

Madras College Parent Council
Minute
Wednesday 30th August 2017, 19:00
Kilrymont Road

1. Apologies received

Lynn Christie, Fiona Day, Anna Moss, Rowena Kyle, Claudia Ortiz, Irene McMenamin, Olav Darge (Deputy Head Teacher), Cllr Dominic Nolan, Cllr Jonny Tepp.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held 24th May 2017

These were adopted – proposed by Sally Walker and seconded by Susan Simpson.

3. Matters arising (from meeting held 24/5/17)

- a. Mr McClure to review the following points with Fife Council
 - i. Teacher recruitment – notice periods do not include holiday periods now and this will help with timescales. There is an acknowledged shortage across Fife.
 - ii. Language skills – there was concern that language options may be lost due to most Primary schools opting for French as their initial language option. This concern has eased as a free choice (over French, Spanish & German) will continue to be offered in Madras and recent uptake levels have been approx. 1/3 for each option.

- b. Cllr Brian Thomson and Cllr Tim Brett to review the following points with Fife Council (carried over from Cllr Bryan Poole)
 - i. The allocation of pupil support hours and how the formula is used (based on free meal entitlement, as this approach does not reflect the actual need) – the response from Fife Council has confirmed that free meal entitlement is seen as a reliable proxy for calculating additional support needs. The approach will be reviewed next year as Mr McClure does not agree with the link. The Madras allocation last year was 197 hours and this has been cut to 179 hours for the current year. Out of an intake of 220 pupils in S1, 60 pupils have been identified as having support needs. This reinforces the point that FME is not a reliable proxy for the Madras catchment area.
 - ii. How can schools provide feedback and input when the Council is about to tender for services e.g. school buses and supervision – this request has been fed back to Fife Council. The provision of (working) CCTV on buses is a good example where it should be a requirement as would help to reduce the management time involved when there is a discipline issue.

- c. Cllr Thomson to request a copy of the specific legislation for the provision of seat belts on school buses travelling on rural routes – this has been provided and sent to Jonathan O’Riordan who is now raising directly with the Scottish Government. The confusion seems to arise when there are urban buses (e.g. double deckers) being used on rural routes and the routes are in turn open for public use, that is to say they are not closed and for the

sole use of school pupils. Cllr Brett suggested that Jonathan also send the material to Willie Rennie MSP to be raised in the Scottish Parliament.

- d. Review of the previous report outlining links between Madras College and the University of St Andrews – the previous report has been found and this will be an on-going piece of work. No further action at the moment.
- e. Cllr Brett (and colleagues) to raise concerns about the lack of a failsafe with the changes to Nat 5 exams – Raised and Derek Brown has sent a detailed reply to Cllr Brett. This year it may still be possible to have dual entry for Nat 4/5 and make a final decision at a later stage.

4. Office-holder reports

- a. Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Nothing to add from earlier reports delivered at the AGM.

It was highlighted that we had missed out the appointment of Treasurer and Vice Chair at the earlier meeting. This was covered here and Lynn Christie was reappointed as Treasurer and Vice Chair (nominated - Sally Walker; seconded - Susan Simpson. Noted in both minutes for reference).

5. Rector's report

The school results for 2016/17 were very positive overall with all key measures showing an improvement and 96% of pupils progressing to a positive destination. Good 4th year results are a very strong indicator for year 5 performance.

The attached slides give more information on the results and they have also been added to the school website.

Updates on the pupil equity fund and staffing will be deferred until the next meeting.

New build update – Colin McCreadie, Fife Council, was joined by colleagues and stakeholders from planning, design & construction to update members of the Parent Council on the current status and next steps. Three planning applications will be submitted together to cover i) the master plan for St Andrews West ii) the access road required to build the new school and iii) the school itself. 'Autumn' is the indicative date for submission at this and it is not possible to be precise as there are several parties involved. Once approval has been granted and the construction company (BAM) are onsite it is estimated that the build period will last 2 years.

Andy Primmer – it is good to see the progress but clearly there will be concerns about the application for the school being tied to the wider commercial interests of St Andrews West and we would not want to experience any further delay.

There was unanimous agreement with this point and Councillors were encouraged to consider what could be done to ensure the school is not delayed if the application for the wider St Andrews West plan is not approved at the same time.

Susan & Mr McClure thanked the presentation team for taking the time to give such a detailed update.

6. Fundraising group

Irene McMenamin and Georgiana Mazilu have volunteered to assist in this area. A wine tasting evening has been proposed by the Peter Wood of the St Andrews Wine Company and more information will be shared when it is available.

Volunteers are encouraged to get involved with this area if they are available.

7. AOB

No further business raised.

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 25th October 2017, 19:00 at Kilrymont.

Susan closed the meeting at 21:10 by thanking Mr McClure, the staff and parents for their hard work and wished everyone a very successful school year.

Attendance List 30th August 2017

Parents

Susan Simpson, Chair
Barry Millar, Secretary
Sally Walker
Leanne Hulse
Kate Moriarty
Andy Primmer
Vicky Hobba
Di McGhie

Clare Campbell
Sandra Wahl
Jaap Jacobs
Georgiana Mazilu
Paul Brown
Taciana Kaschiukovic
Marie-Noel Earley
Jonathan O’Riordan

Teaching Staff

David McClure, Rector
Angela Robertson, Deputy Head Teacher
Kenny Wishart, Deputy Head Teacher
Hugh Watson, Deputy Head Teacher

Local Councillors

Cllr Ann Verner
Cllr Bill Connor
Cllr Tim Brett
Cllr Linda Holt
Cllr Jane Ann Liston
Cllr Brian Thomson (also a parent member)