

Madras College Parent Council
Minutes
Wednesday 22nd January 2020
Kilrymont Site

Lynn Christie, Eleanor Whitby, Bill Connor, Sharon Hedley, Rachel Philp, Hugh Watson, Marie-Noel Earley, Jane Ann Liston, Anna Moss, Cllr Bill Connor, Leanne Hubbe, , Jonathan O’Riordan, Georgiana, Di McGhie, Clare Campbell, Brian Thomson, Cllr Tim Brett, Vicky Hobba, Joseph Jacob, Cllr Linda Holt, Cllr Ann Verner, Irene McMenamin T. Kasciukovic

1. Apologies

Heather Moffat, Barry Miller, Olav Darge, Angela Robertson, Kenny Wishart, Susan Simpson, Ian Morrison & Dominic Nolan

2. Minutes of previous meeting held 30th October 2019

- Updates made to the September minutes & added to the website
- Approval of the minutes have been held over to the March meeting as several changes have been requested (please see below)

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

- Assessment Timetable – now available on the madras website. Rector gave thanks to Hugh Watson for time and effort, over 100 hours put into the process
- Appeals Process/Remarks (new process), no charge is made to pupil
- Standards & Quality Report/School Improvement Plan
 - Document on the Madras website
 - S&Q report to remain on the regular agenda for continued feedback
 - Urge PC to read and offer feedback
- Parent Concern, School Sport Pitches

Education Service received full complaint and response has been duly noted. This is no longer a PC matter, it is now being dealt with by the Education Service. RP explained that the response from the Education Service at Fife Council contained a number of factual inaccuracies and therefore this matter has been escalated to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.

Rector is now in receipt of a written agreement from St Andrews University that their pitches will be available for school use, 8 hours of use per week plus one after school slot. Significant use of Uni pitches offered in return for one afternoon of Madras pitch time offered to Uni. Including 2G pitch.

Parent offered an updated version to the minutes related only to this matter. This update will be reviewed by the chair.
- Parent Question - consider the process for review of minutes

Response – Parent circulated a version of the minutes to be discussed, it was agreed that the matter would be given 15 minutes at this meeting in order to proceed with the rest of the meeting. It was discussed that the minutes circulated this week were inaccurate on the point of the discussion of the new sports pitches. A suggestion was made that an exception be made and that both sets of notes were to be added. Dual notes will be recorded as an update for the minutes as a ‘one off’.

Response – Agreed, the minutes will record both sets of notes on this topic.

The School and the University have reached an agreement whereby the School now has access to the University's 2G pitch for hockey (and other sports) for 8 hours a week during the school week and some time after school. In return the University will have access to the Schools new artificial pitches on a Wednesday afternoon. This will have no discernible effect on the School timetable or sports provision. With this agreement in place the School has now fully addressed the concerns raised about curricular and extracurricular provision of a 2G pitch on which to play hockey. As a result this matter of pitch provision is now concluded as a PC concern and will not be addressed again.

All curricular requirements for PE (including any access to a 2G pitch) can now be fully met. Accordingly the school has no reason to pursue any further 2G pitch requirements or negotiations.

Cllr Liston asked whether or not there was suitable pitch provision for school hockey matches that currently take place on Saturday mornings.

The Rector stated that it was expected that future hockey matches would take place during the school day so that the university 2G pitch. Cllr Liston asked if opposing schools would be prepared to travel to St Andrews and hold matches during the school day. The Rector stated that they would.

4. Officer-holders reports

a. Chair

Small report to cover treasurer also, treasurer not present

b. Treasurer

Balance £2808.00 including £227 raised from raffle at Christmas, great work! As the Education Department paid for the Notebooks, tricycles were purchased with the money that had previously been allocated to the Notebooks. It was agreed this was a sensible purchase and would help the pupils that have challenges with balance.

c. Secretary

Nothing to report

5. Rectors Report

New Build

- Projected entry date 16th April 2021. Prefer to go in at the change of timetable in May, during study leave. Plan to be in 2nd June 2021.
- First new building communications meeting has been held, pupil representatives attended. BAM are putting regular updates on the Madras website.
- Consultation papers passed around for curriculum models. PC have been formally asked to pass comment.
- Model 1 & @2 both have 3 options
- Pupils and staff have already been asked to vote on the model

