

Madras College Parent Council Minutes
Wednesday 22nd May 2013, Kilrymont, 7pm

1. Acting Chairman's opening remarks and appointment of New Chair.

The Acting Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including new parent member Lynn Christie.

Appointment of New Chair – no nominations as yet. To be addressed at AGM in September

2. Present – Ian Jones, Barry Millar, Andy Primmer, Cllr Brian Thomson, Rachel Naismith, Debbie Cumming, Emma Henderson, Dawn Waddell, Sally Walker, Paul Brown, Charlotte Kirby, Rebecca Trengove, Callum MacLeod, Hugh Watson, Cllr Tim Brett, Robert Graham, Sam Byers, Cllr Dorothea Morrison, Scott Wilson, Susan Simpson.

Apologies- Dave Rickman, Cllr Frances Melville, Phil Williams, Cllr Keith McCartney, Jane Pettegree, Bruce Sinclair.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.

These were accepted and there were no matters arising.

4. Rector's Report

Accommodation

- Category 1 spreadsheet previously mentioned, regarding key issues, have been either scheduled for completion or completed. Satisfied with progression.
- Façade of Kilrymont repairs are experiencing delays (Fife wide) as these are areas which require external authorisation. **Action:** Cllr Brian Thomson and Cllr Tim Brett to address.
- Easter Holidays saw modifications to South Street for a wheelchair bound pupil for stair access and a disabled cubicle within the pool area at Kilrymont. Library furniture/renovations have all been completed.
- Interactive white board has been placed within GP computer room with appropriate staff training.
- Wifi hubs are outstanding and the order for the notebooks.
- Cllr Dorothea Morrison noted an interesting comment regarding the maintenance figure for Madras. At present this is very low in comparison to other schools in Fife. Figure has been reduced due to the ongoing discussions about the new school. However the fabric and maintenance of the existing school must be maintained. **Action:** Cllr Dorothea Morrison to address.

IT

- School receives a budget to refresh obsolete IT. 6 years ago additional funding was provided enabling increased computer purchases. Issue now is that an abnormally high percentage of

computers require refurbishment, approx 200 machines and the budget will only allow 72. Additional monies required.

- Discussion regarding 'new school' IT budget being allocated early but this has been declined. Fife Council have not established a re-fresh policy. Plans are in place to link corporate IT with education which will ease this, but not agreed as yet.
- **Action:** Cllr Tim Brett and Cllr Brian Thomson to address.

Staffing

- Robin Dewar – Principal Teacher Expressive Arts retiring at the end of session.

Finance

- Per capita allocation for 13/14 has reduced to £94,881, a reduction of 5% due to reductions in the school roll.
- Departmental budgets have been agreed together with special projects for 13/14 academic session.

Group Call (Hugh Watson)

- Fife wide introduction and rolled out to S1-S3 in Madras. Initially 30 texts per day for absenteeism, reducing now with a positive take up. 10am is cut off for reporting absenteeism. Dedicated text number you can contact 078600 30885. Aim to tighten up attendance management. Rollout throughout South Street by end of session.

Curriculum for Excellence (Barry Millar)

- Curriculum choice for S1, S3, S4 & S5 now complete and timetables in the process of being compiled.
- Change to 7 period day, there will be no registration for South Street pupils as this will be completed during Period 1.
- 22/05 – discussions with pupils whose timetables require amendments are now underway and will be complete within the week.
- CfE readiness audit within school. All faculties scored highly with confirmation that ready for the Nationals (N3 – N5)

Rector:

- An outstanding issue has not been resolved – the necessity for an additional FTE to cover identified staffing needs relating to timetabling changes from 30 – 35 period week and subsequent lost teaching time due to travel across 2 campus.

- Issue brought to the attention of Joe Fitzpatrick In January 2013 and despite constant chasing by Rector, still unresolved. Essential that this is resolved immediately as an impossible task to timetable when staffing has not been agreed. The FTE will be timetabled for 28 cover periods. **Action:** Cllr Tim Brett and Cllr Brian Thomson to address immediately.

