

**Madras College Parent Council**  
**Minute**  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 19:00**  
**Kilrymont Road**

**1. Apologies received**

Anna Moss, Heather Moffitt, Barry Millar, Clare Campbell, Cllr Jonny Tepp, Cllr Bill Porteous.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

These were adopted - proposed by Andy Primmer and seconded by Susan Simpson.

**3. Matters arising (from meeting held 25/10/17)**

- a) Seatbelts - we are awaiting a decision from Scottish Government, this will affect Primary school pupils first. Tim Brett to inquire to Fife Council to see if this can be brought forward.
- b) Homework scheduling - Mr McClure suggested that the children could go to Guidance if this is a concern due to overlapping dates. Can be looked at on an individual basis, may not be practical for teachers to address for everyone.

**4. Office-holder reports**

- a) Chair - nothing to report.
- b) Treasurer - account balance sits at £2772 (with raffle money of £200 still to be added). £22 income from 'easy fund raising' and a further email will be sent to parents highlighting how this can be used to generate school funds.
- c) Secretary - nothing to report.

**5. Rector's report**

Madras is losing its only Psychology teacher to Waid Academy at end of February/ beginning of March. Mr McClure has arranged with the Head Teacher of Waid to have the same teacher cover Thursday from 1330 - 1700 back at Madras, for which he is paying at supply teacher rates. All course work will be done before the psychology teacher leaves, allowing the Thursday class to concentrate on exam preparation for Nat 5 and Higher.

The Chair felt that this should be expected as standard across schools to provide cover when there is a shortage, not on a favour basis. The Chair has already written to the Councillors regarding concerns over posts being advertised at this crucial time of year highlighting the disruption to pupils' education and will pursue this further with Shelagh McLean (Fife Council).

A thank you letter from Parent Council will be sent to teacher concerned for being so co-operative and helpful in reducing stress and worry for those children sitting these exams.

Mr McClure attended a recent head teacher meeting and brought up the subject of posts being advertised during key times in the school year and the disruption this causes to schools.

Vacancies exist in several subject areas, but we do have some new starts coming on board now.

Five members of staff off on long-term sick.

Nat 5 failsafe - running as per last year and future proof for next 2 years.

Presentation by Hugh Watson (DHT) about the New Exams/Awards - the points awarded mean that the introduction of an award in Nat 5 for a 'D' grade will be more beneficial for pupils, i.e. it will be better to go for Nat 5 and secure a 'D' rather than Nat 4 and do well.

Mr McClure gave a power point presentation showing the changes to our SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) profile. There are significant changes to deciles 5-10 and Mr McClure felt that this could alter how we are measured against Virtual Comparators in the INSIGHT attainment data but we won't really know until the data sets start to come through.

Mr Darge shared with the Parent Council the draft Assessment timetable for the Portfolio/Project/Assignment write-ups, which will be taking place from February onwards. This has involved a tremendous amount of work and once finalised will be shared with parents and pupils. The Chair thanked Mr Darge for taking the time to complete this significant piece of work.

New Madras Update - Staff are being consulted about the internal classroom design and the leadership team consulted regarding arrangements for SQA exams. The access road planning application (as part of St Andrews West) is now due to be submitted by end of January 2018.

## **6. Fundraising group**

£200 raised by the recent raffle at school concert and thanks to everyone for helping, with recognition to Georgiana & Irene. Wine tasting date to be suggested by Rector, to fit in with the School diary, and further ideas/support required.

[As a reminder the following ideas were highlighted at the previous meeting -

Wine tasting (Barry to follow up on possible dates with Mr McClure);

Car boot sale (or internal equivalent via a stall);

Music played at school events to encourage donations (e.g. violin and Christmas carols);

Take a stall for the parent council at pre-planned events e.g. Christmas concert & parents' evening;

Double up stall with a raffle.

In general there was more support for the principle of doubling up with existing events as opposed to organising separate events.]

## 7. AOB

- a) Music tuition budget - Brian Thomson has contacted Fife Council about this and confirmed that no cuts to be made to the music tuition budget. It is recognised that these suggestions are upsetting to staff, with job insecurity every year. Tim Brett advised that the wider public sector budget is being discussed at Holyrood.
- b) Delay in marking - Paul Brown highlighted that there were some long delays in marking and this resulted in low value to the pupils. Rector replied that pupils should expect homework etc. back within 7-10 days but it can sometimes depend on the subject and local timeframe. It was also brought up that an assessment in one subject had been lost and pupils were required to resit 3-4 weeks later. Concerned parent to let Mr McClure know and he will investigate this and suggested that where this is the case less homework should be issued.
- c) In-service days - The Chair commented that the consultation finishes tomorrow regarding term and holiday dates for the next 3 years. The June in-service is once again being moved from June to May. It has been highlighted at previous meetings the disruption this causes to Madras. Mr McClure questioned as to why secondary schools need to have the same days as primary schools?
- d) Maintenance - Work has still to start on the South St girls' toilet.
- e) Waid Academy - we have an offer to visit the new Waid Academy for a tour. Email Susan if interested and date will be advised asap. Mr McClure pointed out that the design of the New Madras would clearly be different to Waid to reflect the needs of Madras.
- f) Debating Club - Irene enquired whether the Debating Club would restart? Angela replied that the English teacher who did this had left. A new teacher is now in in post and just letting them settle in first but hoping to recommence this club soon.
- g) Exam timings - Sally fed back that there where only fifteen minutes between two of her daughter's prelim exams. Rector will review and check if the start time(s) can be changed.
- h) Study leave - Georgiana asked if study leave could cover all exams? Rector advised that this can be flexible for individuals and that pupils will be marked as 'on study', not absent.

## 8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Kilrymont.

Meeting closed at 20:50.

## Attendance List 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### *Parents*

Susan Simpson, Chair  
Lynn Christie, Treasurer  
Leanne Hulse (minutes)  
Sally Walker

Andy Primmer  
Sandra Wahl  
Vicky Hobba  
Georgiana Mazilu

Paul Brown  
Di McGhie  
Taciana Kasciukovic

***Teaching Staff***

David McClure, Rector  
Angela Robertson, Deputy Head Teacher  
Hugh Watson, Deputy Head Teacher  
Olav Darge, Deputy Head Teacher  
Kenneth Wishart, Deputy Heat Teacher

Irene Mcmenamin  
Kate Moriarty  
Jonathan O’Riordan

***Local Councillors***

Cllr Tim Brett  
Cllr Bill Connor  
Cllr Linda Holt  
Cllr Jane Ann Liston  
Cllr Dominic Nolan  
Cllr Brian Thomson  
Cllr Ann Verner