

DRAFT

MADRAS COLLEGE SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday 6th February 2007

South Street Library

Note of the meeting

Present: A Alexander, A Black, R Connolly, C Dunn, J Flegg, H Marriage, L McCartney, P McKiernan (Chair), S Thomson, M Wilson (Clerk), Mr Matheson, Councillors Gunstone and Sangster

Parent observers: B Sinclair, S McLeod, R Henshaw, P and L Williams, H Paul, K Duncan, N Fyfe, Z Smith

1. Apologies: A Liggatt, G Murray, T Salter, Councillors Brett and Taylor

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the parents who had come to observe the meeting. He explained the procedures of the Board. It was agreed that the meeting would start with Item 7 on the Agenda, Chairman's Business. The Chair gave a presentation of 'The long-term Estate Strategy of the University of St Andrews', as he wished the Board as one of the potential partners in these ambitious plans to be informed and consulted about the strategic principles and outline. The attached summary of this presentation has been issued to all Madras College Staff and is also shown on the Madras School Board web-site.

After the presentation a general discussion took place with points being raised re the following:

- Bridgehead school advantages
- Catchment areas needing to be reviewed before decisions are made on new school provisions
- Fife Structure Plan, Transportation
- Community Use issues
- Parents to be invited to view both South St and Kilrymont to see the facilities
- Start debate with parents on future plans
- Council elections looming – Invite new councillors to visit both sites
- The need to raise school building issues at election "hustings"
- Is there a time scale for the University plans?
- HMI Report – if FC have not taken action within a year they could be chastised
- Mr Greer's comments that HMI were not qualified as building persons but qualified in learning and teaching – that perhaps may be the case but good education must be supported by a good environment for teaching and learning

2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (14/11/06) Mrs S Thomson had been present. This will be added to the minutes. With this addition the minutes were approved by H Marriage and A Alexander

3. Matters arising. The Chair asked that **Board's** grateful thanks should be given to Mr Bruce Sinclair for updating the Board website and adding a link to 'Blog'

4. Arrangements for appointment of new Rector – the Chair voiced the Board's grateful thanks to the Rector for his sterling role in establishing good policy in every corner of school life.

- Three Board members will form part of the Appointments committee
- A Alexander, C Dunn J Flegg H Marriage showed interest
- The above to inform Chair tomorrow re their availability
- Requirements are to be part of the appointments committee for the short leet candidate interviews to be held at Fife House on 5th March 2007.
- Clerk to send Membership of Appointments Committee Form to Fife House by Friday (9th February)

5. Area review of school's progress in response to HMI recommendations

- Joint authority school team
- Design brief for a school of 1400
- Accommodation – linked closely to the delivery of the curriculum
- Aspects of school life – best practice
- Environmental friendly (A Alexander) is this included in brief? To be reviewed and checked.
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6. Parent Forum

- End of May/June School boards and PTAs go to Parent Forums
- Plans for series of events
- Come together with PTA (K Pitman Chair)
- Organise a working group with PTA and the Board -2/3 PTA and board members
Volunteers to go on working group A Alexander, A Black and C Dunn
- Chair will liaise with K Pitman
- Rector's comments:
 - At present not so many links between the PTA and the School Board
 - Division of labour makes sense – divide into several sub-groups such as curriculum issues, health and safety, social events, fundraising
 - Unified and well thought out parental view would thus be encouraged and developed
 - Stronger position to represent parents
- P McK -Sub-groups – previous Board's meeting were structured like this – at a board meeting the board would split into groups i.e. Health & Safety, Transport, Buildings and Estates and then report back - a lot of business was covered with this format. It worked well.

7. Chairman's Business

- Estates project – December and run up to Children's' Panel meeting with a lot of Councillors – the Councillors did a wonderful job at the meeting on 11th January.
- Anyone wishing to contribute to the SB web-site – contact B Sinclair

8. AOB

- H Paul one of Parent observer's has offered his help and assistance to the Board.
- The Board voted H Paul on as a co-opted member to the Board
- *School Uniform (HM)* Are blazers only for Sixth Year? (LM) the blazers were trialled on S6 – a lot of interest from other year groups.
- *Local Press- (JF)* good to see positive news about the school being reported
- *Soap in toilets - -* Soap dispensers to be installed.
- *50th Anniversary Kiel Exchange (LMcC)* please pass on to anyone who was part of this exchange to get in touch with the school regarding the Anniversary
- *Morrisons Litter Trail (WS)* why do the council have a special refuse collection just for the pupils. *Mr M advised that there were now environmental wardens and that he had at least 20 copies of letters which had been sent out to parents of pupils who had been caught dropping litter advising that they would incur a £50 fine if they were caught again.*
- *H Paul informed the meeting that he had been elected as Fife Rep for SSBA.*

9. Date of next meeting: **24th April 2007** -
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