

# MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Board Meeting via Zoom Video Conference



## Board Members Present:

Jerry Brandt  
Teri Brandt  
Janice Bray  
Mike Dell  
Gail Finnon  
Teresa Hunt

Ted Knight  
Tom Lundy  
Jamie McGarvey  
Sharon Smith  
Rick Zanussi

## Board Members Absent:

Ted Collins  
Joel Constable

Sean Cotton  
Peter McIsaac

## Staff:

Jennifer Harris, Administrative Officer  
Shannon Johnson, CFO  
Tammy MacKenzie, CAO

## Guests:

Sarah Bissonette

### 1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair, Rick Zanussi at 6:31 PM.

### 2. **TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT.**

### 3. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.**

### 4. **ELECTIONS:**

#### 4.1 Election of Vice-Chair

The Chair conducted the election.

The Chair called for nominations from the floor three times for the position of Vice-Chair.

Mr. Brandt was nominated and willing to stand. No other nominations were put forward for the position of Vice-Chair.

#### ***Resolution 23 03 01***

**CARRIED**

*Moved by Ted Knight*

*Seconded by Jamie McGarvey*

“THAT Jerry Brandt be appointed and approved as the Vice-Chair of the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board for the year 2023.”

### 5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

#### 5.1 February 9, 2023

#### ***Resolution 23 03 02***

**CARRIED**

*Moved by Teri Brandt*

*Seconded by Ted Knight*

“THAT the Board meeting minutes of Thursday, February 9, 2023 be approved as presented.”

**6. DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS.**

**7. REPORTS:**

7.1 Chair

Welcomed new Board members Janice Bray and Mike Dell to the Board.

Acknowledged International Women’s Day and thanked the women we have working for our organization.

7.2 Chief Administrative Officer

Report was presented and reviewed by Ms. MacKenzie.

Mentioned the Board training videos on SharePoint which are a great resource to understanding what we do at the DSSAB.

We have reached out to all 22 municipalities with the offer to provide a presentation to councils on DSSAB services. Board members will be informed when we will be presenting to their municipalities.

Our Zoning and OPA amendments for our Waubeek Street property were successfully obtained; in the next while we will have a discussion to figure out next steps with this property.

7.3 Chief Financial Officer

Thanked the Board for approving our 2023 Operating and Capital budgets at our February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. The budget has been distributed to all municipalities and is posted on our website.

**8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES.**

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

9.1 Partnership with the WPSHC – Mental Health & Addictions Worker

A written report was presented by Ms. MacKenzie.

9.2 AMO’s 2023 Pre-Budget Submission

A written report was presented by Ms. MacKenzie.

Ms. Hunt joined the meeting at 6:55 PM.

***Resolution 23 03 03***

**CARRIED**

*Moved by Sharon Smith*

*Seconded by Gail Finnon*

“WHEREAS the homeless crisis is taking a devastating toll on families and communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario;

WHEREAS the homelessness crisis is the result of the underinvestment and poor policy choices of successive provincial governments;

WHEREAS homelessness is felt most at the level of local government and the residents that they serve;

WHEREAS municipalities and District Social Services Administration Boards are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity or tools to address this complex challenge; and

WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the provincial government on an emergency basis to develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent, reduce and ultimately end homelessness in Ontario.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board calls on the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) Acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic, and health crisis;
- b) Commit to ending homelessness in Ontario;
- c) Work with AMO, NOSDA, FONOM, NOMA and a broad range of community, health, Indigenous and economic partners to develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve this goal.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and the Minister of Health.”

### 9.3 Child Care Workforce Shortage

A written report was presented by Ms. MacKenzie.

