



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE
DSSMSSAB REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, June 22, 2005 - 5:20 PM
Mountain View Public School, Goulais River, ON**

Present:	D. Amaroso L. Turco D. Edgar	V. Burns P. Mick B. Hayes (late)	J. Curran L. Madonna
City Staff:	K. Streich-Poser G. Avery D. Pauze	L. McCoy J. Crawford F. Lake	R. Cobean C. Rosso
Guest:	G. Stefanizzi		
DSSMSSAB Staff:	A. Nanne		
Regrets:	S. Butland	A. McRae	

D. Edgar called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm and welcomed everyone to the Sault North.

**PRESENTATION - Gabe Stefanizzi,
BDO Dunwoody LLP, Accountants and Consultants**

◆ Audited Financial Statements

G. Stefanizzi reviewed the draft copy of the audited Financial Statements with Board members.

J. Curran asked about the discrepancy in revenues for ODSP on page 5 and the notes on page 10. He was informed that the difference is a result of the cost sharing formula with the provincial government.

The letter regarding the audit of the financial statements for the DSSMSSAB was also summarized and discussed.

There were no further questions or comments. D. Edgar thanked G. Stefanizzi for his time and presentation.

Resolution #05-048

Moved By: V. Burns
Seconded By: L. Madonna

"Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB Board accept the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2004 as prepared and presented by BDO Dunwoody LLP, Accountants and Consultants."

CARRIED

1. Minutes

Resolution #05-049

Moved By: L. Madonna
Seconded By: V. Burns

- 1.1 "Be it resolved that the Minutes from the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board dated April 14, 2005 be adopted as recorded."

CARRIED

2. Accounts

Accounts previously reviewed by the Executive Committee

Resolution #05-050

Moved By: L. Madonna
Seconded By: P. Mick

- 2.1 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB Accounts Payable dated
March 24, 2005 in the amount of \$742,548.19
April 01, 2005 in the amount of \$631,359.71
April 07, 2005 in the amount of \$375,391.52
April 14, 2005 in the amount of \$5,363.16
April 22, 2005 in the amount of \$14,958.91
April 29, 2005 in the amount of \$750,906.34

be passed for payment."

CARRIED

Accounts NOT previously reviewed by the Executive Committee

Resolution #05-051

Moved By: P. Mick
Seconded By: L. Turco

- 2.2 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB Accounts Payable dated
May 05, 2005 in the amount of \$1,073,348.22
May 19, 2005 in the amount of \$885,871.00

May 27, 2005 in the amount of \$140.00
June 02, 2005 in the amount of \$1,102,852.45
June 09, 2005 in the amount of \$4,228.97

be passed for payment."

CARRIED

3. Executive/Finance

Resolution #05-052

Moved By: L. Madonna

Seconded By: V. Burns

- 3.1 "Be it resolved that the minutes from the March 10, 2005 Executive Committee meeting be accepted by the Board as information."

CARRIED

Resolution #05-053

Moved By: L. Madonna

Seconded By: V. Burns

- 3.2 "Be it resolved that the following MCSS reports previously reviewed by the Executive / Finance committee be accepted by the DSSMSSAB as information:

- Ontario Works – MCSS 2005 Budget Submission
- Community Child Care – MCSS 2005 Budget Submission

CARRIED

Resolution #05-054

Moved By: V. Burns

Seconded By: L. Madonna

- 3.3 "Be it resolved that the following Ministry of Health and Long Term Care report be accepted by the DSSMSSAB as information:

- 2004 Land Ambulance Services Grant Financial Assurance Statement Form A & B General Information

CARRIED

4. Land Ambulance

Resolution #05-055

Moved By: J. Curran

Seconded By: L. Turco

- 4.1 "Be it resolved that the April 2005 and May 2005 reports from the Fire Chief for the Sault Ste. Marie Emergency Medical Services be accepted by the Board as information."

CARRIED

D. Amaroso asked the Fire Chief, L. McCoy if he had received any response from the Mayor regarding the Land Ambulance Operating Cost report submitted. L. McCoy responded that there has not been any response.

Resolution #05-056

Moved By: L. Turco

Seconded By: J. Curran

4.2 "Be it resolved that the report entitled Land Ambulance Operating Costs prepared by Fire Chief Lynn McCoy as requested by and submitted to Sault Ste. Marie Mayor John Rowswell be accepted by the Board as information."

CARRIED

P. Mick inquired about the cost of the upgrade and wondered if it is the same as the amount for replacement. L. McCoy commented that the wrong figures might have been included in the resolution. He agreed to double-check but indicated that the purchases have been approved and this discrepancy may simply be a typo. The resolution was updated to reflect the correct purchase price of \$27,341.25 from \$13,225.00.