- Pupils were asked to consider how the curriculum affects the future pupils of Madras
- Model 1 better reflects current delivery Model 2 can match that delivery but would be different, more periods, more changes in classes.
- Outcome from existing vote – Model 1 94.09%, Model 2 5.91%
- Version 1B from Model 1 has received the most votes so far
- Parent Question - Why 6 minutes for registration?
Response - 5mins x 6mins = 30mins, means a registration over a full week and that is a half period cover for a teacher taking registration, more efficient.
- Parent Question – Why was a Friday afternoon chosen for the half day?
Response – to be in line with the rest of Fife that follow this method.
- Parent Question – Concerns over pupils from Tay Bridge Head area missing the start of classes because of the bus transfer time.
Response – the new school is closer to Tay Bridge Head, simply on the opposite side of St Andrews to the current Madras campus.
- Parent Question – Concern of the Friday afternoon early closure of school may result in a reduced numbers attending school on a Friday.
Response – Other schools have been consulted with in Fife regarding this matter and they have responded to say they have not seen any negative results.
- Parent Question – Will there still be a late bus on all evenings despite the finish time?
Response – The next matter that will be done by the Rector is to contract the buses. The intention is to have a late bus on all evenings.
- Parent Question – Will there still be a lunch break on a Friday, consideration has been made for the time the bus would come for the early close on a Friday, ie would a lunch break still be included.
Response – This is being discussed at the moment to ensure a fare outcome for all is delivered. Lunch will still be provided however may be offered at an alternative time, something like a pre-packed lunch that can be ordered and collected by the pupil at break time.
- Consultation documents have been handed out to PC. **Wednesday 29th January 2020** deadline for consultation vote documents back in from PC, directly to the Chair.
- Noted that there is an option for a 50 minute lunch and not a 45 minute lunch to give pupils time to get to St Andrews shops for lunch, lunch time activities as well as capacity in the main food hall which is lower than the number of pupils at the school. This is outlined on a revised version of Model 1 across all versions, a,b & c.
- Noted that there are plenty of public spaces for the pupils that include informal seating for lunches. Such as a large staircase that doubles up as seating.
- Parent Question – Who is providing the catering in the new campus?
Response – Fife Council catering
- Parent Question – Concern about the food style and lack of healthy eating in the school lunch provision. Schools could help with this, for example some schools don't allow their S1 pupils to leave school at lunch time. What can we do?
Encouragement to make the right choices regarding food. Concerns of the

challenges of teaching a pupil that has eaten so badly before a class, high sugar, high fat, lack of concentration. Parent considers this to be a very wrong example to set for pupils, cheap sugary food, cheap high fat content food available too close to the school.

Response – Rector agrees that sugar and fat and all of the points noted are disappointing. It has been suggested that the ‘rule’ of S1’s staying in school for lunch would have to come initially from the PC and wider parent groups. This would require full parental backing in order to be enforced within the school.

- Parent Question – What about retention of learning and improvement on the curriculum each year. Parent looking to make sure that there is a passion for making improvements year on year.

Response – Rector assured us that year on year changes are made to improve the curriculum and offering of the school. He also reiterated that he would not offer a class if it was not proven, he will not use the pupil as Guinea pigs for new offerings. Several Nat 5, Higher and Adv Higher subjects were mentioned as potential new classes for the curriculum.

- Parent Question – Is there an opportunity to offer a full school assembly?
Response – There is no room large enough within the new build site.

- Food bank – Letter received, very positive thanks to the school. Helped 38 households in the Tay Bridge Head area. Other areas did get donations however a letter was only received by TBH Foodbank so far.
- Climate Change Strike, 29th November 2019
Only small numbers from the Kilrymont campus. School did not stop it happening, neither promote nor deter pupils opportunity to be involved. Cannot promote a strike day. It is reported as an Unauthorised Absence because is it titled a Strike Day.
- 4th Year Day – AB, early prelims. All went ahead and were successful
- Christmas Parties – All went ahead for all years in the school including S6. All of them were held in Kilrymont. S6 pupils were tasked with getting support from 12 members of staff to oversea the party, they did it!
- Christmas Concert & Fayre – excellent night
- Prelims for 5th & 6th year are next to happen along with the internal assessments. Finished by the February weekend giving Madras 7 teaching weeks until the next term closes.
- Easter School is going ahead. Parent recommended Easter school, cost to school is around £8k and is well worth it. English and Maths every day, other subjects 2 or 3 days in line with availability of the teachers.
- Award for Madras Pupils 2nd, 3rd & 4th year, won on 21st Jan at the University of St Andrews, the competition is called Top of the Bench, Madras is the regional winner (Tayside), won by over 30 points. Second place was High School of Dundee. Madras has won it several times, you have to put a different team in each time if you win, the chemistry department pull this together. Those pupils now go to London to take part in the national competition.

