

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 1st May 2019



Present: Timothy Wight – Vice Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Lindsay Campbell – Secretary & Katherine Woodhouse – Minute Secretary

Council Members: Ady Allan, Alan Blackwood, Joy Paul, Julie Cotter, Katie Atkinson, Laura McGarrity, Lindsey Connell, Cllr Peter Convery & Cllr Bob Pollock

Apologies: Hilary Ramage, Kate Dunn & Mark Fitzpatrick

	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u> Tim welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted from those unable to attend.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Junior Captains</u> S3 Junior Captains, Amy and Poppy, gave an overview of their recent activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped at P7 parents transition evening; • Met with new potential guidance teachers for Portland and Welbeck; • Presented an expressive arts evening with music, drama and dance; • Met visitors from Montpellier during their recent visit; • During May many S3 students will be involved in DoE practice and qualifying expeditions; • An S3 English exam took place on Monday and the consensus was that it was helpful to get the opportunity to sit under exam conditions. • A company called Trainology will be visiting school to train S3 about moving up to S4 and how to prepare for exams. They did this last year for the current S4s and the feedback was positive. 	
<p>3. <u>Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2019 were approved by Alan Blackwood and seconded by Julie Cotter and the outstanding actions reviewed as follows:</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications – Hilary has been in contact with the office to find out the main reasons parents phone the school. They are sending out a list from which she will be able to move things forward. • Hilary has contacted Darley Laundrette by e-mail with regard to second-hand uniform but has not received a response to date. • BGE reporting – George advised that the next step was finalising the format of the report, a bespoke version of which is being worked on by the Authority, but he does not yet have an example. The team will be going to see this next week and will be moving forward with a different style of report in August. • Uniform pop-up shop held on 29th April – Primary heads will come back to George if they feel another one is required. PE uniform has been updated, details of which were given out at the transition evening and guidance teachers will be taking copies out to primaries. This can be ordered on-line and orders picked up from the school. George will send a letter out to all parents on Groupcall and text message with link to the relevant page on the website for all parents. • There has been no further action with regard to organising team photos as it was too late. This needs to be factored in earlier and maybe in line with the last fixtures or around the same time as the S6 photos. 	<p>HR HR GD</p>

<p>4. <u>Education Scotland Thematic Review – George Docherty</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Scotland announced three national thematic inspections related to aspects of empowerment set out in the Education Reform Joint Agreement, June 2018. The third of these thematic inspections focuses on parent and pupil participation. • Marr College was selected to participate as part of a sample of around 40 schools. Two Inspectors attended on 28th March, focusing on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parental and community engagement: How well do schools engage parents and the community in the life of the school and their child’s learning to improve outcomes for children and young people? 2. Pupil participation: How well do schools ensure that the views of children and young people are heard, respected and taken seriously, as is central to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child? • Focus group meetings were held over the course of the day and it was a positive day overall. • Further information on feedback can be found in the attached presentation. The areas highlighted for improvement are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing greater consistency in pupil voice across departments • Continue to develop opportunities for young people to lead learning • Develop further opportunities for sharing good practice • Education Scotland will use the evidence gathered to publish one report at national level. They will not produce reports on individual schools or local authorities. • A sample of quotes from the day and the case study will be submitted for possible inclusion in the report. 	
<p>5. <u>Primary School Parent Council Transition Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim advised that unfortunately the Primary Parent Council April meetings had been missed. He also stated that no information was circulated regarding what should be discussed at these meetings. Katie felt this was not necessary and it would be better to just encourage parents to get involved in the Parent Council and to provide the new S1 parents with information. Tim felt that parents of current S1 pupils may be better placed to provide such information. • It was pointed out that last year new parents had no timetable, no information or letter. George confirmed that this will be done before the end of term this year. Laura advised that St Patrick’s was missed out entirely last year as it is not a natural feeder school to Marr, despite several of their pupils moving to Marr. This caused a lot of upset amongst St Patrick’s parents. It would therefore be helpful to provide an information pack to the Head teacher as there will again be children coming to Marr this year from St Patrick’s. • Those people who had originally agreed to attend Primary Parent Council meetings will make contact again with the primary schools to find out dates of next meetings. Lindsay agreed to contact Barassie in Mark’s absence and will let him know. Katie will contact Troon Primary. Tim would appreciate some help from a current S1 parent with the Dundonald meeting, which Katherine agreed to. • George advised that there will be a transition page on the website but he will still send out a physical letter to all the Primaries. He will send out a draft letter to some of the Parent Council to see if it covers everything. • George will be visiting all feeder Primary schools as will all guidance teachers. 	<p>GD</p> <p>LC/KA/ TW</p> <p>GD</p>
<p>6. <u>School Show – 11-13 June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George had spoken to Marianne and Kirsty about funding for the show and a potential bag pack, however hadn’t heard anything further and assumed it would now be too late to organise. • With regard to funding for radio mikes, Alan had spoken to various companies but unfortunately the reaction had not been positive, however he will keep trying over the next couple of weeks. It would be worth looking at fundraising for next year to buy radio mikes. • Following a technical meeting for the show, the Parent Council is being asked to provide a tuck shop and teas/coffees with help from hospitality students. The school will organise a £100 float for the tuck shop. The Parent Council has also been asked to help with sourcing props and a 5 page official prop list has been provided. It was decided to organise a sub group meeting to discuss what needs to be done prior to 	

<p>the show. Lindsay, Julie, Katie and Laura agreed to be on the sub group and a meeting was arranged for Wednesday 22nd May at 7.30 pm in the Anchorage. Lindsay will send these details out by e-mail to other parents if anyone else wishes to attend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewart Milne have paid £250 to fund printing of programmes so their logo should be included in all promotional material. 	<p>LC</p>
<p>7. <u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S6 last day - Alan felt that some of the reports surrounding the 'pranks' that took place had been embellished and was concerned that the press may give an inaccurate account which would reflect badly on the school. George confirmed that 12 students had been picked up by CCTV in the early hours of 24th April putting toilet paper in trees, writing in chalk on the paths, etc, but by interval the next day it had been cleaned up by staff. At lunchtime approximately 30/40 students came along with around 10 of those gaining access into school and causing a mess in the learning plaza. Staff managed to get a lot cleared however there was an additional cleaning cost of £250 plus £60 for windows. George was very disappointed given the amount of work that had been done to prevent this type of behaviour. He has already spoken to some of the current 5th years and is also having a meeting with the SLT about how to avoid this next year. The school will be taking back ownership of organising the prom next year so that this can be used as a deterrent for those thinking of causing trouble. • Wednesday 27th June will be a Rewards day in an attempt to keep attendance levels up prior to the summer holiday. • Cllr Pollock was looking for some feedback and asked if there was a culture of bullying in the school. It was broadly agreed that this was not the case generally although there may be individual pockets of bullying that take place. • Lindsay offered thanks on behalf of the Parent Council to those members whose children would be leaving school, namely Alan, Duncan, Joy and Mark. 	
<p>8. <u>Next Meeting</u> Due to the school show there will be no meeting in June. The next meeting will therefore be at the start of the new term on Wednesday 4th September 2019.</p>	