



## **MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING**

### **Minutes**

**February 20, 2025**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Board Room**

**Members Present:** Al MacNevin  
Angela Kelly  
Bruce Killah  
David Santi  
Denise Portelance-Godin  
Douglas Gervais  
Ian Anderson  
John Deforge  
Kevin Burke  
Paul Branconnier  
Roger Landry  
Ryan Bignucolo  
Vern Gorham

**Regrets:** Steven Olsen  
DSB Boardmember

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

**Others Present:** Chad Minten

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- 1. Call to Order**
  - 2. Land Acknowledgement**
  - 3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

None declared.

**4. Business Arising from Closed Session**

**5. Adoption of Agenda**

**Resolution 25- 13**

**Moved by:** Ryan Bignucolo

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

**6. Adoption of the Minutes**

**Resolution 25- 14**

**Moved by:** Vern Gorham

**Seconded by:** John Deforge

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the January 16, 2025 Board meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**7. Committee Meetings**

**7.1 Program Planning Committee**

**7.1.1 Program Policy Updates**

**7.1.1.1 Ontario Works**

Kevin Burke, Chair of the Program Planning Committee gave the Board a brief update on what was discussed at the committee meeting on February 19, 2025.

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Human Services, walked the Board through the revisions to the [Ontario Works Policy H.7A.4 Travel Transportation for Medical Purposes](#).

The Northern Health Travel Grant has expanded and improved services for those travelling for medical purposes.

Effective December 1, 2024 there will be:

- Increased reimbursements for overnight trips to reflect increased costs from \$100 per night to \$175 per night as well as increasing the total allowance for eight or more nights from \$550 to \$1,150.

- a reduction in the travel distance requirement to be eligible for overnight accommodation from 200 km to 100 km.
- Increased eligibility to include medical travel companions accompanying a patient who is hospitalized.
- the elimination of the need for signature from the referring health care provider which will help expedite the process
- 100 km deductible has been removed meeting every kilometer travelled is covered to offset higher fuel prices
- additions of more eligible health care providers and more facility locations to help more people get reimbursed for incurred costs.

Our internal policy for Travel and Transportation for Medical Purposes has been updated to align with these changes as the DSB forefronts the money to client in turn to be reimbursed as a third party organization.

#### 7.1.1.2 Children's Services

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Human Services, walked the Board through the revisions and additions to [Children's Services Policies](#).

Updates focus on funding eligibility, streamlined procedures, and increased clarity.

Highlights include:

- New policies for local priorities and workforce compensation, providing greater flexibility and addressing sector compensation.
- Updates to General Operating Grants and Fee Subsidies to better align with local priorities and ensure funding supports specific needs.
- New CWELCC policies to reflect the shift to a cost-based funding approach and strengthen the overall funding strategy.
- Clarifications to the Special Needs Resourcing, Play-Based Material, and Capacity Building policies to

clarify eligibility criteria and strengthen program support.

These revision and additions will aid in how staff manage the CWELCC program and allocate funding.

**Resolution 25- 15**

**Moved by:** Kevin Burke

**Seconded by:** Ian Anderson

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the revised Ontario Works policy

- [H.7A.4 Travel Transportation for Medical Purposes](#), and

the revised Children's Services policies

- [F.1.2 Mission Statement](#)
- [F.2.1 General Operating Grant](#)
- [F.3.1 Special Needs Resourcing](#)
- [F.5.1 Fee Subsidy and Service Data Elements](#)
- [F.5.2 Rates Policy](#)
- [F.10.1 Repairs and Maintenance](#)
- [F.10.2 Capacity Building Funding](#)
- [F.10.3 Play Based Materials and Equipment](#), and,

the new Children's Services Policies

- [F.2.2 Local Priorities](#)
- [F.10.4 Professional Learning](#)
- [F.11.2 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Cost Base Funding](#)
- [F.11.3 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care One-Time Costs](#)
- [F.12.1 Wage Enhancement Grant and Home Child Care Enhancement Grant](#)
- [F.12.2 Workforce Funding](#)

and is recommending approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the recommendation of the Program Planning Committee and approves,

- the revised policy H.7A.4, in the Ontario Works Policy Manual effective February 1, 2025, and
- the revisions to the Children's Services policies F.1.2, F.2.1, F.3.1, F.5.1, F.5.2, F.10.1, F.10.2, F.10.3, and
- the addition of the new Children's Services policies F.2.2, F.10.4, F.11.2, F.11.3, F.12.1, and F.12.2 in the Children's Services Manual effective January 1, 2025.

