

Madras College Parent Council
Minute
Wednesday 27th March 2019, 19:00
Kilrymont Road

1. Apologies received

These will be provided at a future date.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held 17th January 2019

The minutes were proposed by Susan Simpson and seconded by Tim Brett.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

- a) Typo in August Minute - This has been corrected.
- b) Date in item 3c to be amended from 2020 to 2021
- c) Page 5(i) this application was submitted and travel costs of £2000 were awarded
- d) Item 6 - bag packing ahs been moved to 30th March
- e) Building Issues - have had all of the £1 million but still some small items of repair to be carried out.: Netting is still to be put into the Celtic Block and the tiles outside of the staff toilets are cracking exposing asbestos so these are being replaced and linoleum is going down rather than carpets.

4. Office-holder reports

- a) Chair: There was nothing further for the Chair to report as it had all been covered by discussions to this point or will be covered by the Rector's report, although we are still without a secretary. This matter is now urgent and so a volunteer would be appreciated.
- b) Treasurer: The current balance is £3151.94 which includes £27 from Easyfundraising and £375 generously raised by the fundraising group from raffles at recent events. The J Block community trust money has been spent an we are awaiting an invoice from Fife Council.

We received a request from the Pipe Band for money to cover the cost of the bus to go to the national Competition. Unfortunately this meeting has been held too late as it was delayed. However, the Band have been approached to help at the bag packing fundraiser being held at the end of the month. As they will be providing some of the help on the day it is proposed that they receive half of the funds raised. Hopefully this will be enough to cover the cost of the coach (£375) if not the PC will provide the difference. If they raise more then we are happy for them to keep the excess towards future travel costs.

Whilst looking for criteria by which to assess the application it became apparent that there are none. This hasn't really been an issue to date as we have not received many applications but it is something that should be address for a transparent fair and accountable process when awarding funds raised by and on

behalf of the PC. Lynn will draft a simple application form that will be ‘advertised’ in the departments within the school but also on the PC website and Facebook page. This will allow us to start spending some of the funds raised. We have not spent anything for the last 2 sessions and can’t be seen to be sitting on over £3000 when there is a need for the funds elsewhere. This will help with any audits that we may be liable to and will the whole financial side of the PC much more transparent and more readily verified by the accountant at the end of each session. It is proposed that if funds are awarded in any year to any one group then that group should not be considered for funding for another 2-3 years, thus allowing the funds to aid as many groups and departments as possible.

As we have more funds than we really should at the moment, with more funds hopefully due in by the end of the month from the bag packing exercise it is also proposed that 2 x £300 or 3 x £200 awards be made available for departments within the school. These amounts could increase once we know how much is raised at the end of the month. David was asked to approach departments (eg Art) to see if they would like to request this funding.

All of this was approved by the Parent Council

[Secretary’s note: £1400 was raised by the bag packing group so massive thanks to them. This means that the Pipe Band will receive £700 and there is a further £700 available now for core depts]

5. Rector’s report

- Attainment Review Meeting

David attended the Attainment Review Meeting to discuss the school ranking in the league table. The school is 66 in the list based on Highers not in 5th year but for leavers. We are the best in Fife, but the table is based on one metric only which the school doesn’t agree with, s if other metrics (eg AH) were considered then we would jump 20+ places. We are above the virtual comparator so should be at 62 not 66, but it is as it is. We have lots of pupils staying on to 6th year but not all of them do highers and so this position is not a true reflection or a goof metric to be judged by and against. Councillor Brett said that the report on Madras was very good and should be put on the website.

- PSA Allocation and Budget Cuts

The school is subject to a £330,000 core cut/saving due to the drop in the school role.

There is no budget for staff cover next year as this has been cut by £7000

There is no allocation budget as we are losing all DYW funding (£20000)

DAS savings have to be made as DAS is now in a new format: All schools will have an additional support unit with staff allocated across all schools so our share is reduced. In total we have to make £360000 savings. Timetable changes will save £200000 but we still need to make another £160000 worth of savings. Staffing will as a result be affected. Any temporary staff contracts ending will not be replaced, and hopefully this can be achieved without hitting the curriculum. However variety within the curriculum will be lost with no offsets. At the PSA meeting today we

found out that the cut for is will be 29.5 hours which is the equivalent of 1 PSA. This can be offset a little where main stream are, but we are still losijng 20 hours of PSA - 1 PT PSA. David has had to ask for volunteers to come forward by Monday otherwise it will be the shortest service staff member in Fife who will be lost. This person is aware of the situation. David knows how and where to make the savings but there is very very little flexibility and as a result some class sizes will increase but not to the maximum limit (eg 33 in 1st year). David will endeavour to balance opportunity with attainment and hopefully there will be no more cuts. Next year there will be proposals brought forward on the future of the school year structure to begin once we are in the new school, and the bus contract is also up for renegotiation in 2020. Currently the timetable is offset by 10 minutes for the split site, but in the new school this will not be applicable so it is hoped that more savings can be made via the timetable.

