

Madras College Parent Council Meeting
12 May 2010

Draft Minutes

1) Welcome etc

Present: - Hugh Watson, Jackie Himpson, Heather Marriage, Alex Slawin, Cllr Ron Caird, Lynsey Seeley, Jayne Fraser, Andy Herd, Jackie Morrissey, Callum McLeod, David Rickman, Peter Brown, Emma Henderson, Jean Duncan, John McAnaw, Andy Primmer, Henry Paul, Jean Duncan, Bruce Sinclair, Ian Jones, Phill Williams

Apologies: - Vanessa Rengger, Cllr Dorothea Morrison, Cllr Robin Waterston, Jane Pettegree, John Barnett and Ann Adamson.

2) Chairperson update: Chair welcomed everyone to meeting and had no updates for this section that would not be covered by the agenda.

3) Previous Minutes and Matters Arising:

a. Treasurer and Henry to sign cheque for Bruce to pay for web hosting of PC website.
Still to be done, action on Peter and Henry.

b. Chair to write two letters to Mr Ken Greer, head of Education Fife Council, the first complaining about the cuts in music tuition and the second requesting support to Andy Herd during the negotiations about the new Madras. Both letters sent and acknowledged, but no answer to points raised.

c. Curriculum for Excellence on schedule to start in August 2010.

d. Pupils smoking on school premises. Due to a higher staff presence no new instances reported.

e. Minutes of last meeting approved: **Bruce to annotate the website as required.**

4) Rector's Report:

a. Swimming Pools: South Street pool closed and unlikely to open again due to cost. Kilrymont pool closed because part of the roof blew off at the end of last term. Debris was blowing around Kilrymont site (not asbestos) and site was closed for three days. Roof stabilised and extensive inspections carried out. Prior to the inspections, asbestos was removed from the site strictly adhering to the health and safety requirements. The inspection report shows that the damage is not as bad as first expected and the pool should re-open in August 2010.

b. Print 08: School has received copying bill for 09 and it is a 300% increase on 08 costs. B&W has gone from 1p to 2.5p per click (once through the copier) and colour copying has undergone similar increase in costs. Print 08 was a Fife Council initiative to reduce the cost of photocopying by centralizing volume copying in Glenrothes and discouraging schools from carrying out this copying at the school by artificially inflating the cost of copying. However, the Print 08 depot in Glenrothes is not yet on line and until it is the school was promised that one of the school's volume Lanier copiers would be

designated a volume printer and copying would be charged at the old rate. Fife Council has failed to do this.

Action: Cllr Ron Caird to write to Stuart Nicoll (Print 08 project manager) to confirm status of Print 08 and the designated volume Lanier printer.

c. School Uniform: Majority of pupils/staff and parents liked the fitted jacket option (£30 a jacket). The school will appoint 60 sixth form prefects and they will have special jackets with braid around collars (braiding paid for by school) and they will have to wear jackets to be a prefect. Every pupil will be strongly encouraged to wear the new jackets.

Action: Full support of PC for planned change.

d. Internal School review: Barrie Millar -new depute rector – was responsible for conducting internal school reviews in Dundee in his previous post. When he joined Madras staff, Mr Millar and two outsiders conducted a review.

1. Good Points: Extensive Curriculum, pupil attainment, talk time, pupil services and P7 to S1 transition.
2. Points to work on. Leadership at all levels, Ethos and discipline, learning and teaching, raising attainment at foundation and credit level, no clear lead for future.

5) Treasurer's Report: Financial Statement – PC Meeting 12 May 10

Date	Description	Out	In	Balance (£)
10 Mar 10	Opening Balance			1758.47
31 Mar 10	Tax Deducted	0.03		1758.44
31 Mar 10	Interest		0.19	1758.63
26 Apr 10	50/50 Club		225.00	1983.63
12 May 10	Closing Balance			1983.63

At 10 March 2010 account was £1758.47. The PC had received two donations, one from 200 club of Community Council of £150 for the eco-garden at Kilrymont, and one from 50/50 club of £225. The PC funds now stand at £1983.63. The pipe band had enquired about a donation from PC but had failed to put in a formal request.

Action: Rector to ask Pipe Band Major to put in written request for funds.

6) New Madras: Andy Primmer gave an update. Business case approved by Fife Council on 8 April. No part of the new school will be on consortium land and hence will not be affected by Local Plan. Fife Council is still working on planning application and it should be submitted in a couple of weeks.

Action: When Fife Council request planning permission for the new school: all parents on the PC to choose a Primary School to go to talk to their PC about plan, PC to put a letter on the website and PC to send letter out by Parent Mail with a hot-link to planning portal to encourage parents to comment on proposed new Madras.

7) Chairman: We need projects for new Madras, currently the staff have two groups; one looking at heritage items to take or copy at the new site and the other looking at taking cuttings from cherry trees to transplant to new site. The Rector stated that the school was looking at how it could copy the listed war memorial, at the South Street site, and replicate it at the new site. Three user groups between school and university have been set up: sports, expressive arts and chemistry.

Action: Chair to write a letter, to be sent out by Parent Mail, requesting ideas for new school projects.

8) AOCB: Henry Paul stated that the eco club garden would be open to the public during the Hidden Gardens scheme on Sunday 27 June between 11 AM to 4 PM. Pupils from the eco club have been requested to volunteer to man the garden during this period and Henry asked for volunteers from the PC to help. Standard 1,000 mile stare and no volunteers.

9) DONM: If Fife Council request planning permission for the new school a special PC meeting will be called.

10) AGM: Parent Forum AGM will be held on Wednesday 1 September at 7:00pm in Kilrymont hall.