CARRIED

#### 7.1.2 Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report and Licensed Child Care Data Profiles

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Human Services, walked the Board through the [Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report and Licensed child Care Data Profiles - Issue Report](#).

The report is based on 2023 data. It aids in tracking trends and changes in the child care system at both the provincial and district level, which supports service planning.

Within our district:

- Licensed child care spaces in our catchment area have increased by 69% since 2014-15, compared to 47% provincially for the same time period. We currently sit at 897 spaces.
- Most spaces are occupied by school-age programs, followed by preschool, kindergarten, toddler, and infant. Family age group dedicated spaces has proven successful in small communities.
- Serious occurrences have decreased significantly in our region, with a 43% decline over the past decade, which is well above the 15% provincial decline.
- Continued progress in reducing fees and increasing accessibility.
- The cost of care in our district remains well below the provincial averages.
- Professional development continues to be a priority.

- Investments in mental health resources and professional learning opportunities help support staff retention.
- EarlyON Child and Family Centre participation continues to rise, with a 57% increase in visits from 2022-2023.

### **Resolution 25- 16**

**Moved by:** Angela Kelly

**Seconded by:** David Santi

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report and Licensed Child Care Data Profiles 2024 - Issue Report and is recommending approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accepts the Program Planning Committee's recommendation and approves the Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report and Licensed Child Care Data Profiles 2024 - Issue Report as presented.

CARRIED

#### 7.1.3 Early Years and Child Care Service System Plan

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Human Services, presented a slideshow, showcasing the priorities of the [Early Years and Child Care Service System Plan](#).

The 5 year plan sets a clear vision for how we will support children and aligns with the provincial requirement to review and update our plan as needed every 5 years.

The plan focuses on practical goals and strategies to create a child care and early years system that is high-quality, sustainable, and responsive to our communities needs.

The plan was built in consultations with families, service providers, and stakeholders, it addresses the challenges encountered in rural, francophone, and indigenous communities while also tackling workforce shortages and expanding access to affordable child care.

The focus of the plan is on 5 priorities:

- expanding access to affordable and inclusive programs.
- building and retaining a strong workforce.
- enhancing quality and program delivery.
- improving communication, engagement, and partnerships.

- strengthening service system administration.

Looking ahead, this plan focuses on equity, accessibility, and sustainability. Together these priorities set a strong foundation for the future of child care services in the Manitoulin-Sudbury District.

**Resolution 25- 17**

**Moved by:** Paul Branconnier

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Early Years and Child Care Service System Plan and is recommending approval from the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board accepts the Program Planning Committee's recommendation and approves the Early Years and Child Care Service System Plan and authorize staff to action the priorities contained in the plan.

CARRIED

7.1.4 2025 Ontario Works Service Plan

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Human Services, walked the Board through the 2025 Ontario Works Service Plan.

Throughout the plan we have highlighted the DSB's integrated approach to service delivery as well as the DSB's strong relationships with community partners.

The plan identified some gaps in Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB's communities including lack of public transportation, lack of emergency housing and long waitlists for child care and mental health services across the district.

The DSB's commitment to create a meaningful and sustainable framework which involves policies, employee engagement, and the development of a strategic roadmap focused on diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Service delivery expectations which involves internal tracking mechanisms, monitoring activities and a privacy risk assessment.

