

Madras College Parent Council
Minute
Wednesday 7th March 2018, 19:00
Kilrymont Road

1. Apologies received

Paul Brown, Clare Campbell, Georgiana Mazilu, Mr McClure (Rector), Barry Millar, Jonathan O’Riordan, Cllr Linda Holt, Cllr Dominic Nolan, Cllr Jonny Tepp, Cllr Ann Verner.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held 17th January 2018

These were adopted - proposed by Sally Walker and seconded by Andy Primmer.

3. Matters arising (from meeting held 17/01/18)

- a) Seatbelts - Cllr Brett advised that the latest information received from the Scottish Government indicated that only dedicated school buses need to have seat belts fitted (and used) and any that then go on to be general service buses do not need to have them.
- b) Waid - A visit to Wade Academy is to be arranged and any interested parents should contact Susan Simpson to note interest.

4. Office-holder reports

- a) Chair - nothing to report.
- b) Treasurer - account balance sits at £2972. Audited accounts for 2016/17 have been finalised and signed off by our auditor Ewen Sparks.
- c) Secretary - nothing to report.

5. Rector’s report (Angela Robertson, DHT)

- a) Staffing - Two long term sick covered by supply; two new English teachers now recruited and will start at change of timetable, one of these teachers is keen on debating and hopes to restart the debating club; Business Studies post now filled, and PE part-time staff now working full-time to address their shortfall.
- b) Nat 5 - New information indicates that the failsafe will only apply in exceptional circumstances, for 12-14 pupils. Cllr Brett highlighted that this may need to be raised with the Scottish Government again for clarification and assessment of any impact.
- c) In-Service days - Changed from May to June for the 18/19 school year and this is a better date for teaching.

- d) Maintenance - This is now up to date with the exception of data and power connections in Design Technology / Woodwork.
- e) New school - Cllr Brett and Cllr Thomson advised that fortnightly update meetings are being held to review progress, albeit they have been delayed recently due to the snow. All planning applications have now been submitted and there are outstanding issues to be addressed with badgers and trees. Work on the access road cannot start until the bird-nesting season (March to July) has passed and it will then take approximately 30 weeks to complete. The master plan for St Andrews West will need to be approved before work on the new school can commence and, based on the current plans, it is estimated that the school should be completed by August 2021.

6. Fundraising group

Wine tasting now to be held at Madras Rugby Club and dates are being investigated. Additional suggestions include a 'race night' at the Rugby Club, bag packing at local supermarket and a beetle drive.

7. AOB

- a) Assessment calendar - an Assessment Calendar was requested for the session 2018/19 to dovetail with the WUPPA (write-up/project/portfolio/assignment). It was suggested this should be for S3 upwards as some Nat 5 courses are now starting in S3.
- b) Calendar for the next session is now available on the Madras website for S3 and above.
- c) Connect - Sally Walker is stepping down as a representative and if anyone is interested in standing they should contact Sally or Susan for more information. There are six sessions a year held on Saturdays and expenses are provided. Connect is the new name for the SPTC and this is an opportunity to help shape education in Scotland.
- d) Easter study school - still going ahead as planned and more information will follow.
- e) Exam leave - starts 30th April and runs until the June in-service date.
- f) Psychology teaching - Cllr Brett raised the issue of no psychology teacher. The Chair advised that Ms O'Donnell has been very helpful in contacting pupils since she moved to Waid Academy but it is recognised that the loss of a teacher at a critical time can have a serious impact on learning. Cllr Brett will be raising this again with Fife Council. A Parent Council member suggested that the SQA and Universities should be informed to ensure that they are aware of the disruption to the teaching of the subject due to having no teacher since the end of February. Angela Robertson to look into this.
- g) Parents' evening appointments - Kate Moriarty and Leanne Hulse enquired whether there was a different system that could be used to book appointments as both had

struggled to secure appointments with teachers. Angela advised that due to the working time directive teachers only have officially two hours for these appointments. It was felt that an online system would be less flexible and perhaps more information needs to be given to the pupils about how and when to obtain appointments. This could be addressed during the transition from P7. The senior management team are also looking into where these appointments take place and may change locations to be held in the school hall and dining rooms rather than individual classrooms as this will save on walking times around the school.

- h) School closure due to bad weather - Cllr Brett asked if Madras College could have re-opened on Monday 5th March following the extended period of bad weather. Angela Robertson stated that, although some teachers made it in on the Monday, several were still unable to travel due to the road conditions. Cllr Brett advised that Fife Council is reviewing how things were handled across Fife during this period. It was also noted that some teachers gave out extra work in advance for children being off, based on the weather forecasts.

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 23rd May 2018, 19:00 at Kilrymont.

Meeting closed at 20:00.

Attendance List 7th March 2018

Parents

Susan Simpson, Chair
Lynn Christie, Treasurer
Leanne Hulse (minutes)
Sally Walker
Jaap Jacobs
Di McGhie
Taciana Kasciukovic
Marie-Noel Earley

Andy Primmer
Sandra Wahl
Vicky Hobba
Anna Moss
Irene McMenamin
Kate Moriarty
Heather Moffitt

Teaching Staff

Angela Robertson, Deputy Head Teacher
Hugh Watson, Deputy Head Teacher

Local Councillors

Cllr Tim Brett
Cllr Bill Connor
Cllr Jane Ann Liston
Cllr Brian Thomson