6. Standards & Quality Report/School Improvement Plan

- Already discussed

7. Fundraising Group

- Bag Pack - Morrisons offering slot for later this year
- Wine tasting will be held at rugby club, date to be offered later this year

8. Responsibility for Parent Council Website – Removed from agenda, not required

9. AOB

- Yvonne Wynia, manages the Tayport Community Trust that is opening in March 2020. She would like to approach the PC to explain what is happening. Welcome to join the start of the meeting, 7pm.
- Cllr Liston - 400 year anniversary tree project to commemorate the Royal Burgh Charter. 400 trees will be planted in November 2020, in St Andrews. Suggestion is Madras could use some for the landscaping of the new school site. Unsure as yet what type of trees are going to be available.
Response – Trees will be planted to represent the subjects at school, Education Service have offered tree so this could be an option to include some of these on the view site. Suggestion is this is past back to the community council to progress.
- Budget cuts, more to come. No details as yet however it is now expected to happen. Council budget 27th February, expecting cuts for education to include all schools in Fife. Savings of £10m across the full council, on top of raising council tax by 3%.
- Website, the ownership of the website. Being discussed, that the school is able to take over the ownership of the website not a person. PC will still pay for the hosting and domain name. Graham has been paying this personally for the last 3 years. Suggestion he is reimbursed for those costs and that the PC will pay going forward. Must have a named person on the domain ownership. Response, Rector will revert back to us on this.
- Parent Question – Are there any staffing issues at the moment?
Response – One maths teacher has been off since November. This has been managed and covered internally. A supply teacher has now been secured from February to Easter term.
One PE teacher has moved on, been replaced by two PE teachers.
- Parent Request – Review of the constitution, the way the PC is being run does not match the constitution. Current constitution is from 2007. Needs to be updated as Pt. 5 in particular incorrect: All parents are welcome as members of the Parent Council – they do not need to be elected onto the Parent Council. The only elections that are held are for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary as these are 2 year positions. The elections to these positions are held at the AGM at the start of each session.

Discussed Response – this should be reviewed, it is on the website. PC to remove the constitution from the website and update saying ‘Constitution is under review’.

- Parent Request – School to email around parents 1 week before each meeting reminding parents of the PC meetings to encourage to attend. Also sending out a link to all parents to say that the minutes are now available on the Madras website with a link. Increasing the exposure of the PC to encourage new people to attend.

Response – This will be actioned

- Parent Request – Can minutes be sent out sooner, perhaps 3 weeks before the next meeting so they can be reviewed.
Response - Chair has requested that all PC attendees send her any updated email addresses so she has an updated list.
- Rachel Philp, Di McGhie, Jaap Jacobs – Sub committee to update the constitution.
- Cllr Anne Verner noted amazing fundraising efforts by Lynn Christie, raised over £1800 for Macmillan Nurses.

10. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 4th March 2020, 7pm

Parents

Lynn Christie – Chair

Jonathan O’Riordan

Georgina Mazilu

Anna Moss

Eleanor Whitby - Secretary

Clare Campbell

Lydia Sweet

Sharon Hedley

Marie-Noel Earley

Irene McMenamin

Jaap Jacobs – Deputy Chair

Di McGhie

Vicky Hobba

Rachel Philp

Leanne Hube

Teaching Staff

David McClure, Rector

Angela Robertson, Deputy Head Teacher

Hugh Watson, Deputy Head Teacher

Olav Darge, Deputy Head Teacher

Local Councillors

Cllr Brian Thomson

Cllr Tim Brett

Cllr Bill Connor

Cllr Jane Ann Liston

Cllr Linda Holt

Cllr Ann Verner