

**Madras College Parent Council**  
**Minutes**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
**Kilrymont Site**

Attendees: Lynn Christie, Eleanor Whitby, Susan Simpson, Anna Moss, Vicky Hobba, Brian Thimosin, Ann Verner, Merlè Torres, Heather Moffitt, Diane McGhie, Clare Campbell, Jonathan O’Riordan, Irene McMenamin, Angela Robertson, Hugh Watson, Olav Darge, David McClure, Taciana **Kasciukovic**, Cllr Jane Ann Liston, Helen Connaris

- **Yvonne Wynia: Manager the Tayport Community Trust**
  - Yvonne gave us an update as a guest to the meeting. In the last years there has been a plan put together, a business plan with £2.8m secured to build a community centre. It will be called the Larick Centre. Building works started in 2018 this will include a sports hall. 3 community spaces plus café. 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 opening date, official opening 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, with celebrations. A space has been allocated for a campsite, motor homes and tents, this is the next stage of the development. This is a sustainable business; any profit will be put back into the community. School happy to display any posters/fliers for the centre.
- **Apologies received**
  - Cllr Tim Brett, Cllr J Tepp, Jaap Jacobs, ...
- **Minutes of meeting held 30 October 2019 and minute addendum**
  - This can be added to the website now. Nominated Susan Simpson, Minutes approved Heather Moffat.
- **Minutes of previous meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**
  - Queries, one correction regarding the Top of the Bench. Proposed by Lynn Christie, Seconded by Irene McMenamin.
- **Matters arising from previous meeting**
  - Parent Concern: Roll forward to next session about the S1 pupils being required to stay in school over lunch time. This is to be discussed at the next meeting.
  - Parent Question: New timetable for School – outcome?  
Option 1B was approved and will be taken forward, from the new school onwards. P7 parents were informed also for the new intake
  - Parent Question: Bus companies have not been approached as yet. Fife Council (?) will take that forward
  - Parent Question: Budget Cuts  
No update as yet
- **Office-holder reports**
  - **Chair**
    - Addendum to the minutes
    - Hockey pitches, now a Fife Council matter. No longer a parent council matter
  - **Treasurer**
    - £2808 in the bank, no further update
  - **Secretary** - no report
- **Rector’s report**
- Concern over the lunch space, Rector contacted other schools for advice on interval times and lunch times. Cllr Brett had suggested a longer interval. Contacted all of the larger schools in Fife to pose the question and ask about any challenges. 15 mins interval and a 40 min lunch. Inverkeithing split week 15 min interval, 45 min lunch on the longer days and 60 mins for lunch on the short day (they prefer the shorter lunch). Other examples were given. Madras will move to 55 mins for lunch, 15 mins for intervals aside from Friday when it will be 20 mins interval in the new campus. Now this is set the bus contracts can move forwards to negotiation by Fife Council (?).

