

**Madras College Parent Forum Annual General Meeting
15 September 2010**

Draft Minutes

1) Welcome etc

Present:- 20 parents and the Rector. Apologies from Jackie Morrissey.

The outgoing chairperson Phill Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting, but expressed disappointment that there were not more people present.

The meeting accepted the minutes of the last AGM as a true record, proposed by Andy Primmer and seconded by Peter Brown.

2) Chairperson's Report

Phill explained that Zoe had been elected as chair last year, but had to stand down for personal reasons, meaning that as the vice-chair he had had to step up to the Chair's position.

Projects undertaken during the year by the Parent Council included:-

- £850 donation to the School to run Parentmail, as an important conduit for information to parents. This sum came out of the annual funding from government of £1000, through getting one of the Parent Council members to do the "donkeywork" of taking minutes for free rather than employing a minute taker.
- Eco Club - £350 direct funding for cherry trees. Assistance in filling in forms for grant funding which resulted in £10k for the portable garden. The herb garden was in the St Andrews garden displays.
- 50/50 Club – this was the major fund-raising activity. This helped in providing funds for the Dux boards, awards ceremony, and possibly a contribution to pipe band outfitting. More parents being involved in this scheme would help raise more funds.
- New Madras – The Parent Council (PC) has been in consultation with the Rector and Fife Council about the New Madras. The PC had a stall at most parent evenings to help give updates on this. Andy Primmer is the PC's representative on the Madras working group that also includes representatives of feeder primaries.

Future Intentions – To support School projects, concerts, expressive arts, eco-club; requests to relevant organizations to raise funds for these objectives.

Transition Project – assist in determining what of the Old Madras should be transported and renewed and put to use or display in the New Madras.

Consultations with School – Consultations during the year on values and aims, school uniform, curriculum for excellence, instrumental music tuition, representations to Fife Council re costs of Print08 scheme.

In response to a query from a parent the Chair stated that the £1000 came in from central government to the PC, and it was up to the PC to spend this on relevant projects. In the event of dissolution of the PC any remaining cash would go straight to the School.

3) Treasurer's Report

There is £2119 in the bank account and £1.92 in petty cash. The PC is grateful to the St Andrews Community Council 200 Club for a donation of £150. The PC donated £150 to the cost of the new Dux board, £150 to the Awards Day, and £350 to the Eco club. There is an outstanding payment of £23 to pay for the hosting of the PC website by our internet service provider. The treasurer indicated his intention to stand down, and stated

that he will make arrangements for an independent audit of the accounts before handing over to the new treasurer.

4) Rector's Report

The Rector thanked Phill, Peter, and Andy for all their work on behalf of the PC and the School.

Over the last year the broad areas of focused development work for the School have been as follows:-

Evaluate policies and procedures – done with input from the PC

Renew awards administration – completed

Rewards system in S1 - S4, now much more comprehensive

More restorative approach to discipline – several staff now trained

Attainment at Standard Grade to be improved

Confident that this has happened for the School as a whole, currently evaluating the performance of each department with the principal teachers curriculum.

Curriculum for Excellence

This has been devised and is running for S1. Work continues looking at how best to achieve desired learning outcomes without too much repetition, for example energy being covered in science should be covered at a similar time in social subjects. A mapping exercise between learning outcomes and courses is being undertaken.

Assessment is for Learning – ongoing

Elective subject choice – introduced for one period a week, independent of main curriculum but linked to it. Staff and pupils enjoying.

Consider implications of Curriculum for Excellence for the senior phase of the School. Information on the new SQA exam system is still sketchy, but getting better. Once this is clearer then more work can be done to ensure that the process from S1 to these exams is as good as possible. One thing planned is a small choice of subjects after S1 to allow a bit more depth to study in S2 while maintaining reasonable breadth. This may be particularly useful for more able pupils, some of whom were thought to be marking time in the old system.

Improvement through self-evaluation

It is useful to identify strengths and also to see where things need to be developed further. There is a strong need for pupils of all abilities to be encouraged and supported to reach their full potential. The School is building links with both colleges and the University to assist in part of this.

Development of a set of aims and values

This was completed this session after discussion with staff, pupils, and the PC.

School Uniform

The Rector expressed pleasure that as many as 700 blazers had been sold.

Prefects

The prefect system had been re-instated last year, and now the system was being developed further, with prefects being involved in peers support, assisting in the corridors of Kilrymont, etc. There is a selection process for prefects, and work will continue to develop staff prefect links.

The priorities for the coming session are

- Curriculum for Excellence
- Leadership in the School
- Care and Welfare

5) The New Madras

On September 10 a meeting was held at which the current plans were released. In discussions with the University it had become clear that the plans of formal and shared use of a new sports centre were an issue. The revised plan puts the New Madras building away from the University Sports Centre, just up the hill from Andrew Melville Hall, on land currently owned by the University.

Fife Council remains committed to investing £40M for the New Madras building. A formal memorandum has been signed with the University whereby the University will exchange the land for the New Madras for the old part of the South Street buildings.

