

Madras College Parent Council
Minutes
Wednesday 30th October 2019
Kilrymont Site

1) Apologies

XXX

2) Minutes of previous meeting held 4th September 2019

Approved by XXX and seconded by XX. Minutes were approved.

3) Matters arising from previous minutes

- a) Screenagers movie has been funded by the Parent Council.
- b) New laptops no longer require funding from the Parent Council, the Education Dept have donated them.

4) Office holders report – Carried forward to the next meeting

5) Rectors Report

- a) Staffing update – An additional .5% of office staff started last week.
- b) Business studies teaching staff dropped by .2%, timetable was adjusted to compensate.
- c) English dept lost 1 member of teaching staff to maternity leave, replace teacher started last week.
- d) PE dept has 1 member of teaching staff leaving on 25/11/19, post will be advertised. Interest in the role already, aim to start a new teacher in January 2020.
- e) Business Manager off sick, no plans to temporarily replace this post.
- f) Budget, on track, costs are being held with a hopeful £90-100k to carry forward to the next session. It was reported that the school was allowed to carry forward no more than £130k each session.
- g) P7 road show started this week. Format similar to previous years with school results, clubs, trips being highlighted as wells as the importance of cognitive maths, daily practice to be secure before starting S1. Also highlighted - support groups, Easter programme and June programme. A positive explanation to the new S1's of 2020. Each session is closed with a Q&A, lots of positive questions are asked.
- h) Turf cutting at the new Madras has happened.

- i) Bus timetable and contract is being negotiated at present. The structure of the timetable once the new school is open is being discussed. There is an opportunity to make some changes to the school day with several options being discussed firstly with teaching staff and working group. This has an impact on the school day therefore the school bus contract. Discussions around the table were had about this impact both positive and negative. Research will be done by The Rector by way of contacting the other schools in Fife and beyond that have already adopted new timetables similar to those proposed for Madras and ask for feedback, Wade and St Columbus are amongst the schools to be contacted.
- j) Extracurricular activities - based on a new proposed timetable discussion was had about the extracurricular activities and if the day was finishing earlier or later would those classes be impacted. The Rector explained that those classes are run only on a volunteer basis and he hoped those would continue but regardless of the timetable that is down to the teaching staff giving up their own time. He hoped it would continue as before.
- k) Also noted that there would be a lunch session on a Friday.
- l) Phased entry or full entry to the new Madras will depend on the entry date. Yet to be determined.
- m) Virtual comparators/Tracking of attainment – document attached showing slides that we shared and presented by The Rector at the meeting. All showing very positive results for Madras. Local benchmarking shows we out perform our virtual comparator in almost all areas.

6) Assessment Timetable

- a) Mr Watson explained the assessment timetable is now available on the Madras website, it shows all assessments. A/B tests will take place from 25th November – 6th December 2019.
Parent member asked what these tests were for, it was explained they are like a mock exam to test what stage the pupils are at and where they might need extra work.

7) Appeal Review (SQA Remarks)

- a) Mr Darge explained the appeals process to overturn an exam result.
 - i) Standard – For pupils that need extra help to be able to see if they could have got a better mark. The school would first look at how close they were to the next grade upwards before passing any recommendation to appeal. It can be re-graded and go down. The cost for this is £30.
 - ii) Priority – For pupils that have a conditional offer at University and have fallen short on the grades they need to achieve that. This speeds up the process of the appeal. The cost for this is £40. Again this can result in a worse result.
 - iii) Exceptional – Extreme circumstances, tragedy, health etc. where the pupils performance is effected as a result. You need to provide evidence of

circumstances within 10 days of the exam. There is no cost attached to this particular appeal process.

- The appeal process costs the school in the region of £3k per year, all above mentioned costs are covered in this sum.
- Exam results day will be 4th August 2020.
- National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher appeals, 100 submitted 11% last year were upgraded and 16% this year.

8) Standards & Quality Report/School Improvement Plan – Carried forward

9) Fundraising Report

- a) Christmas concert, 12th December. Tesco, Morrison, M&S and Sainsbury have been approached for donations. We need 2 more helpers to sell raffle tickets at the event.
- b) Wine tasting in 2020, probably February/March with Peter Wood at St Andrews Wine Co.
- c) Lynn Christie to send out email about Easy Fundraising to parents.

10) New Madras Site – Parent Concern, School Sports Pitches

- a) Parent raised concern over the type of sports pitches chosen for the new school. Explanation and discussion was had around the types of pitches available for different sports. Very specifically girls hockey from S3/S4 onwards.
 - i) The type of pitches chosen are 3G which cover a wide and varied range of sports and are the best type of pitch for a full 12 months of the year in terms of safety, only snow stops the use of a 3G pitch, whereas a 2G pitch cannot be used in frost so is out of action for much more of the winter term than a 3G pitch would be.
 - ii) A 2G pitch has been made available to Madras (new site) in St Andrews University Campus. Concerns were raised about the reality of availability on this pitch, it is understood it is already over subscribed.
 - iii) The Rector explained his process of decision making regarding these pitches. Essentially the pitches chosen (2 x 3G pitches) support the curriculum best. This was the main factor when choosing which pitches to include in the new school plan. The school is covering cross pupil choice by choosing the 3G pitches.
 - iv) Cllr Brian added that 2G pitches are not the best pitches for a wider range of sports.
 - v) The Rector reported that Madras staff are being approached inappropriately out with school hours regarding this, causing major challenges and is not acceptable.

vi) Lynn Christie and The Rector agreed the provision of the new pitches for the school would not be reviewed.

AOB – Nothing discussed, meeting ran until 10pm

DONM – 15th January 2020, 7pm