

KENORA DISTRICT SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Ontario Works/Child Care
Committee held on Thursday, February 5, 2009
at the Kenora District Services Board Office in Dryden
Commencing at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Joyce Timpson, Chair
Kim Thain
Dianne Apland, OW/CC Director
Toni Thurbide, Director of Finance

ABSENT: Ray Leray
Sten Lif, Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the OW/CC Committee was called to order by the Chair at 10:05 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 2.1 MOTION NO.: OWCC2009-01** Moved by Kim Thain
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee approve the agenda *as amended* for a meeting of the Committee to be held on Thursday, February 5, 2009 at the Kenora District Services Board administration office in Dryden commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Add: Item 2.2: Election of OW/CC Committee Chair
Item 7.11: Ear Falls Child Care Centre
Item 8.1: Reconfiguring the OW/CC Committee
Item 9.2: Resolution regarding Ear Falls Child Care Centre

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: File

2.2 Election of a New OW/CC Committee Chairperson

Kim Thain nominated Joyce Timpson as chairperson for the OW/CC Committee. Joyce accepted the nomination.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None Declared

4. DELEGATIONS / DEPUTATIONS

None at this time

5. MINUTES OF OW/CC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD October 27, 2008

- 5.1 MOTION NO.: OWCC2009-02 Moved by Kim Thain
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the OW/CC Committee approve the minutes of the October 27, 2008 committee meeting as presented.

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: File

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 **Letter to Premier McGuinty from District of Timiskaming re Best Start funding**
A letter was received from the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board with a resolution that the Province of Ontario continue and ideally increase Best Start funding beyond March, 31, 2010.

- 6.2 **KDSB Letter to Minister of Children and Youth Services**
The Committee also reviewed the letter sent by the KDSB to the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services, and the Honourable Diane Finley, Federal Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, urging them to work together to fund child care at a level to support child care and children within the district and to enable Best Start funding to continue on a permanent basis. The current funding model is set to expire in 2010.

- 6.3 **Response from Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services**
The reply from the Minister of Children and Youth was also discussed.

Best Start funding is 100% provincial dollars while regular Day Nursery Act dollars are cost shared 80/20.

ACTION: The Committee made a recommendation that the Board of Directors consider drafting a resolution to both the federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and the provincial Minister of Children and Youth requesting confirmation of a joint federal/provincial plan to enable Best Start funding to continue on a permanent basis at 100% provincial dollars.

7. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 7.1 **2008 OW Service Delivery Model Review Implementation Schedule**
The Committee was provided a revised Implementation Schedule; discussion centering on those tasks behind schedule, labour management matters, and securing office space for the Kenora OW office. Dianne reported that we may be signing a Memorandum of Agreement on the process to determine which union will represent the workers. We are currently waiting for CUPE and IBEW to sign off on the Agreement. The property manager for the Market Square in Kenora has been contacted and negotiations for a new lease for the Kenora OW office have been ongoing. There is an issue with the insurance required by the KDSB and to date no lease has been signed.

The revised OW policies and directives will be going to the Committee at the next meeting.

- 7.2 **Ontario Works Statistics**
The Ontario Works caseload is still rising with a total of 627 benefit units or families on assistance.

- 7.3 OW2009-04: Report on Homelessness**
Dianne provided a report on the three homeless shelters within the district, Kenora Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre, the Red Lake Emergency Shelter, and the Sioux Lookout Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter. Ontario Works provided approximately \$114,000 in per diem and room and board payments in 2008, local share approximately \$26,000. The Homeless fund provided an additional \$15,000 to the Kenora shelter, \$37,500 to the Red Lake shelter and \$32,500 to the Sioux Lookout shelter. Formal agreements have been drafted between the KDSB and each shelter and are in the process of being signed off by the various Boards of Directors.
- 7.4 Cultural Sensitivity Training**
Staff from all departments of the KDSB participated in a day of Cultural Sensitivity Training. Cathy Creighton from Health Canada facilitated the training, which included an information sharing and role play component. Feedback from the session was very positive.
- 7.5 National Child Benefit Supplement**
A call for proposals for NCBS funding will be put in all local papers in the month of February.
- 7.6 Timiskaming Resolution**
See Correspondence Item 6.1.
- 7.7 Report on All day Junior and Senior Kindergarten**
Dr. Charles Pascal's report to the provincial government regarding all day junior and senior kindergarten was due March 31; however it has been postponed until May.
- 7.8 Budget Training**
The Manager of Children's Programs has been training child care staff throughout the district with regards to the budget and reporting tools.
- 7.9 Aboriginal Head Start**
The Waninawakang Aboriginal Head Start Child Care Centre held a grand opening ceremony with traditional drummers and a feast.
- 7.10 Red Lake/Dryden Nursery School Moves**
The Red Lake Child Care Centre renovations at the Red Lake Madsen School are progressing and the centre may be able to move in the spring.
- The Keewatin Patricia School Board is in the process of creating another super school in Dryden and will eventually close Pinewood School. The Dryden Nursery School Co-op is currently renting space in Pinewood School and negotiations have begun with the school board to extend the lease until the following summer.
- 7.11 CC2009-08: Ear Falls Day Nursery**
Dianne provided a Report and letter from the Ear Falls child care manager requesting assistance with extraneous costs incurred by the centre during the past summer. The child care centre was closed due to an air quality issue. Extensive cleaning and renovations were needed to deal with a moisture and air flow issue.
- 8. GENERAL BUSINESS**
- 8.1 Reconfiguring the OW/CC Committee**
This topic was added to the agenda by Joyce as a discussion point. The homelessness portfolio and whether it should be rolled into the OW report, or if OW/Homelessness

should constitute one Committee and Child Care/Best Start split to become a second committee was discussed. The consensus of the Committee was to wait and see what would happen with the governance review.

9. RESOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 MOTION NO.: OWCC2009-03 Moved by Kim Thain
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommend that the Board approve a resolution requesting that funding for the Best Start program be continued beyond March 31, 2010.

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: Board of Directors

- 9.2 MOTION NO.: OWCC2009-04 Moved by Kim Thain
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommend funding from the Best Start Unconditional Grant in the amount of \$12,823.90 for the Municipality of Ear Falls for clean up at the Ear Falls Child's View Day Nursery as a result of an air quality situation.

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: Board of Directors

10. NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting dates tentatively set for March 2, 2009 10:00 a.m.; April 20, 2009 10:00 a.m., June 1, 2009 10:00 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Confirmed this 6th day of March, A.D. 2009,

By Resolution No.: OW/CC 2009-06

Joyce Timpson, Chair