

Madras College Parent Council
Minute
Wednesday 29th August 2018, 19:00
Kilrymont Road

1. Apologies received

Lynn Christie, Georgiana Mazilu, Cllr Ann Verner, Cllr Jonny Tepp, Cllr Dominic Nolan.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held 23rd May 2018

Minutes were adopted, proposed by Susan Simpson and seconded by Jaap Jacobs.

3. Matters arising (from meeting held 23/5/18)

- a) Maintenance - The bulk of the maintenance items have now been completed with decoration and new flooring the latest areas of work. Fire bells have been tested and were found to ring at 44-90dB. They have been linked to the period bells to increase the volume and the school evacuation plan has been updated to include a sweep of classrooms, corridors and toilets as staff are passing. Cllr Thomson received a reply from Fife Council in relation to questions about fire prevention and this was circulated with the previous minutes.
- b) Parking at South Street - The topic of maintenance also extended to include a summary of parking issues for staff at the South Street building. This has been an ongoing issue for some time but recent events have brought it to a head with reports of threatening and intimidating behaviour being directed towards staff by members of the public. This has included abuse of the janitorial staff when they fix 'please do not park here' stickers to cars. The site is in town but due to the split site nature of Madras there is a regular movement of staff between sites and on occasions they are unable to find a space when arriving for a class. This has also been experienced first-hand by Mr McClure when he has been unable to find a parking space and has himself been subjected to verbal insults.

The current situation with parking is totally unacceptable and members of parent council were fully supportive of taking action to remove this unwarranted and additional pressure on staff. Mr McClure advised that there were regular known offenders and in several cases they were either business owners or staff working for local companies parking there for work.

Cllr Thomson asked about the policy for pupils parking at school. Mr McClure advised that they have approx. 6 pupils parking at school and in these cases they are expected to park in an area to the rear of South St. A reminder will be issued to ensure they do not park at the front of the school.

Some discussion followed about next steps and these could include naming the offending individuals and/or businesses as they were flouting the regulations and causing much unnecessary disruption to the running of the school. Mr McClure will ask his business manager to contact Fife Council to assess the current parking

regulation and their options to have the parking enforced, possibly by parking attendants, police or by restricting access. It was also suggested that we raise visibility of this issue through the local press and business associations to highlight the disruption and intimidating behaviour by members of the public.

- c) Format of parent evenings - no update at this stage and will be carried over to next meeting.
- d) Combined rugby team with St Leonards - Jonathan O'Riordan advised that this is now happening with training underway. The rugby tops show both crests.

4. Office-holder reports

- a) Chair - nothing to add from the earlier AGM report.
- b) Secretary - nothing to add from the earlier AGM report.

5. Rector's report

- a) Results - Madras College continues to deliver excellent results and the latest summary is available via the school website with the comparative graphs shown here - http://www.madras.fife.sch.uk/news_events/documents/whole_school_results2018.pdf

Mr McClure presented the results in detail and demonstrated how they are the best in Fife. This takes a lot of hard work and it is a testament to the effort put in by staff and pupils. The hard work in earlier years with accurate tracking leads to excellent results in the senior years as the school aims for both quality and quantity.

- b) Budget management - cuts to the school budget are forecast over the next three years and these increase year on year. Higher cuts seem to be allocated to the NE Fife schools (Madras, Bell Baxter & Waid) due to the use of FME (free meal entitlement) numbers as a measure to apply the assessment. It is not the eligibility numbers in use but rather the number actually signing up for free meals.

Susan will write to FC clarify the use of FME and the apparently disproportionate cuts to NE Fife schools.

Mr McClure proposed a revision to class timings (which will include a reduction to the school day) as a potential way of delivering some staff savings next year. This would involve reducing the class times by a few minutes to create capacity and agreement from staff to use some of this increased capacity in covering other classes. This approach was supported by the parent council. He would then propose to review plans for a 4.5 day week as an option to achieve further savings and greater flexibility. This needs to fit with the timing of the change to bus contracts (June 2020).

- c) Staffing - Teaching staffing is ok at the moment. Office staffing is currently 2.5 staff down but this will resolve to 0.5 down in the near future. The bigger issue for

the office is the loss of very experienced operators all at the one time - mostly in our SQA and UCAS areas.

- d) New Madras - No update other than the information covered in local press. Cllr Thomson advised that the plan was still for the master plan for the West of St Andrews to be approved first with the new school as an integral part of this. The access road will take approx. 30 weeks to complete and this should commence September/October. There will be pressure to start the new school building as soon as the access road is completed and if approval of the master plan is still pending then a solution will be required to decouple the school from the master plan. Susan to write to the Chief Executive of FC to emphasise the urgency and how there should be no further delay to the build plans for a new school.

6. Fundraising group

The wine tasting event will be held at Madras Rugby Club on 14th September. Email issued to all registered parents/guardians and it is £10 per person with £5 of the admission price going to parent council funds.

7. AOB

- a) Visit to Waid Academy - contact Susan if interested in a visit. Date tbc.
- b) Nat 5 assessments - too early to confirm at this stage and there will be a follow up in good time.
- c) Debating club - yes this has now restarted and the first meeting was this evening (29/8). Senior school only at the moment.
- d) Nominations for awards - carried over to next meeting.
- e) Health and wellbeing - carried over to next meeting.
- f) Can minutes be emailed? - carried over to next meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 24th October, 19:00 at Kilrymont.

Meeting closed at 21:15.

Attendance List 29th August 2018

Parents

Susan Simpson, Chair
Barry Millar, Secretary
Leanne Hulse
Jaap Jacobs
Anna Moss
Marie-Noel Earley
Irene McMenamin

Clare Campbell
Vicky Hobba
Heather Moffitt
Di McGhie
Taciana Kaschiukovic
Jonathan O'Riordan

Teaching Staff

Local Councillors

David McClure, Rector
Hugh Watson, Deputy Head Teacher
Olav Darge, Deputy Head Teacher

Cllr Tim Brett
Cllr Linda Holt
Cllr Jane Ann Liston
Cllr Brian Thomson