



Conseil des Services du District de
Manitoulin-Sudbury
District Services Board

MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING

Minutes

December 19, 2024

2:15 p.m.

Board Room

Members Present: Bruce Killah
Kevin Burke
Al MacNevin
John Deforge
Denise Portelance-Godin
Ken Duplessis
Vern Gorham
Ryan Bignucolo
Steven Olsen

Regrets: Paul Branconnier
Angela Kelly
David Santi
Ian Anderson
DSB Boardmember

Staff Present: Donna Stewart
Lori Clark
Connie Morphet
Bryan Welsh
Ehren Baldauf

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- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
 - 3. Business Arising from Closed Session**

Resolution 24- 84

Moved by: Kevin Burke

Seconded by: Ryan Bignucolo

WHEREAS the Collective Agreement between the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB and OPSEU Local 679 expires on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS the Board has authorized the Human Resources Consultant and other designated managers to negotiate the renewal of the Collective Agreement including the signing of the Memorandum of Settlement on behalf of the Board; and

WHEREAS the parties have signed a Memorandum of Settlement on December 11, 2024; and

WHEREAS the parties are unanimously recommending ratification of this Memorandum of Settlement to their respective principals; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board ratifies the Memorandum of Settlement between the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB and OPSEU Local 679 dated December 11, 2024 and authorizes, subject to the ratification by the employees represented by OPSEU, the signing of a new Collective Agreement that expires on December 31, 2028.

CARRIED

4. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Human Services, briefed the board on a letter received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH).

On December 13th staff received a [communication](#) from the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, regarding investments to support homelessness prevention.

The investments include:

- **\$5.5 million** top-up to the **Canada Ontario Housing Benefit** to immediately free up shelter spaces for those living in encampments to move people from shelters to longer term housing.
- **\$20 million** investment to **expand shelter capacity** and create additional temporary housing to provide people living in encampments with accessible alternative living options
- **\$50 million** in last-mile funding **for ready to build long term affordable housing** projects across the province.

The expectation is that the funding is tied to clearing out encampments. The funding is being provided to municipalities that demonstrate their commitment to and show results in winding down encampment sites. To be considered for the additional funding the Ministry requires a written pledge from the local Service Manager to use the funds towards ending encampments in the service area.

It is clear that the eligibility criteria for the funding does not capture what homelessness means in rural settings. The homeless demographic in our service areas is not visible. Homelessness in rural communities is individuals residing in accommodations that most likely could be condemned but if this were to happen there would be no where for these individuals to go, overcrowding and couch surfing. These are not visible encampments and have not been considered in the provinces response to encampments.

There are 105 households on the community housing waitlist currently that are estimated at risk of homelessness.

Numbers are too small to mention for Sudbury North and Sudbury East.

Lacloche: 55 households

Manitoulin: 38 households

Staff reviewed our By-Name List, we have 31 actively homeless individuals within the entire district. The majority are in the Lacloche area (19) with smaller numbers in Sudbury East and Manitoulin. We do not have referrals for any actively homeless individuals in Sudbury North. It is important to note that we have had 36 households removed from our By-Name List as we have lost contact with them, this does not mean that they are housed. Staff feel these stats do not capture the state of homelessness in our district. We know there are many more households experiencing these hardships within our districts, but we need the entire community onboard to help identify these individuals and participate in addressing homelessness.

As per board direction, staff will write a letter to Minister Paul Calandra addressing our concerns about the eligibility criteria of this funding being targeted to large urban areas and will outline what homelessness looks like in rural communities.

Resolution 24- 85

Moved by: Steven Olsen

Seconded by: Denise Portelance-Godin

WHEREAS our government recently announced that we are better protecting community safety and making investments to further support homelessness prevention; and

WHEREAS our government recently announced that we are better to provide people living in encampments with access to reasonable alternative accommodation; and

WHEREAS the government is responding to the calls for action to address encampments in our communities and restore safety to public spaces ; and

WHEREAS the DSB staff reviewed the memo and business cases dated December 13, 2024 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services' board of directors ; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services board of directors directs staff to submit a written letter of return to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing indicating that this funding does not fit the criteria for our small remote municipalities.

CARRIED

5. Adjournment

Resolution 24- 86

Moved by: Denise Portelance-Godin

Seconded by: John Deforge

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 2:50 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on January 16, 2025.

CARRIED

Board Chair

CAO