Resolution #05-057

Moved By: J. Curran

Seconded By: L. Turco

4.3 "Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve the three equipment expenditures listed below as included in the 2005 Budget for EMS:

- 3 stretchers @ \$6,070.40 each for a total of \$18,211.20
- 1 Zoll "M" series 12 Lead Defibrillator for a total of \$27,341.25
- Upgrade of 1 Zoll "M" series Defibrillator to 12 Lead capabilities for a total of \$13,225.00.

as requested by Fire Chief, Lynn McCoy"

CARRIED

L. McCoy spoke to the Sault Search and Rescue inquiry. He provided the DSSMSSAB background with the Sault Search and Rescue and the past WSIB implications of a possible relationship with this group. Sault Search and Rescue have now purchased their own liability coverage and L. McCoy would like to look into this further but intends to remain cautious regarding the dispatch of this unit in WSIB. He does however; want to investigate the matter further.

L. McCoy also gave a brief update regarding the paramedic wage negotiation. They have agreed to go to arbitration and know that this will have a huge impact on our financial position. He is pleased and feels that things are going very well. The paramedic union has been very agreeable to work with.

Resolution #05-058

Moved By: D. Amaroso
Seconded By: J. Curran

- 4.4 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB accept the recommendation from Fire Chief L. McCoy to authorize the appropriate staff to pursue the Sault Search and Rescue matter further and report back regarding the feasibility of entering a First Response Agreement with Sault Search and Rescue."

CARRIED

5. Ontario Works

C. Rosso commented that the intake screening is now underway in-house and we are currently experiencing very high volumes of calls. They are running between 14 – 16 applications per day. Hopefully things will slow down once the students and other season applications have been processed. Delays of up to 7 days are now taking place. C. Rosso feels that the new process has definitely simplified things for clients.

K. Streich- Poser discussed the Employment Readiness Scale. She noted that this is a tool to determine where clients are in regards to there employment skills and readiness for the workplace. The staff is currently training to use this tool. It will provide us with a better profile of the Ontario Works caseload and the needs that should be addressed.

Ontario Works have developed a Counter Registration Program. Other DSSAB's are now inquiring about this system and the methods used to track incoming clients and the front counter tracking system.

Resolution #05-059

Moved By: L. Madonna
Seconded By: B. Hayes

- 5.1 "Be it resolved that the report prepared by the Ontario Works Program Manager be accepted by the Board as information."

CARRIED

Resolution #05-060

Moved By: D. Amaroso
Seconded By: L. Turco

- 5.2 "Be it resolved that the minutes from the March 07, 2005 Ontario Works Committee meeting be accepted by the Board as information."

CARRIED

Resolution #05-061

Moved By: L. Turco
Seconded By: P. Mick

- 5.3 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB accept the handouts provided regarding the Measurement of the Employment Readiness as information."

CARRIED

6. Community Child Care

F. Lake discussed the highlights of her report. Client profiles and the Best start Program development were discussed. K. Streich-Poser noted that the main concern with Best Start Program is the Provincial Government's vague commitment to funding.

Resolution #05-062

Moved By: J. Curran

Seconded By: L. Turco

- 6.1 "Be it resolved that the report from the Community Child Care Services Manager be accepted by the Board as information."

CARRIED

7. Homelessness

D. Pauze spoke to her report and noted that with the second funding phase new partnerships have been formed and things are moving forward. There were surplus funds in the Regional Homelessness Initiative from last year and Sault Ste. Marie will receive \$42,000 of these funds that must be used for youth. This money is now earmarked for Pauline's Place.

Resolution #05-063

Moved By: D. Amaroso

Seconded By: L. Turco

- 7.1 "Be it resolved that the Homelessness Update Report from the Community Coordinator be accepted by the Board as information."

CARRIED

K. Streich-Poser noted that the Homelessness Prevention Program funding has been used to support the Mobile Support Worker and the Community Assistance Trust since 2000. These funds may now become cost shared. The Ontario Works committee agreed that this should be brought forward. The DSSMSSAB is not mandated to provide these services but have done so in the past as a result of the 100% funding structure.

Resolution #05-064

Moved By: L. Turco

Seconded By: P. Mick

- 7.2 "Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration

Board write a letter to the Ministry of Community and Social Services requesting the continuation of 100% funding for the Homelessness Prevention Program as recommended by the Ontario Works Committee."

