



# Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

## Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 (via Zoom)

**Present:** Hilary Ramage - Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Rae Anderson – DHT, Kathleen (Kate) Dunn – Treasurer, Jacqueline (Jackie) Lennox (Vice Treasurer) Lindsay Campbell - Secretary & Katherine Woodhouse – Minute Secretary

**Council Members:** Adrienne (Ady) Allan, Angela Malcolm, Lindsey Connell, Susan Forsyth & Cllr Bob Pollock

**Forum Members:** Arlene Milligan, Carolyn Adams, Caryn Mair, Francis Carson, Jackie Houston, Jacqui Hillan, Janeine Barrat, Morven Lee, Kirsty Broadfoot, & Susan Abbott

**Apologies:** Clair Milne, Emma Inglis, Jai Stevenson & Cllr Peter Convery, Sharon Johnstone

	<b>Action</b>
<p>1. <b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b> Hilary welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted.</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Captains Report</u></b> Callum and Jay provided an update from the Captains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote learning continues to go well using a variety of different methods. Weekly assemblies are being held providing a summary of what is happening in the school and 'shout-outs' for classes that are doing well.</li> <li>• The captains meet every Thursday morning with Mr Docherty. They are producing a student learning survey where they can question students about their mental and physical wellbeing and ask how they are coping with the resources and what type of classes they are receiving.</li> <li>• The website was updated last week with mental health resources for Children's Mental Health week which are free for everyone to access.</li> <li>• A positive thoughts jar was introduced by Fullarton and thanks go to the librarian and mental health ambassadors for organising this.</li> <li>• S1-3 participated in online activities as part of Holocaust memorial week.</li> <li>• S2-5 are planning for their options choices and UCAS deadline with support from staff and SDS.</li> </ul>	
<p>3. <b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b> The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 21 were approved by Lindsay Campbell and seconded by Jackie Lennox.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live lessons for S1-3 were put in place w/c 18<sup>th</sup> January. Children have been reminded about calendars and assemblies which are scheduled weekly and go automatically into calendars.</li> <li>• Looking at how to ensure parents are aware of what their children are doing as feedback from the survey was strongly in favour of this. Now working with departments to create learning overviews and populate Satchel One for S4-6. Rae is overseeing this with the office. However it would be a lot of work to replicate this for the junior school, therefore parents of younger students are encouraged to look at what their children are doing on Teams.</li> <li>• The office is re-tweeting E-sgoil live sessions and Glasgow City Council's West to West. A site licence has been purchased for Clickview to support remote learning and a training session was held for staff. Further details on this are available on the website.</li> </ul>	
<p>4. <b><u>Remote Learning – George Docherty</u></b></p>	

Parents/carers survey was sent out w/c 18<sup>th</sup> January and received 194 responses. Feedback spread quite evenly across each year group and each house. George presented the key findings.

- Most people were using a laptop, Chromebook or MacBook. Mobile phone also quite popular (85% access through a laptop or mobile phone). 11% reported issues with device or internet access. A further 20 Chromebooks have been issued in recent weeks. Guidance staff picking up any issues and contacting parents.
- Engagement – 73% of parents felt their child was working hard whereas 7% felt their child was engaging a little or not at all. Head of House DHTs, Guidance PTs and support staff continue to support families and students to overcome barriers to completing online learning, using text, email, and phone calls. A positive message to those who are engaging well will be sent out at the beginning of next week.
- 71% felt the amount of remote learning was appropriate.
- 79% feeling confident in using Teams and a further 16% getting better at using Teams. 73% of parents felt it was helpful to follow timetable.
- Parents commented some children felt a bit overwhelmed at first and they had to support their child to get organised.
- 15% requested an increase in live lessons.
- 94% reported their child had engaged in some form of live interaction with their teacher.
- A lot of parents took the time to leave positive messages regarding remote learning.
- Some of the key themes emerging were regarding:
  - Scheduling of meetings at short notice – staff will schedule in advance or use repeat feature.
  - Live lessons very helpful – these will be maintained across S4-6 and increased across S1-3.
  - Submission is not always through assignments tab – where possible assignments tab is used, and staff will explain if they are using class notebook.
- George will share this feedback with the rest of the parent body.
- Rae advised that the feedback is very useful and any comments or concerns would be investigated.
- Pauline commented that as a new parent she thinks the feedback has been helpful and it has been a positive experience so far.
- Janeine raised the issue of some of the live sessions clashing and whether teachers could make sure there are no clashes before posting live sessions. George advised that there may have been a specific problem due to a member of staff being off in maths at the moment. A couple of teachers were setting up additional check-ins so have been advised to use core PE/PSE time instead. Guidance staff have been good at picking up on these types of issues via the students and always try and get them resolved.
- Student surveys finish tonight – 600 responses received so far.

