

Madras College Parents' Forum

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16th September 2009

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: About 60 people

Apologies: Alison Scott, Phill Williams

1. Welcome

The outgoing chair, Henry Paul, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. What the Parent Council has done in the last year, which includes

Fund ParentMail to help School-> parent communications

EcoClub Gardens -> major success in South Street, external funds raised. Slides from report attached.

Input to discussions on the New Madras (see below).

The Chair's slides are on the PC website.

3. Treasurer's Report

Mary Scott presented the accounts, where were in order, and had been passed to the auditor. Mary stood down from the post at this meeting, and the meeting thanked her for all her work in this role and in her previous work on the PTA. The importance of the 50/50 club to the Parent Council's fund raising was noted.

4. Head Teacher's Report

The Rector told the meeting that the School had been tackling four priorities for the last year

- Performance – helping pupils and staff achieve their potential
- Homework – this policy was reviewed, though little change has been made, and is now being tracked.

• Curriculum – preparation in particular for the introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence in the coming session. These developments are on track.

- Care and Welfare –

(i) the recently introduced appraisal and rewards policy was not uniformly as successful as hoped, and is under review.

(ii) The Antibullying policy has been renewed and is being consulted upon.

There is now a self-evaluation policy in operation along with observation of lessons by other staff.

The School had had another set of successful exam results. Although there had been a slight dip in attainment, the School was still well above the Fife and National averages, and there were some particularly high performing pupils and departments.

5. New Madras Presentation and Discussion

The Parent Council website contains details of some of the meetings about the plans towards a New Madras. The Chair outlined the process and current situation, and was joined by the Rector and Councillor Waterston in answering questions from parents.

Although around ten sites around the town had been considered at the start of the design process, there are now just two main options being considered, a refurbishment and extension of the listed building at Kilrymont, and a new-build school near the North Haugh. Two sites are being considered near the North Haugh, one between David Russell Apartments and Andrew Melville Hall, and one to the North West of Andrew Melville Hall.

The new build at a site in St Andrews West would entail Fife Council having to work with the University and its development partners. However, this option should provide a school with immediate access to comprehensive sports facilities and could enable the school to work closely with the University facilities at the North Haugh. It was reported that discussions had recently taken place between the Head of Fife Council and the Head of the University of St Andrews, and that proposals were to be taken to the University Court of the University of St Andrews. It was suggested that the University was keen to do what they could to allow this option to be possible.

The renewal and extension of Kilrymont would mean that pupils at the site will be decamped to portacabins for up to 3 years and would be necessarily co-located with a building site where asbestos removal is being carried out. If the school was built there it would be one of the smallest secondary school sites in Fife, despite being one of the largest number of pupils. The most recent secondary schools rebuilt in Fife were Queen Anne HS in Dunfermline on a site of 156,000sq m and Beath HS on a site of 133,000sq m. A New Madras at Kilrymont would be on a 62,000sq m site; less than half the size of either of the other school sites and would entail the continued use of Station Park. During the re-build and after it is completed, pupils would need to be bussed daily to the school's playing fields at Station Park. The advantage of this option for Fife Council is that they own the site and they would not have to negotiate with the University and their development partners.

A revised budget of £40 million has been allocated by Fife Council. The official target for completion is summer 2013. It was noted that Fife Council has recently determined that its earlier projection for future school roles was significantly too low for Madras.

Numerous questions came from the floor and were answered.

A vote was taken to determine which of the remaining two possibilities was the favoured option of the meeting. Every vote that was cast was for the new-build school on the western edge of town.

6. Nominations for new PC members.

The following members of the Parent Council are standing down, joining a number who had tendered their resignation during the year:-

Muriel Gray

A number of parents were willing to stand and joined the new Parent Council. The new Chair of the Parent Council is Zoe Smith, who was elected unopposed. The new Treasurer was also elected unopposed as Peter Brown. The complete list of Parent Council members is now as follows:-

- | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|-----------|
| 1 | John | Barnett | |
| 2 | Eric | Bowman | |
| 3 | Peter | Brown | Treasurer |
| 4 | Rebecca | Brown | |

5	Jean	Duncan	
6	Marjory	Finlay	
7	Jane	Fraser	
8	Linda	Hardie	
9	Emma	Henderson	
10	Rosie	Henshaw	
11	Jackie	Himpson	
12	Heather	Marriage	
13	John	McAnaw	
14	Calum	McLeod	
15	Jackie	Morrissey	
16	Henry	Paul	
17	Jane	Pettegree	
18	Andy	Primmer	
19	Vanessa	Rengger	
20	David	Rickman	
21	Alex	Slawin	
22	Bruce	Sinclair	
23	Zoe	Smith	Chair
24	Sheena	Watson	
25	Phillip	Williams Co-Opted Members	
26	Ian	Jones	
27	Olav	Darge	
28	Lynsey	Seeley	
29	Andy	Herd	
30	Ron	Caird	
31	Dorothea	Morrison	
32	Robin	Waterston	

Madras College Parent Council

Meeting 16 September 2009

Immediately after the AGM the new Parent Council held a meeting.

Welcome

The new chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Rector's Report

Over the summer some £10k had been spent seeing to trip hazards on floors. Senior staff will shortly go round all rooms to determine what the next round of health and safety repairs needs to be.

The two IT rooms have now been moved to the third floor to join related facilities. The support for learning has been relocated to join related activities near the lockers.

The Rector was happy to report that the session began with the permanent staff complement complete, including the new PTs in maths and physics. However, since then, the PT PE has announced his retrial and recruitment for a replacement is now in progress.

The New Madras discussions have taken significant amounts of time for the senior management team, so Fife Council is appointing an additional depute Rector hopefully for after the October break.

The School's new anti-bullying policy was discussed at the last Parent Council meeting, and the Rector asked that Eric get the formal feedback to him soon.

The School's "Values and Aims" had been revisited and were presented to the meeting for discussion. The PC was asked to comment on these at its next meeting.

There will soon be a Curriculum Evening on English, though the issues being covered will go wider than just this subject. Parents are encouraged to register to attend.

A Curriculum for Excellence evening is to be held with feeder primary parent councils possibly early in 2010.

Next Meetings

4 November, meeting 6.30 for an optional tour of the South Street buildings, followed by the Parent Council meeting in the South Street library at 7.00.

13 January, 10 March, 12 May, 2 June.

AOCB

The retiring chair was thanked by the meeting for all his work leading the Parent Council in its first two years of operation. The retiring treasurer was thanked for all her hard work over the same period.

A number of parents reported that Parent Mail was not getting to them. The Rector and his team will investigate. Anyone who is not getting Parent Mail is asked to contact the School, preferably on the general email enquiry address.

The 50/50 Club will be explained in a Parent Mail once it is fully operational again.