



Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 1st December 2021 (in person & via Zoom)

- Present:** Marie Anne Jackson - Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Jackie Lennox – Treasurer, Lindsay Campbell – Secretary, Kirsty Broadfoot – Minute Secretary, Ross Connell, Carol Lambie, Robert McLaughlin, Dr Gillian Sargent & Councillor Bob Pollock
- Council Members:** Hilary Ramage, Katie Atkinson, Susan Forsyth, Kate Dunn
- Forum Members:** Carolyn Adams, Alison Braddock, Kirsty Lee, Judith Ramsay
- Apologies:** Kate Dunn, Emma Inglis, Katherine Woodhouse, Morgan Stone & Cllr Craig Mackay

	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u> a) Marie Anne welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Captains Report</u> Jake Murray and Sophie Lennox provided an update on the Captains' activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,100 has been raised for Children in Need following activities organised by the captains and senior leadership team. • The business department applied for a digital school's award and Digi-Inventors won. • Prelim timetable has been added to the website. • Supported study sessions are underway. • House Captains are arranging Christmas activities for the last week of term. • A recording of the Gaiety panto will be shown, this is being paid for by South Ayrshire Council. • House boards are being updated each week with house points – this has been a success. 	
<p>3. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> The minutes of the parent council meeting held on 3rd November 2021 were approved by Jackie Lennox and seconded by Katie Atkinson.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School show support plan – George indicated that an MS Form would be sent to parents asking for support with the four main areas of assistance required. • Study timetable anomaly – a pdf version of this has now been sent out via Groupcall/Xpressions. George advised there is no mobile version of the website, only desktop. • Blazers – not able to send a Groupcall message out to ex-pupils due to GDPR, but George will make contact on their WhatsApp group. • Parents' Night – This will be held online due to the ongoing uncertainty around Covid-19 restrictions. George noted that he had been in touch with a company who organise online parents' nights via video link, this is called 'Parents' Evening Booking System'. George will be testing this next week with the company but felt this would be a suitable alternative to face-to-face meetings. The S4 evening is due to be held on 18th January. George will draft a letter to Marie Anne next week before circulating to parents. • 	<p>GD</p> <p>GD</p> <p>GD</p>

<p>5. <u>Updated Bullying policy (agenda items 4 and 5 were swapped)</u></p> <p>George introduced Ross Connell and Carol Lambie to speak about the policy. This had been circulated to parent council members prior to the meeting. Ross spoke about the reasons behind updating the policy. There was a need to consolidate all the information and provide clear guidance for pupils and parents on what the school would do in the event of bullying behaviour. Focus groups have been held with pupils which were productive. Posters will be put up round the school to highlight the policy. Ross said it was important that they put Marr's stamp on it. He discussed the fact that online and LGBT bullying was much more common now and that has been covered in the policy. There is a focus on this in PSE.</p> <p>Ross then handed over to Carol, who has also been very involved in designing the policy. She explained the importance of making it accessible to pupils and parents, important to be able to find information easily.</p> <p>George noted that a survey form will be sent to parents via Groupcall to gather their views. There will also be an event to launch the new policy. Katie felt the policy was good, very visual however pointed out there was some wording missing from one of the sections. This was due to the draft that was sent out being in word format but when converted to pdf it should be fine.</p> <p>Lindsay felt the wording could be made easier to understand with less jargon ie SEMIS.</p>	<p>RC/CL</p>
<p>4. <u>School improvement plan</u></p> <p>George gave a presentation to the members. The main areas in the annual improvement plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents in learning – parents' views are very important. • Covid recovery. • Leadership of all levels. • Success and achievements. <p><u>Parents in learning</u> Looking for parents to get involved in focus groups – to discuss ideas for the school's mission, values and communication.</p> <p><u>Covid recovery</u> The school are looking at digital training for parents – resulting in Microsoft modules. This could be of interest for many parents given how quickly technology is advancing. George advised that transition plans had to be put on hold due to Covid-19. Letters being sent to P7 parents this week for their views on how to move this forward. Would be good to look at creating a parent's guide to Marr.</p>	<p>GD</p>
<p>6. <u>Communication</u></p> <p>Next steps are to set up focus groups/surveys/family learning events. Katie and Hilary mentioned that parents may be missing non-learning face-to-face events in school like sports days. Marie Anne asked about survey responses. George advised it depends, usually get a good response when asking for parents' thoughts on the school. Hilary suggested linking survey completion to house points. Jackie felt that long surveys can put people off responding, it needs to be short and to the point. People like to feel they have something to contribute. Discussed sending evaluation forms out with event invites. Jackie suggested asking a few questions at the start of the online parent's evening. George will look into the logistics of this. Hilary suggested having some S1 settling in guidance, some information from parents of S1/2 children for new parents. Carolyn said parents may feel unsure about how to engage with the school when children start S1. Lindsay felt that it was assumed that most parents had a degree of digital literacy, but it may not be the case, important to get a variety of views and use inclusive language in all communications. She suggested random choosing of a</p>	

<p>selection of parents and invite them in to get their views on issues. It was agreed to consider this, George will look into it, possibly run a Doodle poll to see what times suit people best.</p> <p>The use of Social media was discussed. Lots of educational and school information is found on Twitter. The school Twitter page was discussed, and it would be good to get more parents on Twitter and following these pages. An option to send out info on Twitter and how to join it at the school show was discussed.</p>	<p>GD</p> <p>?</p>
<p>7. <u>Next Month's Agenda Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and options evening. George and Robert discussed this and it was agreed that there would be two separate events, one online for S2/3 and the other for senior pupils. Could invite a limited number of organisations and education providers in during the day for pupils only, this could be recorded for parents. Ask pupils for their thoughts – surveys to be sent out via Teams. George and Robert to discuss this in more detail. • Parents evening online booking system. 	<p>GD/RMc</p>
<p>8. <u>AOCB</u></p> <p>Marie Anne asked if there would be the option for S1/2 pupils to take part in swimming lessons or bikeability given that P7 pupils have missed out on this due to the pandemic. George noted that they have a small group of S1/2 pupils in the school who cycle to the allotments. He will ask PC Harrower to join the January parent council meeting with a view to discussing picking up the cycle initiative scheme. * Marie Anne then gave a summary of the last parent council chairs' meeting. Douglas Hutchison was there for the final time before moving to new post. George confirmed that interviews will be held in January for the new Director of Education and that their sole remit will be education.</p>	<p>*GD</p>
<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 7pm in the school meeting room as well as on Zoom. Further details will be provided prior to the meeting.</p>	