##### 5. **Phased Return – George Docherty**

- It was announced yesterday that about 5-8% of the school roll can return who have got practical subjects to do. At the moment it is not clear whether this number is over and above the childcare hub. Guidance will be issued tomorrow as to what a practical subject is, however if a piece of work cannot be completed because it is a practical subject then the student can come into school. George has been working on this with Gillian and they have categorised practical subjects by priority:
  - Category 1 - Woodwork/metalwork
  - Category 2 - Graphic communication – specialist software
  - Category 3 - Art and design/HE
- George met with all practical subject PTs today and will be creating a timetable, looking at young people who have a lot of practical subjects. There are also logistical issues to consider - another hub will need to be set up where young people with transport issues can stay for the day.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PE students have already completed one performance assessment before Christmas. For the second assessment it is hoped to get approval for 6 pupils to come into school to do badminton. The risks are minimal as it is non-contact.</li> <li>• This will have an impact on the ability of teachers in these categories to set work for those in S1-3 and may need to look at doing an alternate week on certain subjects with S1-2, however they will try and maintain consistency.</li> <li>• The First Minister announced that lockdown measures would be maintained until March so towards the end of February there should be clarification on what the next phase is.</li> <li>• Hilary asked if there may be a situation where some pupils are coming into school and some are working from home because they have the resources. George gave the example of music where some students have access to instruments at home but others who would be prioritised as they do not have access or are not recording themselves at home. There are various ways of working this, i.e. morning/afternoon sessions, one day per subject. He asked for parents' thoughts on this.</li> <li>• Morven advised that her sons were not really working through their timetable so would be able to fit practical subjects in as they are doing what is required of them.</li> <li>• Katie would probably not want her children to miss out on a live lesson by coming into school. George advised they might be able to still do those at school through a laptop so they do not miss out.</li> <li>• One of the challenges will be maintaining social distancing as this was not a requirement before. Young people will need to understand that they must be distanced all the time they are in school. This is already in place with the childcare hub.</li> <li>• A plan will be in place for next Wednesday and will be communicated to all relevant pupils as young people will start to come into school from 22<sup>nd</sup> February.</li> </ul>	
<p>6. <b>SQA &amp; Reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SQA have moved the provisional date for submissions to be made from 28<sup>th</sup> May to 18<sup>th</sup> June. The requirement for demonstrated evidence through assessment and understanding of a subject is still going ahead.</li> <li>• Guidance for Highers and Advanced Higher subjects will be sent out. There is a concern that the SQA is still gearing towards schools running some kind of exam diet, however this should be treated with caution as it is not clear whether they will be able to get a lot of young people into school by May to sit assessments.</li> <li>• PE department is being allowed to let young people create their portfolio at home so they can concentrate on practical work when they are at school.</li> <li>• Reporting - a report based on prelims/assessments should have been going out next week. Instead it has been decided to send out a tracking report to parents just after the February holiday with target grades and ratings. Teachers will base that rating on their experience of remote learning. George has asked staff to be mindful when submitting target grades as not all young people have had the same access to remote learning and does not want to apply additional pressure based on their target grades.</li> <li>• It is hoped to be able to get more of the seniors back as a priority from March.</li> <li>• The timetable change will move back considerably which will impact S1-3. Some parents are concerned about the amount of learning they are getting at the moment but this will allow the timetable to continue for longer so there will be more time for additional learning.</li> <li>• Jackie expressed concerns that high achievers will get through this but it is more difficult for others when there is no face-to-face learning, very little one to one support and some children who are really struggling with National 5s. They have missed practically a year of learning and are at risk of being cast adrift. George agreed and certainly does not want to see that, but they do not yet know when young people will be allowed back in school. The longer they are not in school the less they can rely on demonstrated evidence so the SQA will need to look at that. They had quality time for 6 months from August to December. Teachers want the</li> </ul>	