5. New Madras

- Process unfolding and now in a holding pattern.
- Planning application consultation open until 1st week in June.
- Public consultation was published a few weeks ago and the report will be sent to the Executive on 28th May.
- Cllr Tim Brett reported that Colin McCredie confirmed work is underway with site investigations and trying to anticipate all questions which could arise; noise report due to proximity to hospital etc. Agreement to go ahead with full school detailed design.
- If no judicial reviews etc. new school could be open Autumn 2016.
- Local Development Group – Andy Primmer still member (though would be willing to step down if someone wished to take his place). Will be called for meetings once the processes are underway.
- General discussions regarding Green Belt concerns. These will all be addressed within the planning application.
- Cllr's re-iterated that now within the planning phase, legal constraints on them in terms of code of conduct and non-disclosure of live planning applications.

6. Chairman's Report

Summoned mid-April in his school to be informed that Mr Jones had resigned and a new interim Rector would be appointed. Mr McClure joining with effect from 26th May 2013 and all members of the parent council are invited to meet him at 7pm on Wednesday 29th May.

7. Treasurer's Report

- Very little change to last meeting. Settled agreed expenditure of £350 for the Ohio Exchange Students Blown Away experience, together with finalised figure of £295 for the Madras College Pipe Band.
- £998.62 cash available. Very positive bearing in mind all that has been accomplished this academic session. Expecting expenditure in relation to QuadFest.

8. Secretary Report

Minutes are now on the web. Still in the process of trying to obtain access to web editor software to enable other sections of the Madras Parent Council website . Work in progress and moving slowly, positively, forward.

9. Fund Raising Group Report

- Easy Fundraising total now at £1033.61.
- Quad Fest tickets are now on sale for 22nd June.
- Help required wherever possible to set up, sell raffle tickets on the night.
- Received £400 anonymous donation.

10. Reports from Working Parties and Sub-groups

Homestudy

- Document has been circulated to staff, feedback received and incorporated. Art department is in the process of looking at the layout.
- Plan to launch through next session after discussion on roll out.
- Rector has slight concerns that this is too big and that changing the presentation may be required to ensure key message of relevance and importance.

11. AOCB

- Parent Forum/AGM, 4th September 2013, 7pm. School will confirm 2013/14 Parent Council dates as these fall in line with School timetable.
- DofE – understand that key member is leaving? Will the programme continue? Monies provided by Council to train staff – did this occur? Rector – yes, now have a reasonable number of staff trained at all levels.
- S2 pupils concerns over timetable choices? Is it possible to change mid-way through the CfE choices? Rector- Speak to guidance, if it is possible to accommodate taking current timetabling into account then they will try.

Closing by Chair

Farewell and thank you to the parents who were members of the Council and whose children have now left Madras College. From this session we are saying goodbye to Phil Williams who stood in the auspicious position of Chair for which he is thanked enormously for taking on this level of commitment and support to Madras College and Bruce Sinclair

A special mention to Bruce Sinclair, who's many years of service as Secretary and Webmaster, at nil cost, has meant that the monies could be utilised to finance the Parent Mail system. His exceptional

contribution is greatly appreciated and a small token of thanks was purchased for him by the Council.

Mr Ian Jones.

The Acting Chairman was informed mid-April that Mr Jones had resigned and was consulted as a courtesy about Fife Council's plans to appoint an Interim Rector for the foreseeable future. A presentation was made to Mr Jones with the Council's thanks for his leadership and tenure at Madras College over the past 6 years. Everyone wished him and his family well for his new exciting venture.

Mr Jones responded by offering his genuine thanks and appreciation for the support from all the Parent Council members, Sub Committees and Councillors in their collaborative approach to working with himself, Senior Management Team and staff at Madras College.