both employee and Board members are the last defense when it comes to Cybersecurity.

These courses are available to all staff and board members.

9. Other Business

9.1 ROMA Conference/Delegations

Donna Stewart, CAO, gave the Board an update on the DSB delegations at the ROMA conference was held on January 21st through to the 23rd, 2024.

On January 22, the DSB had three delegations - two of which were with the Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones and the other one was with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra.

Our Board Chair Bruce Killah presented all of the delegations on behalf of the board.

The DSB spoke to Minister Jones about Access to Equity to Paramedic Services. Our recommendations included taking immediate steps to bridge access equity gaps in Northeastern Ontario First Nation Communities and to work with her Ministry to fully fund Primary Care Paramedic units in underserved First Nation Communities.

The second delegation with Minister Jones was about our aging infrastructure. Our recommendations included fully funding capital revitalization projects for Northern Paramedic Services Stations and to provide grants to offset the inflationary costs of new builds.

Minister Jone's was supplied with a one-page infographic on each topic (which I have attached to your packages) to support our asks.

The discussion with Minister Calandra was to increase funding to address the growing needs of our aging housing stock. We expressed to him that by increasing investments in maintaining our existing stock it would support the longevity of the existing units and support a timely turnover of units to ensure the most vulnerable citizens are housed as quickly as possible. Most importantly, it would also support our 18 small municipalities and 3 TWOMOS who have very little to draw from their tax levies to support Community Housing.

Beyond our DSB's delegations, NOSDA had a total of 6 delegations and there were a total of 3 delegations that were in conjunction with NOMA, FONOM and NOSDA.

10. Next Meeting - March 21, 2024

11. Adjournment

Resolution 24- 17

Moved by: Rob Campbell

Seconded by: VernGorham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 11:40 am until the next regular meeting to be held on March 21, 2024.

CARRIED

Board Chair

CAO