<p>best for the young people so that they can achieve what they deserve and not be disadvantaged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate asked if there will be comments on the tracking report advising young people what they need to do to improve their grade. George advised they will get a written report in March (which is the one that would have been based on the prelim/assessment). Rae added that they should be receiving ongoing feedback from staff regarding the work they are currently submitting and what they need to do to improve. If they are not getting appropriate feedback from staff, then Guidance should be contacted. The reports are more for the parents to see how their child is progressing. A mentoring system has been introduced for those who are sitting 5 Highers at the moment. One member of staff is mentoring 3-4 pupils and will check in with them and provide support.</li> <li>• George advised that the target grade is the next target that teachers want the young person to achieve. It is called an aspirational grade. The letter accompanying the report should make it clear as to what this means.</li> </ul>	
<p>7. <b><u>Website Feedback</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only one response had been received and this was from Jackie Lennox who uses the website quite a lot. She felt that it is a bit busy and some things are out of date but overall she finds it really useful. George has asked Neil McLean to phone Jackie to talk about improvements from a parent's point of view.</li> <li>• George advised that the office section has been removed and it has been streamlined to include pages for school, parents, pupils and departments. Updated mental health and wellbeing pages and children should be encouraged to look at this section which is a one-stop-shop for advice and support around Mental Wellbeing.</li> </ul>	
<p>8. <b><u>Careers Support Evening – Robert McLaughlin</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learned from the study skills night have been resolved and everything has been tested and seems to be working well.</li> <li>• Due to the numbers allowed on Zoom it was decided to split the event over 2 nights. Robert and Gillian will be leading the S3-5 careers night and Rae and George will lead on the S2 evening. The senior event will be a bit longer as it is a mix of live chat and recorded items.</li> <li>• So far 69 have signed up for Monday night and 68 for Wednesday. These numbers are a bit disappointing so there will be more promotion about it on Twitter, Groupcall and Facebook. Parents need to sign up to get a link to the event through MS forms.</li> </ul>	
<p>9. <b><u>Next Month's Agenda Items</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote learning</li> <li>• SQA further updates</li> <li>• Student survey – overview by Captains</li> <li>• Parent Council Chair's meeting – Hilary will be attending this meeting at which Douglas Hutchison will be present. If there is anything specific anyone would like her to raise could they let her know. She will also share the minutes from the last meeting.</li> <li>• Parent Council members for next year – a lot of current parents will be leaving therefore consideration should be given to new Parent Council members for next year as there is a minimum number required. Hilary will confirm details on this at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>HR</p> <p>HR</p>
<p>10. <b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Council bank account - Kathleen (Kate) Dunn is stepping down as Treasurer and will need to be removed from the bank account. She will be replaced by Jacqueline (Jackie) Lennox who has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer and who will also be an operator on the Santander bank account, together with existing operators, Hilary Ramage and Lindsay Campbell. It was also noted that Karen Dunlop has stepped down as a committee member. The operating and correspondence</li> </ul>	

<p>address is therefore being changed to: Jacqueline Lennox, 1 Hillhouse Gardens, Troon KA10 6SZ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate asked who to contact regarding Colours. Rae advised that Colours were posted out on Friday and anyone who had any concerns or who had not heard anything should contact her or the school office. For anyone who had not been awarded colours then staff should feed back to the young person as to what they should do to get their Colours in the next tranche.</li> <li>• Susan asked about P7 transition and when they might hear what is happening. George confirmed he had met with Primary HTs in December and 8<sup>th</sup> March is pencilled in as an overview of the move with another night in May where departments would share information. He understood that a letter had gone out in December. Susan advised that Troon Primary parents had not heard anything so George agreed to follow this up.</li> </ul>	GD
<p>11. <b>Next Meeting</b> The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.</p>	

Signed by: .....  
Hilary Ramage, Chair

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Lindsay Campbell, Secretary