

DSB board members vote not to collect retro pay

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ESPANOLA—Members of the Manitoulin Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) were informed that an oversight in applying DSB policy had resulted in members of the board not receiving a scheduled increase in their honoraria established in June 2010 but effective January 1, 2011. As a result, the DSB unanimously approved an amendment to the DSB policy and procedures manual stipulating that “any such

increases will not be subject to retroactive calculations.”

Honoraria rates for DSB members effective in 2011 are \$300 for the board chair, \$25 per month for board members and \$100 for committee chairs of committees active during that month. In addition, board members receive \$125 for a board meeting (usually the fourth Thursday of the month), \$75 for committee meetings, \$50 for travel on a non-meeting day, \$25 for conference calls and \$125 per diem for con-

ferences.

According to the DSB policy manual, honoraria and meeting rates were to be adjusted on an annual basis by the same increase approved by the board for wages of its administrative staff. That policy was passed in the aftermath of the discovery in 2010 that the honoraria had not been revisited since the original inception of the DSB. Adjustments should have taken place in 2013.

The potentially political-

ly charged issue was a difficult discussion for the DSB in 2010 and the board deftly sidestepped revisiting the issue (plus the thorny issue of retro payments to members who are no longer on the DSB board) by passing the policy amendment outlawing retroactive payments. The amendment passed without discussion following an outline of the issue by the DSB Human Resources chair.