



MINUTES
of the February 28, 2008
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held in Espanola's DSSAB Mead Street Boardroom

- Present: Lou Addison, Gary Brown, Jean-Marc Chayer, Ray Chénier, Dennis Golden, Earle Freeborn, Bruce Killah, David Leonard, Al MacNevin, Jack McMillan, Morgan Pitfield
- Staff: Suzanne Bouchard; Peter Bradley; Fern Dominelli; Jeff Horseman; Suzanne Malette; Connie Morphet.
- Regrets: Les Gamble, Mike Lehoux, Shelley Quibell, Gary Champagne
- Media: Alicia McCutcheon, Manitoulin Expositor
Roz Raby, Mid-North monitor

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ray Chénier called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to new DSSAB Children's Programs Supervisor, Suzanne Malette

The Chair introduced Suzanne Malette who has been appointed our DSSAB's Children's Programs Supervisor. Suzanne has over twenty-six years experience in the Child Care Services sector within Toronto and the Northern Ontario region. She has spent 21 years as a Day Care Supervisor and was until recently the Director of Child Care with Garderie Soleil in North Bay since 2002. Suzanne was also a member of the Regional French Language Best Start North East Network and has been involved with the Best Start initiative since its inception.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair added two items to the Tentative Agenda:

- Item 9.2 Noëlville Ambulance Station
Item 12.1 Restart a Heart Program Announcement

Resolution No. 08-16

Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Al MacNevin
THAT the agenda be adopted as amended

Carried

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4.0 CLOSED SESSION**Resolution No. 08-17****Moved by:** Lou Addison **Seconded by:** David LeonardTHAT the Board move into closed session at 10:05 a.m. to discuss Property and Human Resources matters. **Carried****Resolution No. 08-18****Moved by:** Morgan Pitfield **Seconded by:** Jean-Marc ChayerTHAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:10 a.m. **Carried****CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

During its Closed Session, the Board discussed:

- Timiskaming Cross Border Billing
- The EMS Severance Reserve Fund

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**5.1 Timiskaming DSSAB Cross Border Billing Agreement****Resolution No. 08-19****Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Gary BrownTHAT the Board accept Administration's recommendation to approve the terms of the agreement reached between the Timiskaming DSSAB and the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB with respect to Cross Border Billing. **Carried****5.2 EMS Severance Reserve Fund****Moved by:** Jack McMillan **Seconded by:** Dennis Golden

WHEREAS the OPSEU Collective Agreement currently has a provision for severance; and

WHEREAS there is currently an EMS Severance Reserve in the amount of \$345,467;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT \$64,085.21 be transferred from the EMS Severance Reserve to provide for severance payments made in the year 2007. **Carried****6.0 MINUTES****Adoption of Minutes of January 24, 2008****Resolution No. 08-20****Moved by:** Morgan Pitfield **Seconded by:** Jean-Marc ChayerTHAT the Minutes of the January 24, 2008 Board meeting be approved. **Carried****6.1 Military Families Act****Resolution No. 08-21****Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Jack McMillanWHEREAS the Province of Ontario is proposing Bill 2, "Fairness for Military Families Act", which amends the *Employment Standards Act (ESA), 2000*, which currently offers no statutory job protection for Canadian Forces Reservists who volunteer for operational military mission and which will provide such job protection to reservists who have six months of continuous employment with an employer covered by the ESA; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB has at least one employee currently working as a military reservist,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB fully endorses the government's proposed legislation on this matter. **Carried**

6.2 Ontario Water Filter Fund (WFF) Initiative

Reminding members that the Ontario WFF Program was discussed at the last meeting and that the CAO had not had any success in his attempts to have Ontario clarify contradictory and confusing written statements regarding the need for prior water testing as well as explain what it meant re: the possible liability issues the DSSAB would have to be wary of in its management of this Fund, the Board decided to proceed with the following resolution.

Resolution No. 08-22

Moved by: Jack McMillan **Seconded by:** Morgan Pitfield

WHEREAS the Ministry of Community & Social Services has provided funding to all Ontario CMSMs and DSSABs to provide water filters to its clients and to low income families within their districts who may be exposed to lead in their drinking water; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB has requested that the Ministry clarify contradictory and confusing written statements regarding the need for prior water testing before the water filters are provided and clarity as to what the Ministry means when it states that the DSSAB has to “assess whether (it is) putting vulnerable individuals at risk of lead exposure simply because the eligible recipient does not have the financial means to test or purchase a filter to prevent the exposure”; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is concerned that individuals and families may be at risk without a proper water test for lead; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Community & Social Services has not provided any funding for the water testing; and

WHEREAS the Ministry has not provided the clarification requested by the DSSAB;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB indicate to the Ministry of Community & Social Services that it will discontinue its participation in the Water Filter Fund Program effective immediately. **Carried**

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Ontario Child Benefit (OCB)

Fern Dominelli explained that the ramifications of the timing of the introduction of the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) are such that it will effectively mean that families on social assistance will not receive the “Back to School Allowance” and the “Winter Clothing Allowance” that they habitually receive. The negative impact of this revenue lost through the elimination of these two lost allowances should only be experienced in 2008 since the amount to be annually provided to low income families, through the new OCB, from 2009 on, should offset these two lost allowances.

