

**Madras College Parent Council.**  
**Minute**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 19:00**  
**Kilrymont Road**

**1. Apologies received**

Susan Simpson, Leanne Hulse, Vicky Hobba, Cllr Linda Holt, Sandra Wahl, Cllr Ann Verner

**2. Minutes of previous meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Cllr Brian Thomson was missed from the attendance list. Apart from that the minutes were approved. The minutes were proposed by Georgiana Mazilu and seconded by Marie-Noël Earley.

**3. Matters arising from previous minutes**

- a) The chair thanked Cllr Thomson for having organised the rugby posts in time for the new academic cycle and rugby season. Cllr Thomson indicated there were a few snagging issues to be resolved but that they were looking very good.
- b) The wording in the statement regarding the use of Station Park was addressed and is all sorted.
- c) New School nurse provision will start as of 5<sup>th</sup> September in Kilrymont and the following week in South Street.
- d) Mr Wishart is champion for armed forces children and has done a fantastic role in setting up the provision. The school is invited to the next national conference in October. There are also some children who will be attending a Creative Forces Children event in Abertay, which offers taster sessions.
- e) Cllr Bett has indicated that the MOD may have some funding available for initiatives involving service children and encouraged the Rector to consider if there are any projects that may be eligible.
- f) The matter of FME eligibility and take-up amongst parents was raised and Cllr Liston suggested that the committee might want to raise this again with the Scottish Government. The Rector said this might be less of an issue at the new school where more pupils may want to eat in the canteen, and so eligible families may feel more inclined to apply.

**4. Office-holder reports**

a) Chair's report

The Chair gave thanks to the outgoing chair Susan Simpson, as well as to School staff and the Rector. The Deputy Chair suggested we show our thanks to the outgoing Chair in a material way and the Chair agreed to organise flowers and a card.

b) Treasurer's report

The accounts have not yet been audited for Parent Council, but this will be done in the next week. The Treasurer was keen to provide funding to school this year to ensure that we were not holding a significant balance for over 2 years. The Treasurer also asked the Rector to consider whether there is a specific target that they would like the Parent Council to work towards. There is an agreement that we would like to maintain £1500 balance in case of emergencies.

c) Secretary's report

As there is no secretary, there is no report available.

## 5. Rector's report

### a) Results

The Rector shared the results from last year - across S4, S5, S6 and using the standard measures of 5+ National 5, 1+, 3+ and 5+ Highers,

The results are taken from the internal SEEMIS information system, but the Education Scotland Insight tool will be available approximately the week of 20<sup>th</sup> September.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> year results

5+ National 5s, School is significantly above the Scottish and Fife average, and has grown for the past 5 years. There has been a rise from 53.5% to 55.4% an almost 2% rise on the basis of exams only data. When the NGA Scottish Studies is included in these results, an extra 11 pupils were counted as having achieved 5+ National 5, and this brings the total to 61%.

Overall 60% were A grades, 26% were B grades, 7% were C grades and 7% were D grades. The Rector explained that the Madras grades are significantly above the national pattern, and that this gives a good indication of how well the pupils will achieve at the next level.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> year results

1+ Higher, slight drop of 2.7% to 67%, but this was only down on the previous year spike and is still the second best the school has had, is the best in Fife and very good overall in Scotland.

3+ Highers, increase of 2% on last year's figure of 50%

4+ Highers, this is a Madras-only measure as this is a University entry qualification, but for which there are no Fife comparators. This increased by 6% to 45%, which is excellent.

5+ Highers, up almost 3% to 31.4% this year, which is outstanding.

Overall grades 44% A grades, 28% B grades, 21% C grades, 7% D grades.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> year results

3+ Highers, 59.8% up from 56% last year. Significantly better than Fife average

5+ Highers, up from 46.8% - 47.7%, which is excellent

1+ Advanced Higher, 39.3% same as last year which was a significant spike on previous years.

3+ Advanced Highers, 16% achieve 3 AH on top of their Highers. This was up from 12%, and is

49% Advanced Higher, A grades, 29% B grades, 22% C grades

### **Overall and comparison results**

The Rector also outlined his use of MIDYIS scores which is a baseline test for first year pupils. 100 is the baseline, and pupils achieving that would be expected to achieve 4-5 Nat 5s and 2-3 Highers. There are many pupils in Madras at 110-120, even up to 140. Pupils with scores of 110 would be expected to achieve 5 Nat 5s, 4-5 Highers. Madras has some pupils who significantly outperformed the expectations that are set from the MIDYIS scores, and the school has tracked all of their pupils, some of whom achieved outstanding scores against their MIDYIS scores.

The Rector provided some comparison figures across Fife Secondary Schools, and highlighted that Madras has the highest score across all measures and that there is no other school in Fife who is performing so well across all the measures. No other single school is performing at a consistently high level. The Fife measures are very similar to overall Scottish results.

A Parent Council member asked the committee to congratulate the entire school on the results that were achieved, and that the groups congratulations were recorded within the official minutes. The entire Parent Council were in agreement that the staff and pupils had delivered outstanding outcomes across the entire school.

A Parent Council member also highlighted the fantastic outcomes for individual pupils, which is far more important than the statistics and overall figures.

It was also highlighted that Madras makes a very significant contribution to the performance of Fife across the Scottish sector.

The Rector also highlighted the excellent outcomes for pupils who are considered furthest from achievement, but who all achieved the requirements necessary to take up a college place.

The Rector set the results in the context of a very difficult year for the school given the job sizing and budget cuts taking place. It also put a huge stress on the pupils, which the school is going to address this year. He also highlighted the breadth of curriculum offering, particularly at Advanced Higher level, which he believes is in the top 10 in Scotland.

