

**MADRAS COLLEGE SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006**  
**South Street Library**

**Note of the meeting**

**Present:** A Alexander, C Dunn, J Flegg, H Marriage, L McCartney, P McKiernan (Chair), G Murray, T Salter, M Wilson (Clerk), Mr Matheson, Councillors Gunstone and Liston

**Guest:** Mr K Greer, Head of Education

**Parent observer:** Mr A Black

**1. Apologies:** Councillors Black and Brett, Roisin Connolly, A Liggatt

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting in particular our guest Mr Greer.

**2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (13/09/06)** Apologies of the Chair and L McCartney (present) to be added to the minutes With these additions the minutes were approved.

**3. Matters arising. Item 7 Public Relations** LM advised that J Bennett and G Murray had had a very positive meeting regarding this. Item 9 Communication had been sent out to parents. Item 12 LM advised that he was in discussion with facilities service regarding improvements in the Kilrymont Locker area. Once the location of pupil lockers has been finalised pegs for coats will be provided.

**4. Mr K Greer** wished to discuss: Inspectors' Report and Accommodation

- Inspectors Report: Overall he was disappointed in the negative press coverage of the report. He noted the good work in the school. He felt that it was unsatisfactory for HMI to make such a large issue of accommodation – they were not qualified as building persons but qualified in learning and teaching. Accommodation was certainly well below what we need to give in a school. Madras has a great history which leaves us with a legacy to the future that we must support.

Where do we go re accommodation? Funding for work would have to come from the Scottish Executive. Fife has no funds. There is a team set up by Mr Greer to prepare the options for Madras (depending on funding). – committed to replacing Madras College

- To replace both buildings with one on K/Rd site either using existing K/Rd building or rebuild
- Refurbish S/St site
- Build at Taybridge - marginal area Leuchars happy to go to Taybridge or stay at the establish school - will new school bring interest from Dundee?
- Councillors will have the final say on what the build will be.

Question and Answer session followed:

- “Out west proposal” - re St Andrews University land exchange – is still an option – K/Rd site could be used for affordable housing – S/St is an historical site
- Fife Structure plan on energy – we would still be bussing pupils whatever solution is chosen
- Community schools / town school/ and town and bridgehead
- Predictions :pupil roll will fall sharply in NE Fife
- K/Rd option not popular – K/Rd school should be knocked down

- Scottish Executive time scale 2 years to build a new school once planning and consents are completed
- Concerns that in the “West option” bridgehead pupils would be cast to one side. Some feel that we need bridgehead school now!
- Parental placing requests- We can’t guarantee that they will send pupils to the school in their area
- Short-term refurbishment needs – Madras is not the worst -Dunfermline High school is very bad
- At present 65% of Madras pupils live outwit St Andrews
- If funding given in Spring of 2007 – a new school could open in session 2009/10
- Team of 8 people working on the building options - they will report back to K Greer
- We wish as good a school as we can get as we only have one shot at this

The Chair thanked Mr Greer for his honesty and time.

#### 5. Parents as Partners August 2007

- school can choose to have a body such as this or not
- option a parent Council
- statutory SB ends in August 2007
- We need to familiarise with this change and discuss what kind of form we wish in consultation with the PTA
- What is the best organisation for expressing the needs of staff, pupil, and parent?
- Do we still want Councillors to attend?
- Sandra Martin Development Officer ASDARC - model constitutions etc
- We should consult with all stakeholders

**6. The School Day** – Continental Day – A group had been formed to look into the feasibility of a Continental Day being introduced into schools. A 1 year pilot. Unfortunately this has been shelved for the moment. Not given up – reduce lunch hour – this gives pupils less time to roam about. Reduce the school day.

**7. Chairman’s Business** School board web-site issue – flooded by comments on disciplinary action being taken at Madras. While it was felt that it should be left to run freely since the website had been set up to allow teachers, parents and pupils to air their views, it started to become quite personal and hits were being made anonymously. The Chair sought advice from Fife Education regarding the situation and reluctantly decided that there was no other option than to close the site. It was one of the hardest decisions he had made during his years as Chair of the Board. Therefore the school board web-site was closed as was the link from the school website to it. At present the website was in the process of being updated. When up and running M Wilson said that she would keep the website up to date if shown how to do this.

8. AOB (AA) provision of soap in girls’ toilet in K/Rd. Concern from parents re certified ‘15’ film being shown to pupils under that age at the end of term “Braveheart”.

9. Date of next meeting: **6<sup>th</sup> February 2007- 7pm in S/St Library**

mjlw 27/01/07