**Resolution 25- 18**

**Moved by:** Al MacNevin

**Seconded by:** Roger Landry

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the 2025 Ontario Works Service Plan and is recommending approval from the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board accepts the Program Planning Committee's recommendation and approves the 2025 Ontario Works Service Plan and authorize staff to action the strategies contained in the plan.

CARRIED

## 8. New Business

### 8.1 2024 Fourth Quarter CAO Activity Report

Donna Stewart, CAO, walked the board through the [2024 Fourth Quarter CAO Activity Report](#). This report will be shared with member municipalities who are encouraged to add it to their council agenda packages.

#### **Resolution 25- 19**

**Moved by:** John Deforge

**Seconded by:** Angela Kelly

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2024 Fourth Quarter CAO Activity Report be approved as presented.

CARRIED

### 8.2 2024 Fourth Quarter Unaudited Financial Statement

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration, walked the Board through the [2024 4th Quarter Unaudited Financial Report](#), which is forecasting a year-end surplus of \$742, 804.

#### **Resolution 25- 20**

**Moved by:** Vern Gorham

**Seconded by:** Ryan Bignucolo

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2024 Fourth Quarter Unaudited Financial Statement be approved as presented.

CARRIED

### 8.3 Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Human Services, walked the Board through the Centralized Intake, Consolidated Q&A, and the Ontario Works Debts.

Centralized intake is a process designed to simplify the Ontario Works application process for clients and to streamline district service board's (DSB) processes by transferring the responsibility for making initial eligibility decisions to the province.

Applications for those under the age of 18, temporary assistance, and emergency assistance applications will be completed by the DSB.

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has advised that they are expanding their overpayment collection efforts.

Effective January 27, 2025, the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board is one of ten Ontario Works offices that will refer new inactive OW overpayments to the Financial Services Unit.

Overpayments owed by OW recipients who are terminated before January 27, 2025, are historical debts and continue to be owed to and remain collectible by the municipality.

#### 8.3.1 Centralized Intake

#### 8.3.2 Consolidated Q&A on Centralized Intake

#### 8.3.3 Ontario Works Debts

### 8.4 Ministry of Health

#### 8.4.1 Wiikwemkoong First Nation Ambulance Service Funding

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration, briefed the Board on the Wiikwemkoong First Nation Ambulance Service Funding.

On January 23, 2025, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB received a letter from the Ministry of Health advising of the Wiikwemkoong First Nation Ambulance Service Budget has been approved for 2024-25.

The funding contains an additional base funding of \$141,930 and up to \$185,865 in one time funding.

The total approved funding is less than requested.

#### 8.4.2 Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hubs Three-Year Demonstration Project: Call for Proposal Results

Lori Clark, Director of Integrated Human Services, updated the Board on the Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hub Proposal submitted by the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB in the summer of 2024.

On January 27, 2025, we received correspondence from the Ministry of Health informing us that the Hart Hub proposal submitted by Gwekwaadziwin Miikan in conjunction with a variety of partners, including the DSB, was not successful.

## 9. Other Business

### 9.1 ROMA Conference/Delegations

Donna Stewart, CAO, updated the Board on the ROMA Conference Delegations.

Delegation with Minister Nolan Quinn, Ministry of Colleges and Universities to discuss an increase to the admission caps for paramedic programs at Northern Ontario Colleges, designated minimum Northern Ontario student admission numbers, and the Learn and Stay Grant design gap.

Delegation with Deputy Minister Deborah Richardson, Ministry of Health to discuss competition in the procurement of paramedic services fleet, improved delivery, and limitations on use of deposit costs.

Delegation with Parliamentary Assistant, Matthew Rae, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss an increase in funding to support costs for existing housing stock and to support new builds or purchase acquisitions.

Donna Stewart and Bruce Killah also met with the Sudbury East Municipality Association to answer questions and to showcase what the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB provides for community members.

**10. Next Meeting - March 20, 2025**

**11. Adjournment**

**Resolution 25- 21**

**Moved by:** Denise Portelance-Godin

**Seconded by:** Vern Gorham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 11:20 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on March 20, 2025.

CARRIED

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Board Chair

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CAO