#### ***Resolution 23 03 04***

#### **CARRIED**

*Moved by Jerry Brandt*

*Seconded by Janice Bray*

“WHEREAS the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board supports Resolution 23-13 passed by the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board at their meeting held on January 19, 2023 regarding the child care workforce shortage in Ontario; and

WHEREAS access to quality licensed child care is an essential component of Ontario’s social and economic well-being and enable children to grow up with a sense of community; and

WHEREAS lack of licensed child care is a barrier for parents to return or enter into the workforce, thus putting a strain on families, hindering economic participation, and forcing parents to remain at home to care for their children; and

WHEREAS the demand for child care spaces creates waitlists that have parents waiting for several years for a space, if they receive a space at all; and

WHEREAS in recent years the recruitment and retention of qualified Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECE’s) and child care staff has been a challenge that has been exasperated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS the workforce crisis in the early years and child care sector has been further exasperated by the significant wage disparity between the compensation paid to RECE’s employed

by School Boards and those employed in licensed child care centres due to lack of funding which has created an inequity for workers with equal qualifications; and

WHEREAS Ontario has signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement putting Ontario on the path to reducing child care fees to an average of \$10/day which will create a demand for more child care spaces when a workforce shortage already exists; and

WHEREAS the province of Ontario's commitment to a minimum wage of \$19/hour for RECE's with \$1 annual increases until reaching \$25/hour does not provide an immediate response to attracting and retaining child care staff and will take many years to correct the wage disparity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board advocates for the Province of Ontario to address the child care workforce shortage in Ontario by immediately increasing the \$19/hour minimum wage and providing benefits to RECE's in licensed child care centres to an equitable level to that which is paid to RECE's employed by School Boards; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario launch and financially support an accelerated Early Childhood Education Intensive program, to be completed within 14 to 16 months, similar to the program launched in March 2022 for Personal Support Workers (PSW's), where funding supported the costs of tuition, books, and other mandatory fees, to help address the shortage of RECE's in Ontario; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to OMSSA, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, Childcare Resource and Research Unit, NOSDA, FONOM, AMO, and all District Social Services Administration Boards, to request their support and advocacy for this resolution; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Vic Fedeli and MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka Graydon Smith."

#### 9.4 Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) – Homelessness Prevention and Housing Benefit

A written report was presented by Ms. MacKenzie.

#### ***Resolution 23 03 05***

#### **CARRIED**

*Moved by Tom Lundy*

*Seconded by Mike Dell*

“WHEREAS the drastic recent increase in homelessness and the concurrent increase in the reliance of Canadians on food banks is evidence of the widening of the gap in income disparity due to current economic conditions; and

WHEREAS the CAEH has presented data illustrating that the majority of Canadians believe that homelessness is a problem and it is getting worse; and

WHEREAS the data also shows that the majority of Canadians believe resources should be allocated to improving the situation; and

WHEREAS CAEH has presented the benefits of creating a Homelessness Prevention Housing Benefit;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board supports the CAEH in requesting that the Federal government create a Housing Benefit as outlined in the CAEH report and proposal.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be circulated to all District of Parry Sound municipalities, AMO, OMSSA and Parry Sound-Muskoka MP, Scott Aitchison; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada and the leaders of the opposition parties.”

#### 9.5 Further Appointments to LHC Board for 2023

A written report was presented and reviewed by Ms. Johnson.

#### ***Resolution 23 03 06***

#### **CARRIED**

*Moved by Gail Finnsion*

*Seconded by Ted Knight*

“THAT the Board approve the amendment of Resolution 23 01 03 to add the following Officer and Directors to the Parry Sound District Housing Corporation, as follows:

Officer: Vice-Chair Jerry Brandt

Directors: Jerry Brandt, Joel Constable, Mike Dell, Peter McIsaac, Sean Cotton and Janice Bray.”

#### **10. IN-CAMERA.**

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned to the next regular meeting to be held Thursday, April 13, 2023 via Zoom Video Conference.

#### ***Resolution 23 03 07***

#### **CARRIED**

*Moved by Jamie McGarvey*

*Seconded by Sharon Smith*

“THAT the Board meeting now be adjourned to the next regular meeting to be held Thursday, April 13, 2023 at the hour of 6:30 PM via Zoom Video Conference.”