#### **b) Update on budget management**

- The school addressed the extra budget saving required of £266,000 on top of the earlier £310,000 cut. The solution utilised was to rationalise teaching units to 60 minutes. This has been in place since June 2019 and has allowed a saving of £180,000 in staff costs, with the goodwill of the staff in changing their working patterns and providing an additional session each. There has been no negative impact so far, and no negative comments have been received.
- A job sizing exercise for promoted teacher posts was carried out by Fife Council based on the current school roll. This resulted in a salary reduction for 12 staff. School roll has now gone back up, but this will not affect the salaries, as the cut was based on both the school roll and the FME figures, which have not changed.
- A further budget saving of £75,000 could be required in the near future, which can be managed by the school, and still allow a small carry-forward, as well as funding to allow staff to purchase materials. The Rector has also identified a further potential £70,000 if this is needed in any future budget rounds.
- The school has also managed the administrative staff team adjustment, which has been difficult because the school lost 3 administrative staff in the budget cuts.

#### **c) Staffing update**

The school is currently fully staffed, though they are about to lose an English teacher, which they have put an advert in for a replacement.

#### **d) Ongoing maintenance work and update on the new Madras**

The school has made excellent progress on all aspects of the new school build relating to rooms, cabling, offices, room fixtures and fittings, etc. These have all been agreed and signed off.

The Rector identified the key priorities for the coming year:

- a. The internal assessment calendar, which Mr Watson is leading on, and which was discussed at the last parent council meeting. This will be available by the end of the month.
- b. An ethos on health and wellbeing, which Mrs Robertson is leading on.
  - The school has undertaken a lot of consultation with pupils and parents, including P7 transition parents. 406 pupils were surveyed new S2 and S3. The school has now identified some key activities that are causing concern for the pupils. They Asked what pupils what they worried about: 74% worried about exams. 49% worried about school, 60% worried about the future, 34% are worried about money.

- There is now a shift in the S3 social education programme and has now moved to work on team building activities and well-being indicators. The children have completed self-evaluation of wellbeing indicators, identified areas that are weak. Have put in the mental health award in there. Offered opportunity to involve in Fife Minds Matter, will be a pilot school for materials being used across Fife. Are undertaking STV big breakfast on Friday addressing some of the hidden poverty seen across the school.
  - There were some positive outcomes as well - 78% said they had not been bullied in the last year. 88% said they had not experienced any form of cyber bullying.
  - Health and wellbeing group lots of activities to support pupils. The school is hoping to host first instance of Screenagers documentary in Scotland. Will be a community event that parents will be invited to. It may cost the school up to \$350 but they may be able to sell coffee or ask for donations on the door. They may also ask the PC for some funds towards this. If the school does this then they can access Tech Tock Tuesday. If you subscribe to newsletter, you also get access to backlog of articles on screen issues, screen-time, communication issues. They also set up conversation starters to allow parents to start conversations with their children about these issues.
- c. Employability skills, which is being driven by Mr Darge.
- d. What will the curriculum for the new school look like which is being led by Mr McClure?

The Rector also circulated the School improvement plan for 2019, which will also be on the website shortly.

## 6. Fundraising group and options

The chair asked Irene to continue as the lead for the fundraising group. Irene gave an update on activities undertaken by the PC:

- The Christmas concert will need volunteers to man the raffle.
- Bag packing - Irene would like to follow the same format as last year with pupils packing and the pipe band
- Wine tasting - about 30 people with £5 ticket price and some % of orders coming to the PC funds.
- Easyfundraising - mailshot out to all parents, particularly before Christmas.

The Rector highlighted the need for new laptops that will arise with the introduction of Windows 10 for all machines, and which might be something that the Parent Council could support.

## 7. AOB

### a) School Calendar

This is now up on the school website.

**b) Assessment Timetable**

This will be available on the website by the end of the month and will cover the full senior phase - S4-S6.

**c) New school building update**

Cllr Thomson provided an update on activities. The contractor BAMS started in July and have been making really good progress. The bases artificial pitches are now under construction, and the pilings and steel work should be in place for the end of October. The project is still on track for Summer 2021 opening.

The council is looking at communications strategies, newsletter, Facebook pages, etc. They are looking to organise a celebration of the start of the building now that the children are back at school.

The road has been named Bell Brae, which was voted on by the pupils.

The current Kilrymont site is a listed building, and to allow Fife Council to be able to sell the site for potential housing, it needs to be listed for sale fairly shortly. Potential purchasers may be looking to visit site, but these should be outwith the school day.

**d) Parent Council Communications**

A parent member asked about the Parent Council Facebook page - the Chair will share the link to this to the group.

A parent member provided some feedback on communications - this is something that we could look at this year to try to improve this. Parents of children joining the school may not be aware of the Parent Council when they join. The Chair agreed to highlight Parent Council meetings, though we are dependent on the School to communicate with the full parent body, which they do very well.

**8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Kilrymont site.

The meeting closed at 20:53

**Attendance List 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

***Parents***

Lynn Christie - Chair  
Jonathan O'Riordan  
Georgina Mazilu  
Anna Moss

Marie-Noel Earley - Minutes  
Irene McMenamin  
Jaap Jacobs - Deputy Chair  
Di McGhie

Taciana Kasciukovic  
Eleanor Whitby  
Clare Campbell  
Lydia Sweet

***Teaching Staff***

David McClure, Rector  
Angela Robertson, Deputy Head Teacher  
Hugh Watson, Deputy Head Teacher  
Olav Darge, Deputy Head Teacher

Ian Morrison  
Reza Kouhy  
Rachel Philp

***Local Councillors***

Cllr Brian Thomson  
Cllr Tim Brett  
Cllr Bill Connor  
Cllr Jane Ann Liston