The Rector had visited a number of new academies in England. The aims for the new building included broad corridors with breakout work areas, transparent walls between classrooms and the corridors to aid communication and supervision, lots of light, and flexible use of space. A modern library should be in the centre of the school, and a high quality catering pupil kitchen was needed. A bright cafeteria should provide a range of food. Toilets were to be installed and maintained to be as high a quality as adults would expect in office space or restaurants.

The current indicative plans are for a three storey building with a central circular building (with architectural similarities to the Gateway building) and three wings radiating out from this. The fourth quarter would extend into a larger wing with sports facilities, assembly hall, canteen, etc, facing the University sports centre. The design studies showed that in this location the St Andrews skyline as viewed from the Strathkinness High Road would be maintained.

The plan is to have one access road from the A91 to the ground below the elevated site. Current plans have most parking at the lower level, though the Rector was keen to be able to bring the buses up to the higher level. The road was planned in such a way that there would be no vehicular access to areas beyond the school. There is an acknowledgement that walking and cycling routes from various parts of the town to the new school will have to be looked at and improved from current provision.

Because the publication of the new site for the school had been delayed until this week, the planned opening of the school has had to be put back several months.

The business case for the new build was agreed in April 2010.

The intention is to choose and appoint a design team (from 8) competitively to start in October 2010.

An outline planning permission should go in in October 2010

Planning and new school consultations will run 1 November 2010 to 10 December 2010.

If all goes to plan, construction will start in August 2012 with delivery of the building in March to May 2014

Andy, our representative on the local group, expressed his desire to get back to the originally agreed date of delivery.

The Rector responded to a parent's question that he believed that the funding for the new school was safe and was not in danger from the current economic issues, as it formed part of Fife Council's "prudential borrowing". He also expressed the view that this project was seen as far away as the Scottish Parliament as a major step forward in terms of educational collaborations, and hoped that all those involved would not wish to be seen to walk away from such an important project.

In answer to questions the Rector noted that one reason for the change in site was the realization that the community use of sports facilities in the school may have been too much to be catered for by the University facilities. There was also a mismatch in the planned spending by the two partners on the sports building. It was hoped, however, that the University and School would still work together to make use of each other's sports and other facilities to mutual benefit. Madras would have a new all-weather pitch by the School, and would also have the use of fields at Station Park. Current plans have a games hall for the School big enough for six badminton courts. This is big enough to host international volleyball and basketball.

There is still excitement about the possibilities for the educational linkages between the two institutions.

The new part of the South Street buildings would be considered for urban redevelopment. The Kilrymont road buildings are B-listed. This means the Council has to try to sell in this state or put to an alternative use. If this does not happen for three years then an application can be made to de-list the building and possibly sell off the site.

4) Elections to the Parent Council

Most attendees were willing to be elected on to the new Parent Council. A number of members of last year's PC were not able to attend, but were hoped also to be willing to be on the PC. At the meeting the following people were added to the Parent Council's membership

Debbie Cumming	Paul Brown	Jackie Himpson
David Rickman	John Barnett	Karen Barnett
Jane Pettegree	Graham Pitkin	Andy Primmer
Hugh Watson (teacher)	Lynsey Seeley	Charlotte Kirby
Alexandra Woollins	Jayne Fraser	Callum McLeod
Emma Henderson	Dawn Waddell	Phill Williams

Madras College Parent Council Meeting 15 September 2010

Draft Minutes

A short meeting of the PC was held after the AGM. The minutes of the previous PC meeting were approved, proposed by Andy and seconded by Peter. The dates of PC meetings have been published in the school's calendar, and are 3 Nov, 12 Jan, 9 March, 11 May, all at 7 pm.

Rector's Report

Fife Council's cuts to the instrumental music tuition service mean that the music trip has had to be cancelled. Across Fife a 25% cut has been made, but it has been worse than that in Madras due to other areas being preferred through the use of a deprivation factor.

The meeting was concerned that Fife Council had not replied with anything other than an acknowledgment note to the PC's communication expressing the need to maintain the instrumental music tuition service as it had been.

The meeting wished to recognize the valuable work that has been and that is being undertaken by the instrumental music instructors, and to recognize the problems caused to these staff members by Fife Council's Cuts.

The Rector wishes the PC to consider a new policy on inclusion at the next meeting.

Parentmail was reviewed in January and is seen to be valued by parents. The meeting approved an £890 donation to cover the cost of this service for the school for this year.

The next meeting seems to be well timed for the local development group meeting for the New Madras.

Next Meeting

3 November, 7 pm, Kilrymont Road

The meeting accepted the Rector's kind offer of optional tours of the building from 6.30

Agenda for next meeting should include amongst other items

Election of new chairperson, deputy, treasurer, and representative on the local development group.

Rector's report

Inclusion policy

State of the existing buildings

The New Madras

50/50 club

Eco club

SPTC membership