

MADRAS COLLEGE PARENT COUNCIL

POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Draft minutes from meeting held at Kilrymont, Tuesday 12th February 2008, 4.00 – 6.00

Present: Adam Alexander
Councillor Ron Caird
Geraldine Wooley
Roger Coultherd (later)

Apologies:

Alex Slawin
Bruce Sinclair
Henry Paul
Heather Marriage
Jackie Himpson

In light of concerns raised by the Rector and some teachers about the Group's discussions at their first meeting, and the draft minutes of those discussions, much of our time was spent discussing these. We also revisited most of the areas highlighted in previous meetings:

- ◆ It was noted that the draft minutes referred to above had been withdrawn from the PC website at the request of the school. The group accepted that the "open" nature of the PC site meant that material which could be interpreted as critical of the school was in the public domain and might attract undesirable attention from the press etc. However, the group also feels that the PC has a duty to communicate its discussions to all parents, and at present the PC website is the only medium for this type of communication. In future, minutes of this sub-group will be dealt with in line with the procedure agreed at the recent PC meeting.
- ◆ Adam reminded the Group that the draft minutes from the Group's first meeting had been amended and then accepted by those members at the meeting as a true and accurate record. There were proposed changes to the notes from the group's first meeting, as agreed by Henry, Ian, John McLoughlan and Adam, which were circulated to PC members and ratified at the recent PC meeting. We welcome further suggestions about any inaccuracies or unnecessary items which may be usefully removed from the records.
- ◆ Geraldine suggested that it would be helpful to have a clearer understanding about how it is envisaged the partnership between school and parents would work. Adam agreed to consult with the PC Chair with a view to inviting the Rector to the next Group meeting so that we may be better acquainted with the school perspective.
- ◆ We welcome the Rector's announcement at the recent PC meeting that the different areas discussed by the Group so far would be included in the school's 3 year development plan.
- ◆ Some doubt has been raised about the soundness of concerns raised in previous meetings about a perceived need to improve communication between school staff and parents. Adam suggested that the Parent Council seek to ascertain the views of the Parent Forum on this matter. This will be put to the next PC meeting. Geraldine suggested that it would be very helpful for parents to have a clearer understanding of how the school may be contacted for a variety of requests. A flow chart showing key personnel and their contact numbers was suggested.
- ◆ Scott Edward, Pupil Services Manager, joined the meeting briefly at the invitation of Ron Caird, who happened to spot him walking past our meeting room. Scott explained his role in Madras College as being primarily to help to relieve some element of workload from the teachers. Scott acts as a filter for transfers from other schools. He deals with complaints from parents and others in the community; he establishes and maintains links with families over guidance/pastoral issues and he also liaises with bus companies. This was a very positive meeting and we would like to suggest that the PC invite Mr. Edward to join the PC as a co-opted member. We look forward to meeting other members of the school management team.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING TO BE DECIDED

Adam Alexander, 20.2.08