



# Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

## Wednesday 6 September 2023

**Present:** Marie-Anne Jackson - Chair, Margaret Maciver – Secretary, Iain Ward - DHT, Gillian McCallum – DHT

**Council Members:** Lindsay Campbell, Susan Forsyth, Alison Braddock, Carolyn Jamieson, Fiona Stanbridge.

**Forum Members:** Caryn Mair, Elizabeth Santos, Amy Griffiths.

**Apologies:** George Docherty – Head Teacher, Joanne Christopher – Vice Chair, Jackie Lennox – Treasurer, Kirsty Broadfoot – Minute Secretary, Gail Whyte, Alison Allison, Cllr Craig Mackay, Cllr Bob Pollock.

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

Marie-Anne welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. It was noted that Emma Inglis had stepped down from the parent council.

### **2. Captain's Report**

Regular assemblies have returned for all year groups as well as house assemblies for each year group. The importance of good attendance is being highlighted as well as a focus on being in the right place at the right time. New S1s have been welcomed to the school and S6 have been excellent buddies, helping S1s to find their way round the school. Senior prizegiving night took place on 31 August - well done to all pupils who won a prize. S4 Dux was Lucy Burnside and S5 Dux was jointly awarded to David Traynor and Reuben Thomasson. The evening also showcased some amazing music and singing performances. Our annual sponsored walk is taking place on Thursday 21 September and we will be raising money for Ayrshire Cancer Support. Each house has its own Just Giving page so parents and carers can sponsor us. There will also be face painting, home baking etc. The school recently hosted a UCAS information evening for S5 and 6 pupils, featuring different speakers. Mrs Cooper talked about different supports available to pupils, prior students talked about their experience and covered the timescales for early applicants as well as mainstream applicants. Gemma, the Careers Advisor highlighted some of the different options available to leavers and we heard from Dr Speirs from Edinburgh University who talked about personal reflections. Finally, the school is hosting a 'Class of 1964' alumni event where ex pupils are invited to come along and reminisce about their time in the school on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The members thanked the Captains for their report.

### **3. Action Review**

Lindsay brought up the showcase concert – clarification is required on the total amount made by the parent council from the event. Lindsay banked the money which was around £300 but there were a lot of outlays. Ice cream was biggest

outlay. Best to pick it up when George is back to clarify re. the ice cream. Lindsay asked Margaret to email Pauline Moriarty about the float.

ACTION: MM

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

Gillian McCallum spoke in the absence of George Docherty. She passed on thanks to the Captains for their report. She summarised the main things happening in the school at the moment;

- Sponsored Walk – trying to raise £5k for Ayrshire Cancer Support as this is an issue close to home for some staff. Walk being held two weeks' tomorrow, weather permitting. Lots of events being held throughout the day. Gillian asked if it could be added to the parent council Facebook page. This will be the main fundraiser of the year.
- All parents' evenings will be inhouse this year.
- Raised approx. £40 through teas and coffees at UCAS event.
- Busy with interviews this week. Appointed a new full time Physics teacher temp for one year. Starting in a couple of weeks.
- Temp Maths teacher interviews being held to fill Mrs Anderson's post.
- Halloween disco will be held last Thursday of October. Pupils lead on organising all the events.
- Attendance good – almost full attendance from S1s.
- Assemblies – best S1 in a long time. Well over 200 of them. 100% in uniform.
- House assemblies taking place every day next week.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June were approved Lindsay Campbell and seconded by Margaret Maciver.

Lindsay asked if there was any update on hockey support. Caryn and Carolyn confirmed that tuck shop had been started again and a hockey kit sale is being planned for early October. Still some issues with buying some sizes of kit. Caryn confirmed there was no bin at the pavilion as they had been removed by the council. This meant having to take rubbish home after the tuck shop. Also no lockable cupboard to store tuck shop items. Some options were discussed for this.

