

Madras College Parent Council
Minute
Wednesday 25th October 2017, 19:00
Kilrymont Road

1. Apologies received

Jonathan O’Riordan, Jaap Jacobs, Heather Moffitt, Anna Moss, Irene McMenamin, David McClure (Rector), Kenny Wishart (Deputy Head Teacher), Cllr Ann Verner, Cllr Johnny Tepp, Cllr Jane Ann Liston, Cllr Tim Brett.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held 30th August 2017

These were adopted – proposed by Andy Primmer and seconded by Susan Simpson.

3. Matters arising (from meeting held 30/8/17)

- a. Seatbelt on school buses (provision and use) – it was noted that Jonathan O’Riordan has been in direct contact with the Scottish Government to pursue this matter and clarify the situation. There seems to be cross party support for the new legislation and we will carry this item over to the January meeting for a further update.

4. Office-holder reports

- a. Chair – nothing to report.
- b. Treasurer – Lynn circulated the draft accounts for 2016/17 and these show a closing balance (as at 30/9/17) of £2749.94. Two receipts are still to be supplied by the school and once these have been received Ewen Sparks will be in a position to complete the audit.

Lynn also highlighted the opportunity to boost funds by using ‘Easy Fundraising’ when making purchases online. Over the last year this generated an income of £348.70 for the parent council. Lynn will circulate a link for parents to register and use.

- c. Secretary – nothing to report.

5. Rector’s report

The Rector was absent as he was presenting at a local primary school. Angela Robertson, Deputy Head Teacher, stood in for the update and she covered the following -

The ‘Pupil Equity Fund’ is used for three main priorities – literacy, numeracy, health & wellbeing. The intention is to identify gaps and provide focussed learning to address these. Programmes such as ‘7 habits’ are utilised to increase confidence and give pupils the confidence to make progress.

Staffing – One business teacher short at the moment. Just recruited 2 for English and they start in approx. 3 weeks.

Sickness levels – 3 off this week, which is considered on the high side following the October break. Contingency plans are being reviewed before winter period where sickness rates are historically higher.

Nat 5 - The wording ‘transition year’ for the proposed changes has been changed to now be ‘transition period’ to extend things. No change to the existing failsafe offered for now and the length of transition period is still to be confirmed. It is felt that the SQA are dealing with a lot of change at the moment and they are receiving feedback on this from several areas. Monitoring and tracking are used at Madras to ensure teachers are aware of any issues and pupils are encouraged to go for the correct level.

Three point reporting scale now used for pupils – 1 = excellent, 2 = very good to ok, 3 = inconsistent.

Hugh Watson – A/B tests for Nat 5 will take place late November for pupils in S4. Dates should be on the website next week. S5 prelims will take place in February 2018.

Georgiana – Has a date been set for the Paris trip and will there be any clash?

Angela – The trip usually takes place in June and the only clash should be with a Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Pupils are advised in advance that they cannot do both.

Di – What are the specific outcomes and expectations from the A/B tests?

Hugh – Useful for staff to get a better picture of how pupils are coping and provides specific feedback leading into the parents’ evening and course choices. They also give pupils experience of exam conditions and the required discipline.

Lynn – Can homework requirements be staggered? It seems that several subjects issue homework concurrently and they have the same 2-day turn around time. This is most noticeable across the three sciences and Maths.

Angela – Will raise with the department heads to see if the timing can be staggered.

6. Fundraising group

Irene McMenammin and Georgiana Mazilu have volunteered to assist in this area. More volunteers would be useful to help take some ideas forward.

With a current balance of £2749 we do need to raise more funds to continue the good work of supporting school programmes and initiatives where we can.

Ideas were discussed and the following options were suggested:

- Wine tasting (Barry to follow up on possible dates with Mr McClure);
- Car boot sale (or internal equivalent via a stall);
- Music played at school events to encourage donations (e.g. violin and Christmas carols);
- Take a stall for the parent council at pre-planned events e.g. Christmas concert & parents' evening;
- Double up stall with a raffle.

In general there was more support for the principle of doubling up with existing events as opposed to organising separate events.

7. AOB

Sally – received some feedback about the poor condition of girls' toilet in South Street.

Angela & Olav - The agreed maintenance work is nearly complete with good feedback received on the quality of toilets. South St toilets will be done next. If there are any short-term issues with the provision of soap/towels etc. these can be raised with the janitorial staff for prompt attention.

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17th January 2018 at Kilrymont.

Meeting closed at 19:49.

Attendance List 30th August 2017

Parents

Susan Simpson, Chair
 Barry Millar, Secretary
 Sally Walker
 Leanne Hulse
 Kate Moriarty
 Andy Primmer
 Vicky Hobba

Lynn Christie, Treasurer
 Clare Campbell
 Georgiana Mazilu
 Paul Brown
 Taciana Kaschiukovic
 Marie-Noel Earley
 Di McGhie

Teaching Staff

Angela Robertson, Deputy Head Teacher
 Hugh Watson, Deputy Head Teacher
 Olav Darge, Deputy Head Teacher

Local Councillors

Cllr Dominic Nolan
 Cllr Brian Thomson (also a parent member)