

MADRAS COLLEGE PARENT FORUM

Minutes of A G M on Wednesday 4th September, 2013 (7pm, Kilrymont School)

Present:

Parents: Karen Barnett, Paul Brown, Debbie Cumming, John Duthie, Jayne Fraser, Charlotte Kirby, Graham Kirby, Kate McGladdery, Callum MacLeod, Rachel Naismith, Colin Palmer, Andy Primmer, Susan Simpson, Carol Urquhart, Dawn Waddell, Sally Walker, Scott Wilson.

Interim Rector: David McClure

Teaching Staff: Hugh Watson

Councillors: Tim Brett, Bill Connor, Keith McCartney, Dorothea Morrison, Brian Thomson

In attendance: John McLaughlin (Area Education Officer)

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Callum MacLeod took the Chair and welcomed parents and Councillors to the formal meeting of the Parent Forum, which is open to every parent of Madras pupils. He also welcomed the Rector to his first Parent Forum. The welcome to the Rector was endorsed by others present.

Apologies were received from Sam Byers, Lynn Christie, Councillor Elizabeth Riches, Barry Millar, Jane Pettegree, David Rickman, Rebecca Trengove.

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Wednesday 5th September 2012 and Matters Arising

These were approved and there were no matters arising.

3 Acting Chairman's Report

Since we met this time last year, the Parent Council has met on several occasions and discussed many matters relating to the operation of the school and the education provided for our children. I am grateful to those who have served on the Council, particularly to those who took on a specific role in its running. We said farewell to a number of parent members at our last meeting, some of whom had long involvement with the Council; I will single out only Dr Bruce Sinclair, who was a dedicated and efficient secretary for a number of years, also running the Council's website.

Rev Rory MacLeod took on the role of Chairman at last year's AGM but had to stand down in March of this year for family reasons. Yet again, therefore, the Parent Council has had to operate in what has proved a watershed year without the leadership and guidance which a permanent Chairman would provide and which it deserves.

Our various working groups met and considered a number of issues, working closely with school staff where appropriate. Our Fund-Raising Group was active in various ways, notably in organising the QuadFest concert in June, where a substantial sum was raised. Such activities allow the Parent Council to support the school financially in both its curricular and extra-curricular activities.

In May, we bade farewell to Rector Ian Jones on his retirement from Scottish education and wished him well as he moved on to new challenges abroad.

We subsequently welcomed Mr David McClure as Interim Rector. The Parent Council met with Mr McClure soon after his arrival and were immediately struck by his passion for education and his deep desire to refresh the Madras College image for its pupils, staff and the wider community it serves.

We were involved in various ways in the ongoing process of securing a site on which to build a new, single-site and modern school and did not oppose Fife Council's declared intention to explore the possibility

of building at the Pipeland site beyond the Hospital. This process is far from over, of course, and we remain conscious of widely-differing views about the matter throughout the whole community and remain concerned about potential delays which might arise. For this reason, we should and will be taking greater interest in the current facilities here at Kilrymont and also at South Street, as these are the buildings in which all the current pupils will experience most or all of their secondary education.

Equally importantly, however, we have heard at our meetings with pride and gratitude of the innumerable activities, opportunities and successes which are a daily part of school life and look forward to another year of working closely with all parties in enhancing as far as we can the work of the school.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that a balance of £5794.95 had been brought forward from 2011-12. Over the financial year 2012-13 the main income streams were:

50/50 club (**£307**)

Easy Fundraising (**£806.03**)

Quadfest (**£1498.50**, includes Alumni donation of £400, less expenses totalling £19.78)

Over the same period, the Parent Council awarded Grants as follows:

School Fund (**£5,000**)

Pipe Band (**£295**)

Ohio Exchange Programme (**£350**)

The closing balance at the financial year end (31st August 2013) is £2686.78

The Treasurer gave thanks to Ewen Sparks for kindly agreeing to audit the accounts free of charge.

5 Any other reports as desired

No other reports were provided.

6 Address by the Rector

The Rector thanked Callum MacLeod for his welcome and for his personal support since his arrival in May. He thanked the parent body for their welcome to Madras and he also thanked John McLaughlin for his support. The Rector explained that making changes in a school presents something of a challenge and feeling supported in his role is extremely important.

A number of issues were touched upon as follows:

School Roll – there is a slight concern that this is declining. The current pupil population stands at 1305 which is a drop of c. 130 over recent years. This is mainly due to the decline in the number of pupils coming through from the primaries but there are also other elements about which the School can do something about. The Rector will talk about this matter at the first Parent Council meeting following the AGM.

Buildings – the Rector reminded everyone that he made it clear in May that his role in the School will be focused on learning and teaching and not on the site of the new school. He is, however, interested in shaping the accommodation in terms of how best it will serve the learning and teaching in the School regardless of the site.

He concluded his remarks by indicating that he wished to open up discussion on a number of other issues (uniform, improvement priorities etc.) but that he would keep these for the first Parent Council meeting.

Paul Brown had the full backing of those present when he emphasised that the Rector's focus on 'attainment' and 'learning and teaching' was much appreciated.

The Rector took the Chair for Agenda items 7 and 8

7 Election of Parent Council for 2013 - 2014

Those parents present who wished to be elected to the Parent Council were asked to remain in the room at the end of the AGM so that their names could be recorded. Additional names would be added, as appropriate, from the Apologies list (above) as would that of any other parent who has communicated a wish to serve.

8 Election of Chairman of the Parent Council for 2013 - 2014

Paul Brown was elected as Chairman (Proposed by Andy Primmer and Seconded by Charlotte Kirby)

Paul Brown took the Chair for the remaining Agenda items.

9 Election of Vice-Chairman of the Parent Council for 2013 - 2014

Joint Vice-Chairs were elected: Andy Primmer (Proposed by Charlotte Kirby and Seconded by Kate McGladdery); Callum MacLeod (Proposed by Andy Primmer and Seconded by Susan Simpson).

10 Election of Secretary for 2013 – 2014

Sam Byers was elected as Secretary (Proposed by Callum MacLeod and Seconded by Karen Barnett).

11 Election of Treasurer for 2013 - 2014

Dawn Waddell was elected as Treasurer (Proposed by Andy Primmer and Seconded by Charlotte Kirby).

The new Parent Council agreed to meet immediately after the AGM.

12 Any other business

Councillor Brett was delighted that a Chairperson has been appointed and that Andy Primmer has agreed to continue to be involved in the new school Development Group.

Given the timescale for the new build, Andy Primmer added the comment that it is very important that the 15 feeder primary schools are invited to the Development Group meetings.

Dorothea Morrison pointed out that now that the planning application for the new school is live, Councillors are obliged to step back from the process. Brian Thomson added that once an application is live it is normal practice that you can listen but not express opinion until it comes before the Committee.

John McLaughlin confirmed that the next meeting of the Development Group is on 11th September and he is keen to have representatives from every single associate primary school. Andy Primmer pointed out that he had checked to see if the plan had been put online and it appeared not to be there. Dorothea Morrison confirmed that it should be there by Friday. There are also a number of places where the plan can be viewed as hard copy. These include the Kilrymont and South Street buildings; the local Council office; Tayport and Newport Primary Schools; RAF Community Centre; and Kingdom House in Glenrothes.

13 The Rector

John McLaughlin informed the Parent Forum that the purpose of his attendance is to take soundings about how the school is progressing since Mr McClure's arrival in May and that he intended to do this during the first Parent Council meeting following the AGM.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. He also invited those who wished to be part of the Parent Council to stay on for the first meeting, which would begin after a short break for refreshments.

11th September, 2013