#### **6. SQA Results**

Gillian McCallum made a presentation on the attainment and achievement results. She discussed overall attainment levels in S4-6 as compared to both local authority and virtual comparator schools. Marr had the best stay on rate in the local authority. Very positive results. 98.8% of young people go on to a positive destination when leaving Marr. More SCQF courses being taken which is working at level 6 but with no exam at the end. Gillian summarised the next steps. She is looking for parent council's help in developing the S4 parent's information evening. A meeting is being held later this week to discuss. She asked if word could be spread to S4 parents to see what would be helpful for them. Gillian then summarised key dates:

Early reports out on 5<sup>th</sup> October for S4-6. Early parent's eve for S4 – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 4.30 – 6.30pm. Two parent's nights will be held in Oct and Feb for S6. Nat 5 prelims take place in December and Highers/Advanced Highers after Christmas. S5

mentoring programme – Mr Moncrieff working on this. Gillian noted that 68 out of 68 pupils got first UCAS choice which is a fantastic result.

#### **7. 2023-24 Improvement Plan Overview**

Mr Ward summarised a presentation on overall attainment and improvement planning. He noted that the school's vision and values is key and this is shared with pupils, starting at assembly. Importance of a shared language. Mr Ward summarised the three priorities for 2023-24.

One of the priorities is to develop a family learning calendar – some help from pc required. What would help? Ideas to be sent in.

STEM innovation hub – huge focus nationally on innovation. Marr is one of 40 schools in Scotland getting involved. Transformed three computing hubs and built a STEM hub. STEM leaders in some years.

Gillian noted how the school has removed the school bells and this has helped to create a calm, respectful environment for young people going from class to class. Outdoor learning worker appointed to work with groups. Two PTs in raising attainment as well as a Wellbeing Officer have been recruited.

Mr Ward summarised South Ayrshire Reads – a video was shown on this. This initiative has been launched to develop confident and skilled leaders.

#### **8. Sponsor for Soccer Aid Event**

No date set as yet. To be discussed at next meeting.

#### **9. Advert for Office positions**

Margaret confirmed she is happy to stay on for another year as Secretary. Marie-Ann indicated she would be stepping down in October. Jackie Lennox may also be stepping down. There is a need for another treasurer. Must be a parent council member to stand. School put something out on Xpressions to advertise the post. Elizabeth Santos expressed an interest. Would be useful to have an overview given of the role of parent council members and in particular the Chair for new members' benefit. Nomination forms to join the parent council were completed by Elizabeth Santos, Amy Griffiths and Caryn Mair, who had been a forum member.

#### **10. Dates and Events that the school need PC assistance**

- Sponsored walk.
- Halloween disco for Foodbank – donation. Organised by S6. Last Thursday in October.
- Careers and Options Evening – Thursday 15 February. Lots of planning to be done. Robert had a good action plan. New Business teacher Lucy Campbell is taking the role up.
- Pantomime trip – 8 December.
- Christmas Concert – 13 December.
- Expressive arts evening – fundraiser – 15 November.
- Christmas dances – 12 December (S1/2), 14 December (S3/4), 20 December (S5/6).
- P7 evenings – may be able to hold a second hand blazer sale.
- Looking for help with these events.
- Summer concert – date to be confirmed.
- South Ayrshire Futures event – 7 Feb.

- Timetable changes at end of May.
- Parent's evenings - 29 Nov (S1), 17 Jan (S2), 6 Feb (S3) 10 Oct (S4), 30 Oct and 19 Feb (S5 S6)
- 18<sup>th</sup> June – junior prize giving, senior prizegiving.
- 60<sup>th</sup> alumni – first HT's grandson organising this.

### **11. Next month's agenda**

- Soccer Aid sponsorship.
- AGM – Chair's report, Audit and treasurer's report to be done. (Additional card holder needed – Summary of roles to be sent to the office).

### **12. AOCB**

- Hockey kit sale - prior to the pc meeting.
- Discuss sports awards evening.
- Colours deadline was Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. Discussion on the Colours application process.
- New S1 parent – some information not been filtered through ie hockey started up. Lots of info on website and X.
- Issue with Astro being burnt. Hoped to speak with councillors.
- Lindsay queried the lets – child protection issue – school only on Saturday mornings until 12.30pm. Councillor Pollock usually knows. Useful to know the current policy. Gillian will speak with George on this.