

Madras College Parent Council Meeting
27 January 2010 @ 7.00 Kilrymont

DRAFT MINUTES

1) Present: Ian Jones, Andy Herd, Lynsey Seeley, Maxine Latinus, Bruce Sinclair, Jayne Fraser, Eric Bowman, Peter Brown, Vanessa Rengger, Robin Waterston, Jane Pettegree, Heather Marriage, Jackie Himpson, Hugh Watson, Dorothea Morrison, Alex Slawin, Andy Primmer, Ron Caird, Linda Hardie, Rebecca Brown

Apologies: John McInaw, Michael Weir, David Rehman, Sheena Watson

Preamble

The meeting agreed that in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair the Rector would chair the meeting. The Rector noted that the time of the meeting had been changed in order to allow him to attend an exhibition on technology in education, which should be useful in planning for the new Madras. Zoe has expressed her wish to resign from the Parent Council. The meeting welcomed Peter Brown's offer to be a vice Chair of the Parent Council.

2) Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

These were accepted as a true record. Matters arising were dealt with as appropriate in the rest of the meeting.

3) Rector's report

(i) Staffing – The School had now filled posts as follows:- Physics, Depute Rector, Art (2)

(ii) School maintenance – The Music House repairs are almost complete, and full occupation should return next week. All normal sessions had been relocated into the main buildings during the work.

(iii) South Street Pool – this is currently closed due to problems with the space heating, rot in the changing room timbers, and issues to do with safety equipment and the plant room that were discovered in an inspection. Work was going on to see if it was feasible to undertake the necessary maintenance. No curriculum sessions are being lost, and some Community Use has been transferred to the Kilrymont pool. It is possible that changing cubicles may be built in Kilrymont in order to suit the needs of Community Use.

iv) The Courier today carried an article that was thought to be unbalanced. A Fife Council report on Madras had shown many areas of strength, as well as a decrease in attainment in maths at the end of S2 and in Standard Grade. The newspaper article had focussed on the latter issue.

4) Treasurer's report

Peter has now taken over the accounts. As of 31 December there was £2016 in the bank. He needs a second signatory, and the meeting agreed to his suggestion that this should be the Chair or Vice Chair. Peter to contact Phil. Peter commented that three groups within the School had been mentioned as requesting financial support, but no written request had yet been received. The meeting decided that it was appropriate to move forward with donating £150 towards the cost of the new Dux board and £150

towards the cost of an Awards Day. The Rector is to invite the Pipe Band to put in a formal request for funding from the Parent Council.

5) New Madras progress and Local Development Group update

Andy Primmer reported back to the PC on last meeting. Things are looking encouraging. The Langlands B site (next to the University Sports Centre) has been endorsed. The University and Fife Council are in detailed discussions about developments that could be to the advantage of both. A joint project board is set up, and a project manager appointed. Preparatory work is being done, even though the decision on go-ahead cannot happen until the business case is (hopefully) accepted at the 8 April meeting of the relevant Fife Council committee. The main risks are thought now to be in the planning process.

The proposals look good for the School and the University. Various working groups are looking at the details. Formal agreements and financial arrangements would be needed, but there was hope that

- The School and Community Use would be able to access enhanced sports facilities run by the University
- The School may have access to some University science teaching labs
- The University may have access to music practice rooms in the New Madras
- The University may have access to conference facilities in Madras in the School vacations
- The School may be able to gain better access to ICT

It was thought that the partners could do a straight swap of the land for the New Madras with the land and building forming the old part of the South Street School. The more recent parts of that site would be retained by Fife Council. It was hoped that the Kilrymont site could be sold off for housing, and thus relieve some of the pressure on housing in the town. The St Leonards practice rooms were highlighted as the sort of facility that might be possible to include in the New Madras.

A swimming pool was not currently part of the design or budget, but there was hope that the University, possibly working in collaboration with Fife Council, might build such a facility in the medium term. It was suggested that the East Sands Pool has only ten years of design life left. The University plans to move and upgrade the all-weather surfaces, as well as build a new games hall.

The maintenance of the facilities may be done in a style similar to PPP schools; there is the intention of keeping the buildings smart and fit for purpose. The on-site catering facility could be a whole-day operation, and is expected to be able to seat half the pupils who are expected to eat-in for lunch.

A newsletter about the developments is to be produced and sent to parents and to feeder primaries. It is thought that there are groups in the town opposed to these plans, and it may be appropriate to encourage parents who regard the New Madras as overall a benefit to the area to voice their support to the planning authorities. Andy Primmer is currently on the Community Council, which is apparently seeking new members.

The plans are still for occupation of the new school to be in August 2013. This is based on a June 2011 start date, and an April 2010 acceptance of business case. The December 2009 meeting of the relevant Council Committee put this site as the preferred option, but the business case must be approved for the next phase of operations to commence. That phase will include applications for outline and detailed planning permission.

6) Values and Aims

The Rector apologised that he had to publish the revised values and aims without bringing them back to the Parent Council. Members who had seen the document at the last meeting were happy to see this proceed with the amendments suggested at the last meeting. The meeting accepted the Rector's offer to email the new Values and Aims document to Bruce for inclusion with the minutes (below).

7) AOCB

There was a further discussion about what might have prompted the Courier's article that was thought to be so biased against the School.

8) DONM

10 March 7.00pm Kilrymont

Madras College

Values

We are committed to ensuring that our school is a community based on these shared values:

- accepting everyone with consideration, tolerance, courtesy and respect;
- honesty, fairness and openness in our dealings with everyone;
- accepting responsibility for ourselves, our actions and developing a sense of self worth;
- caring for each member of our school community and helping those in need;
- working hard, being positive about our life and learning and committed to education in its widest sense.

Aims

The aims of the school are organised under 3 headings; Achievement, Ethos and Partnership.

Achievement

- All members of the school community contribute to a learning environment which will enable them to develop their full potential and achieve the highest possible standards in all aspects of their work.

Ethos

- All members of the school community are valued as individuals, regardless of their race, sex, religion, colour, creed or ability.
- All members of the school community are actively involved in creating good working relationships within the school.
- All members of the school community are provided with opportunities to develop their personal and social skills to enable them to take their place as caring and confident members of society.

Partnership

- All members of the school community play their part in maintaining and developing close partnership with parents and the local community.