- May Timetable, has been considered because of study leave. SQA marking duties for the staff, this gains CPD for exam arrangements and expectations. Good learning to bring back into the departments/school. The cost of this is covered internally. It has now been limited to not more than 4 staff per week. Good teamwork amongst the teaching staff in order to make this fare. The first time any restrictions have been imposed for SQA.
- Easter School, staff have been asked for volunteers. Once the programme is finished over two weeks it will be circulated in advance. Similar format including English and Maths every day. Pupils have been asking about this.
- Course Choice, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, 4<sup>th</sup> year and 5<sup>th</sup> year course choices. All completed and now the timetable is being prepared. Discussions around which classes will be included. Similar format to previous years. Decisions are made over the Easter Holidays on how the year looks in terms of timetable.
- Stress Busters, timetable has been put together including; yoga, cross fit, walks on beach etc. to help the pupils. Lot of support through guidance teachers, the pupils are feeling the stress of this time of year with exams. Internal assessments have been very onerous for the pupils. Team effort and huge praise for the team. Random acts of kindness amongst the staff too.
- Mental Health Support, S3 cohort are currently sitting SQ unit. Sport Relief next week, pupils will be spoken to about this. How to deal with everyday trials, opportunity to offer pupils a 'tool kit' as part of their learning. Health & Wellbeing day with S2 cohort also. Policy for Wellbeing is being put in place, on an electronic system. Counselling fund from the government, Madras is hoping to be able to have the counsellors in the school. Heavy workload involved in this process; systems are slow.
- Spin Bikes have been popular for pupils and staff.
- Hand out sent around with benchmarking measures charts/graphs. Results come out late August/ Early September each year. The current report is for the 2018/19 school year.
  - Positive Destinations; compare Madras to virtual comparator on this chart. Up on last year, which was in line with Scottish average. 93.91% 2017/18 and 96.44% 2018/19. Positive Destination is further education/work at point of leaving school.
  - Improving Attainment; number of points for pupil exam results. Lowest 20% Madras does not score high against virtual comparator (3<sup>rd</sup> year). Middle 60% we are just below the virtual comparator (4<sup>th</sup> year). Occasionally Madras does have 4<sup>th</sup> year students doing higher. We can't go any higher than 420, 5 A's in higher.
  - Attainment v Deprivation; Madras score higher than the virtual comparator aside from decile 4 (3 pupils). Only 1 of the pupils is below the virtual comparator in decile 4.
  - Chart S4, National 5. **Madras does 7 National 5's in S4?**
  - Chart S6, 70% of pupils leave in S6. Level 6 higher, Level 7 advanced higher. Performance of S6 pupils at Madras is excellent compared to national average.
- **Standards & Quality report / School Improvement Plan.**
  - Soon to be looking at next year's improvement plan, the standards and quality report outcomes feed into this. If parents would like to bring anything to the attention of the school regarding S&Q report.
  - Parent Concern; Catering provisions for the new school. Not ready to be discussed as yet in terms of the S&Q report. Suggested that parent sends an email to Chair with the suggestions that can be put forward to catering. Discussed that the pupils be approached to be asked about what they would like to have available, '*pupil voice*'. Hopeful that the new facilities will encourage pupils to stay in at lunch time.
  - Parent Concern; Do parents realise how many opportunities are on at Kilrymont/South Street over lunch time, it would be a good idea to make sure parents have access to the extra classes.
  - Parent Concern; Use this unique opportunity of the new campus to rejuvenate catering, lunch classes, social enterprise.
- **Fundraising Group**
  - Update, next event Wine Tasting Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, A trip up the Loire, Rugby Club, £12 per ticket. Morrisons have been chased for a date to do a bag pack.
- **Constitution Subgroup**
  - Working on a constitution update, version hand out given and parents asked to consider these and report back. Discussion document, what do we want from the constitution? The copy we currently have is from 2007. 4 points are on the first page of the handout are relevant to the

updates that are required to the 2007 constitution. Some discussions were had however it was considered the best approach would be to keep this item on the agenda until the full constitution is agreed.

- Parent Question; Can we let parents know at the roadshows for P7, and transition days that there is a parent council that they are welcome to join. Agreed this can happen, firstly at the transition days.
- Parent Question; Can PTC be involved in the parents evening?
- **AOB**
- Parent Concern; Trips regarding Coronavirus. Answer; this is a concern, the school's position is that (Paris, May) the school is following national government guidelines and for staff the unions. Email will be sent out to parents/carers of pupils that this involves. Currently the (Paris, May) trip will go ahead as planned unless FCO advice suggests otherwise.
- Parent Concern; What would the advice be if any cases came up at school. Answer; NHS and FCO guidelines will be followed. It would be potential that the school would have to close if any cases at school were confirmed.
- Parent Concern; If the school was closed for a period of time would there be access to learning online? Answer; Yes, this would be done through GLOW, as if it was a 'snow week'. More challenging with tutorial time, not ideal but can be catered for.
- Parent Concern; Have there been any changes to hand washing advice at school? Answer; Yes, at assembly, demonstrations etc.
- Parent Concern; Toilet Arrangements in New School? Answer; Shelia McLean, Head of Project Team has been contacted; her response has been read out to the PTC. This will be sent around the PTC by email.
- Date of next meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020