CARRIED

8. Social Housing

R. Cobean commented that there has been no word on Cara Community funding application. The Cara / Liuna amalgamation should be complete in July. The Neech-Ke-Wehn property is in a surplus situation and will therefore be providing a refund to the DSSMSSAB. They have become more active recently in the Housing Provider meetings and processes.

Benchmarking is slowly coming to an end on the Provincial side. Everyone seems to have a good idea how the numbers are going to work now. There continue to be some questions as things are being worked out. The appeal process is being put into place.

R. Cobean attended his first Housing Rental Tribunal meeting in quite some time. He commented that it is very difficult to get an eviction now and that it is tough for landlords to have their cases agreed upon. He sees this becoming a great concern for landlords in the future.

Resolution #05-065

Moved By: J. Curran

Seconded By: L. Turco

8.1 "Be it resolved that the report from the Housing Programs Manager be accepted by the Board as information."

CARRIED

Housing Programs staff and SSM Housing Corp. staff use the ONPHA resources often. This is a very worthwhile membership according to R. Cobean. G. Avery commented that there is a purchasing advantage to being a member as well.

Resolution #05-066

Moved By: D. Amaroso

Seconded By: L. Turco

8.2 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB approve the \$300 renewal fee for our Corporate Membership to ONPHA."

CARRIED

Resolution #05-067

Moved By: L. Madonna

Seconded By: L. Turco

8.3 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB accept the fax polls results to support the recommendation of the Housing Programs Manager to accept the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing draft benchmarks dated April 25, 2005 with the

one exception being the Knights of Columbus benchmarks which have been increased."

CARRIED

R. Cobean discussed the special subsidy advance to be provided to LaChaumiere Co-operative Housing Corporation with the Board members. Background material was distributed to Board members at the meeting. This is one of those matters where repairs must be made and the provider simply does not have the funds to do so.

J. Curran asked if this is really a subsidy advance or a simply a loan? R. Cobean responded that this is 100% repayable but with no interest. There is a new Affordable Housing Funding Program underway that speaks to capital expenditures. If this materializes in the near future, those dollars may be used to offset any funding already provided.

L. Turco asked if this is an urgent situation and R. Cobean responded that insurance would not cover any future damages should they occur.

It was suggested that this resolution be accepted in principle and that the Executive committee should meet to review the contract. A fax poll will then be conducted to approve the finalized funding.

Resolution #05-075

Moved By: P. Mick

Seconded By: L. Turco

8.4 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB accept the recommendation of the Housing Programs Manager for a special subsidy advance in the approximate amount of \$150,000 be provided to LaChaumiere Co-operative Housing Corporation, for emergency capital repair purposes with repayment to the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board at a minimum of \$7,200.00 annually beginning January 1, 2006."

CARRIED (in principle)

9. Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation

Resolution #05-068

Moved By: L. Turco

Seconded By: J. Curran

9.1 "Be it resolved that the minutes from the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation Meeting held April 24, 2005 be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

CARRIED

Resolution #05-069

Moved By: L. Turco

Seconded By: D. Amaroso

9.2 "Be it resolved that the minutes from the June 2004 Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation Annual General Meeting, the 2004 Audited Financial Statements and the 2004 Annual Report be accepted by the Board as information."

CARRIED

10. Commissioner of Social Services

K. Streich-Poser informed the DSSMSSAB that D. Overboe is no longer associated with NOSDA and has now taken on a role with the Social Housing Programs in Stratford.

Resolution #05-070

Moved By: D. Amaroso

Seconded By: L. Turco

10.1 "Be it resolved that the report matrix from the Commissioner of Social Services be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

CARRIED

11. DSSMSSAB Administration

Resolution #05-071

Moved By: L. Turco

Seconded By: D. Amaroso

11.1 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB adopt the new mileage rate of \$0.42 per kilometer and the daily travel meal allowance of \$66.00 per day to remain in line with the City of Sault Ste. Marie travel policy."

CARRIED

Resolution #05-072

Moved By: J. Curran

Seconded By: L. Turco

11.2 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB approve the Executive Committee decision for David Edgar to travel to the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) 2005 Learning Symposium "Building Community. Building Lives." at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario on June 1-3, 2005.

CARRIED

Resolution #05-073

Moved By: J. Curran

Seconded By: L. Turco

11.3 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB approve_____."

_____ and _____ to travel to
Timmins, Ontario on September 14, 15 and 16 to attend the NOSDA 2005
Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

12. New Business

13. Old Business

14. Correspondence/Information

** See listing of Correspondence provided with meeting material **

15. Adjournment

Resolution #05-074

Moved By: D. Amaroso

Seconded By: J. Curran

15.1 "Be it resolved that we do now adjourn."

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.