- The 3rd term is always hard and has been hard due to the SQA submission dates and assessment. Everything has to be brought forward as the deadlines are just 3 days after the Easter break and before the exam diet starts on 25th April.
- There are 4 teaching staff on long term sick leave (since January) and it is very difficult to get staff cover at this time of year. There is also 1 member of the admin team (SQA admin) who has only just returned from sick leave in the last two days who has been off sincde January. In the interim a retiree came back to help but resilience needs to be built into the admin team. Overall we have been averaging 7-10 staff per day to cover for this past term. This has been achieved and only twice has it been necessary to take pupils into the dining hall - not for video time but for teaching time.
- BGEBT: College attainment data is outstanding for a third year at 3rd and 4th levels and as a result we are the most improved school in Scotland. [in Maths and English at the end of 3rd year level 4 has been attained and if not level 4 then level 3 achieved etc]
- Special visitors:
January: we were inspected in Maths and Numeracy. It was a 1 day inspection with verbal feedback and a written report which we will see in September and October. The verbal feedback was that for attainment in Nat 5 (both numeracy and maths) we are in line or above virtual comparator for the last 3 years when we had been previously below that. This represents a massive effort and improvement to achieve this.

February: Graham Day visited and he spoke to both staff and pupils. He outlined the challenges facing the armed forces, their families and how they are all supported. The visit seemed to go down well with all those involved. Kenny and David are off to a national conference on this in May. We have several armed forces families in the school (84 on Lemas plus another 20) and all services are covered [active, reserve and veteran].

- David managed to get sight of the report of the attainment fund and delivery impac group- the case study team that assessed how we spend PEF money. We were positive for impact for targeted pupils in numeracy, confidence, self-esteem, attendance, learning environment and a reduction in exclusion.
- We have tried to maintain the wider experience range for all year groups with the Ohio exchange, BBC questions airing from the school and red nose day.
- Kenny Wishart is now the Armed Forces Families Champion with the Royal Education Trust and is helping Nina Collins who is the pupil voice person. Kilrymont will be first and moving forward there will be a pupil forum at both Kilrymont and South Street. Beth, Kenny and the youth worker at Leuchars will begin lunch time drop in sessions beginning next week. In line with all this a new enrolment process for services children will be starting soon as they do not have the same transition process as other pupils.

6. Fundraising group

The Parent Council thanked Irene and all members of the Fundraising Group for their sterling efforts in securing bag packing at Morrisons on the 30 March. Volunteers are required for the event and the Pipe band have agreed to help (see treasurers report above). The session will run from 10am to 4pm with the Pipe Band playing from 10-12.30.

7. AOB

- a) Cover for classes at Kilrymont (in particular S3 Physics): whilst most of this was covered earlier in the meeting a parent did raise further concerns that the lack of cover for classes was becoming detrimental to teaching and learning due to teaching disruptions. In response Dave reiterated that the school did not know long the members of staff were going to be off for. Initially it was one week with a return to work, but then went back off on sick leave, returned and the cycle continued until the sick leave became prolonged. With this uncertainty the school tried to cover internally rather than externally. In addition to this there is only 1 physics supply teacher in all of Fife and that person is retired with their own health issues. This meant that cover couldn't be provided for the whole time hence the provision of non-specialist cover. With regards to Maths all the Maths supply teachers were employed elsewhere. The initial period of cover was hard and then rotations were put in place and the situation improved. The senior school was prioritised as they have no time to make up for lost time due to the incredibly tight SQA timetable as discussed earlier. 3rd year is now a priority as the seniors are doing exams. It has been an incredibly difficult and stressful period for all involved but study leave will release lots of teachers after Easter.
- b) New Madras College- update provided by Cllr Brian Thomson: There is as yet no official line for dates as the Council still does not own the site and can't until the Master plan is approved or until the University waives that requirement. The St Andrews West plan may not actually be considered until the summer which adds further pressure. He has been looking for assurances from the Council that the

school will be ready by August 2021. He recommends that the PC write to the Council and ask for clarity on this matter.

- c) Station Park: the rugby posts and pitches are a mess and a H&S audit has been requested as soon as possible. Common use quoted £14000 to replace the posts and bring the field up to spec and an application has been put into the Common Goo Fund for this costs. The outcome should be known in May. The PC thanks Cllr Thomson for doing this.
- d) Cllr Brett highlighted the fact that the crossing being put in place at the roundabout to the New School to access the pitches at Station Park seems dangerous, but won't be used often as Station Park will only be used for extra curricular and not core activities. David McClure thought the reverse was true and that it would be used for core activities. Clarity will be sought on this matter, and in either respect concerns about the crossing stand.
- e) Concerns were raised by Georgina Mizoulo about the Nat 5 Chemistry assignment being delayed 3 times for one class and eventually being timetabled to overlap with other subject assessments, as well as some assessments being on the same day eg German and Computing. This will be looked into.
- f) As a final note the Parent Council thanked all teachers and staff for all the incredible work done in the background to ensure that all SQA targets are met, and for running the Easter school - an invaluable resource for all senior pupils. Tremendous work by all involved.

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21st May 2019 at Kilrymont

Meeting closed at 21.15

Attendance List 23rd May 7th 2018

Parents

Susan Simpson, Chair
Lynn Christie, Treasurer
Anna Moss
Vicky Hobba
Irene McMenemy
Marie-Noel Early

Anna Moss
Heather Moffitt
Di McGhie
Jaap Jacobs
Jonathan O'Riordan

Teaching Staff

Local Councillors

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

Cllr Brian Thomson
Cllr Tim Brett
Cllr Ann Verner
Cllr Jane Ann Liston