



# Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

## Wednesday 1 February 2023 (in person and via Zoom)

**Present:** Joanne Christopher – Vice Chair, Margaret Maciver – Secretary, Jackie Lennox – Treasurer, Kirsty Broadfoot – Minute Secretary, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Cllr Kenneth Bell (via Zoom).

**Council Members:** Lindsay Campbell, Gail Whyte, Judith McCaughey, Susan Forsyth, Kerry Walker, Alison Braddock.

**Forum Members:** Susie Greig, Amy Griffiths, Patricia Rowley, Pauline Moriarty.

**Apologies:** Marie Anne Jackson – Chair, Emma Inglis, Katherine Woodhouse, Carolyn Adams, Fiona Stanbridge, Cllr Bob Pollock, Cllr Craig McKay.

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Joanne chaired the meeting in Marie Anne's absence. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

### **2. Action Review**

- Career and Options event – Margaret confirmed parent council to provide catering for the employers and university staff.
- Minibus – George to contact local authority re. costs to buy vs lease a bus. Cllr Bell and George to discuss further. <sup>1</sup>
- Fundraising meeting – Lindsay has received some fundraising ideas from MTRA which she will pass on via the WhatsApp group. Discussion followed on different fundraising ideas i.e., Kiltwalk. We may also be eligible for funding from Rotary Club. It was established that the council would need to be a registered charity to enable us to apply for some grants/funding. Cllr Bell will check out which funds/grants we may be eligible for. <sup>2</sup>
- Litter issues – George met with PC Harrower – unable to source the specialist deposit return bins so will wait until the deposit return scheme is up and running. He is continuing to monitor the litter issue at the Co-op.

### **3. Captain's Report**

No report was given this month.

### **4. Head Teacher's Report**

This was circulated prior to the meeting.

### **5. Approval of Minutes**

<sup>1</sup> ACTION: G Docherty & Cllr Bell

<sup>2</sup> ACTION: Cllr Bell

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 January were approved by Alison Braddock and seconded by Susan Forsyth.

#### **6. Careers Evening (16<sup>th</sup> February)**

A meeting has taken place with Robert McLaughlin and the volunteers to discuss arrangements. Programme is finalised and tickets available via Eventbrite. George gave an overview of the plans. There will be a keynote speaker. There will be a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February to finalise arrangements. Nail bar and barista will also be available on the night. Margaret will contact Robert and confirm to parent council arrangements for drop off of catering. Use the WhatsApp group to confirm who is able to provide what.

#### **7. Curriculum Rationale**

George began by updating that overall positive feedback had been received from parents on the move to 7 subjects for S4 pupils. Questionnaire had been circulated to S2 – S6 parents. George then presented a slide to the group on Curriculum Rationale and explained he was keen to obtain views on this. The members split into small groups and discussed the matter and feedback was passed to George. Cllr Bell felt the language used in the slide was quite complex and it may be an idea to break the headings down to simplify the information. George took the comments on board and advised he would arrange to speak with pupil focus groups as well.

#### **8. Communication**

George will circulate options for a meeting of the communications group.

#### **9. Update on Prelims**

George had spoken with young people to get their thoughts on prelim timetable. S4 pupils were keen to the same timetable as last year. S5/6 were more mixed. George noted a slight dip in attainment – seems to be a lack of motivation in some S4 pupils. He is looking at a session with an external trainer as well as asking former pupils to come in and share their journey. Attendance at the study café was good but has dropped recently.

George confirmed that a survey would be sent out on parents' evenings.

There was a discussion regarding the Higher English prelim which George is going to look into. George confirmed that a temporary English teacher had been appointed earlier in the day.

Easter school timetable will be published mid-March.

#### **10. Curriculum update**

Discussed in earlier agenda items.

#### **11. Zoom membership for Parent Council meetings**

It was agreed that the majority of people prefer to attend the meetings in person now. There is a cost for the zoom membership. George to speak with Captains to get their thoughts.<sup>3</sup>

## **12. Next Month's Agenda**

- Summer concert planning – taking place second week in June.
- Parents evenings – feedback from BGE.
- Zoom membership.
- S5/6 parents – timing/communication for senior phase reporting.
- Communication group plans/update.

## **13. AOCB**

- A trip is being organised by the music department.
- It was agreed that parent council fundraising/charity membership needs to be investigated further.
- Kerry Walker had asked for the issue of vaping to be raised. George agreed this was becoming a big problem in the school. Janitors are monitoring the school and CI Lammie has also been going round. A letter goes out to the parents if a pupil is caught vaping but it was acknowledged that it is difficult for the school to clamp down whilst many local shops are selling vapes which are easily available to children. It was suggested that campus officers from all schools could get together to look at ways of tackling the issue. It was also noted that MSP Siobhan Brown was looking at a potential ban on use.
- George consulted the council on changing lunchtime on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February to 11.40am to allow catering staff to be able to attend the funeral of a staff member. This was agreed.
- Next meeting – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

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<sup>3</sup> ACTION: G Docherty