Board members expressed their concern regarding the short term financial pain that came with the introduction of the province’s otherwise most welcomed and heartily supported Ontario Child Benefit program.

Resolution No. 08-23

Moved by: Jack McMillan **Seconded by:** Al MacNevin

WHEREAS the Province is implementing the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) with monthly payments scheduled to begin in July 2008; and

WHEREAS the implementation of the Ontario Child Benefit will restructure the

method of determining funding provided to meet the basic needs of children, resulting in the elimination of the “back-to-school” and the “winter clothing allowances” from OW and ODSP client benefits; and
 WHEREAS the back-to-school and winter clothing allowances meet a specific need for families receiving social assistance; and
 WHEREAS the families receiving social assistance do not have adequate finances or notice period to save the money to address these particular needs in 2008;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB Board request the Province of Ontario to issue the back-to-school and winter clothing allowance for 2008; and

FURTHER THAT these allowances be paid 100% by the Province of Ontario; and

THAT this Resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario; the Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services; the Hon. Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services; AMO; OMSSA; FONOM and NOSDA. **Carried**

7.2 Noëlville Ambulance Station

The Chair informed Board members that the Municipality of French River had announced that they had received seven bids re: the construction of their anticipated new municipal complex and a possible new EMS station for the DSSAB. Board members will be kept abreast of developments as soon as anything is known.

8.0 REPORTS

8.1 CAO REPORT

8.1.1 Operational Management Reports

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- [Children’s Services Report](#)
- [Ontario Works Report](#)
- [Social Housing Report](#)
- [Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Report](#)

There were no questions on any of the Operational Management Reports.

8.1.1.1 Finance and Administration Report—2008 Apportionment

The [2008 Municipal Apportionment distribution report](#) was circulated. Morgan Pitfield asked the DSSAB’s Administration to help him understand why Killarney’s apportionment had so sharply increased when there was an overall 1% year-over-year decrease to the municipal share of the DSSAB budget. Connie Morphet will be getting back to Mr. Pitfield re: the apportionment formula.

8.1.2 Strategic Issues Report

Fern reported that the issues discussed during the recent Board meetings have been tabled with the NOSDA CAOs and that it is expected that they will be discussed at this year’s NOSDA Annual General Meeting.

Resolution No. 08-24

Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Al MacNevin

THAT the CAO’s Reports be accepted.

Carried

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Restart a Heart/Restart a Life Program

The Chair informed Board members of the Press Conference held at the DSSAB's Espanola office on Tuesday, February 26th. He indicated that while the Hon. Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion, and MPP Mike Brown had been scheduled to attend, they were detained from doing so due to weather conditions. Representatives from the Heart & Stroke Foundation and Transamerica Life Insurance were in attendance, along with himself as Chair of the DSSAB.

The purpose of the Press Conference was to celebrate the DSSAB's successful bid for and receipt of 30 Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) for the Manitoulin-Sudbury district municipalities, 22 of which have already been installed.

Lisa Desjardins, the DSSAB's contracted PAD Implementation Coordinator was in attendance and gave a demonstration on the use of the defibrillators.

Mr. Chénier indicated that Lisa had to date trained some 240 people across our two Districts. He indicated that the training and installation of the remaining eight PAD units is scheduled to take place in March. Jeff Horseman informed the Board that the DSSAB had again applied for more defibrillators for our jurisdiction in the Heart & Stroke Foundation's second round of calls for applications.

Chair Chénier believed it was also important for the public to know that on top of the 30 PADs implemented in communities across our District thanks to the Heart & Stroke initiative, the DSSAB has also funded and installed a PAD or defibrillator in each of its Social Housing buildings and DSSAB offices across the DSSAB district; a total of 18 additional PADs.

All members felt that this was a great undertaking of great value to all communities, and that although the units have not been needed to date, it is reassuring that they are there since it only takes one life saved to make the program very worthwhile.

Asked whether the units could be moved around in a community, the Chair replied that the Heart & Stroke Foundation determines where the units are to be placed and, until a protocol is developed re: their movement, the units should remain where they are.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 08-25

Moved by: David Leonard **Seconded by:** Jean-Marc Chayer

THAT we do now adjourn at 10:55 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on March 27, 2008, in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Blvd. Boardroom.

Carried

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)