

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 4th December 2019



Present: Hilary Ramage - Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Kate Dunn – Treasurer, Lindsay Campbell - Secretary & Katherine Woodhouse – Minute Secretary

Council Members: Julie Cotter, Katie Atkinson & Cllr Peter Convery

Apologies: Ady Allan, Tim Wight, Cllr Bob Pollock & Lindsey Connell

	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u> Hilary welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted from those unable to attend.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Captains</u> Olivia and Rosie provided an update on behalf of the Captains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rosie and Callum attended the Troon remembrance service on 10th November and laid a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of the school.• The Rotary Club's Young Musician of the year competition took place on 14th November and the winners were Joshua Duffy (clarinet) and Taylor Foy (vocalist), both in S5. The winners will go onto the next round at the Royal Conservatoire on Sunday 1st March, competing against winners from other Rotary districts.• Children in Need fundraising day was held on 15th November organised by the S6 leadership team which raised £913.• There has been sporting success with the U18 rugby team reaching the semi-finals of the Schools cup before being beaten by Stewarts-Melville and the U18 football team winning their first 2 games in the league. There has also been success for the U18 hockey team and the girls and boys volleyball teams.• There have been several Christmas fundraising activities including an S2 afternoon tea as part of Micro Tyco; foodbank calendar where each class produced a hamper for the local foodbank and The Night before Christmas campaign organised by the S6 Leadership team which helped to fill bags for a targeted age group of children less fortunate.• Mental health ambassadors have been nominated for an award for the best mental health group across South Ayrshire Youth. They have organised daily drop in clubs for anyone who may require support.• School improvement plan – all Marr cluster staff participated in a successful learning evening on 13th November to find out more about how wellbeing is being supported across the cluster. The Mental Health Ambassadors led one of the training sessions. A student conference is planned for 12th December involving 150 students from S1-S6 in discussions on school vision and values, learning and teaching, anti-bullying and eco schools.• Christmas dances will be held for all year groups next week.• Annual Christmas music concert will take place on 17th December.• Rewards afternoon planned for Thursday 19th December.	
<p>3. <u>Treasurer's Report – Kate Dunn</u> Following last month's AGM, Kate provided an update to the accounts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing balance across 2 accounts (old RBS account and new Santander account) was £1510.12. The accounts were audited on 28th November.• The RBS account will be closed once a cheque for £0.02 has cleared.• Kate suggested that anyone taking on the Treasurer's role in future should only do so until their child is in S5 as the transfer from one Treasurer to another takes some time and is not straightforward.• It was agreed that a small donation should be made to Shona Grassom who audited the accounts.	

<p>4. <u>EGM – Discussion on Constitution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilary had reviewed the constitution and concluded that the current format of meetings fits with the constitution in terms of the number of Parent Forum meetings, which need to be held once per school term, i.e. 3 times a year, and felt that the Forum process should be followed every month. Decisions that need to be made by the Parent Council can be managed on an ad hoc basis depending on who attends on the night thus avoiding the need to change the constitution. • Any parents who wish to join the Parent Council so that they can have a vote on issues affecting the school need to sign a form in order to become a member. Lindsay will send out an e-mail to anyone who has attended Forum meetings explaining this and asking if they wish to join the Parent Council. • It was decided that meetings should be marketed in such a way as to encourage parents to attend by providing details of specific items to be discussed. 	<p>LC GD/HR</p>
<p>5. <u>Approval of Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2019 were approved by Kate Dunn and seconded by Julie Cotter.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groupcall – George advised that there are still problems with attachments as many parents were unable to open the prelim timetable issued recently. Groupcall have advised that there are no issues from their side so it seems to be related to individual phone types which makes it difficult to resolve. George feels that further advice is required and will ask Groupcall if they can assist. • Show My Homework – David Alford e-mailed the sub group with suggestions about questions for the survey for feedback and will put something together. It would be useful to share hints and tips about the functionality of the SMH app which some parents may not be aware of. • Tempest photographs – George is awaiting further feedback from Rae Anderson on this. • Easy Fundraising – Hilary spoke to Duncan on this and he will arrange to close the school's account. 	<p>GD GD</p>
<p>6. <u>Mobile Phone Policy</u></p> <p>George outlined the revised mobile phone policy which will incorporate a zoned approach to the use of mobile phones. A group of staff participated in a focus group session with a further session scheduled with a group of pupils next week. He asked for feedback from the Parent Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters will be displayed depicting the various zones – green zone where pupils may use their phones responsibly; amber zone for classrooms where mobile phones may be used with permission from the class teacher and red zone for corridors where there should be no mobile phone use (teachers can choose between amber and red for the classroom). • Kate raised the issue of pupils with dyslexia who may need their phones and should not be discouraged from using them in the classroom. • Lindsay recommended stating that pupils are not allowed to record anyone without their permission. • It was felt in general that this policy sets pupils up for the world of work where mobile phones cannot be used during the day. <p>This new policy will be launched in January.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Careers Evening – 5th February</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay had issued a list of potential careers with a view to putting names against each category. She noted that a new parent, Paul Marsh, had volunteered to talk to pupils about becoming an airline pilot. Julie confirmed that her husband, Steven Cotter, would be able to talk about Finance management. • It was decided that Parent Council members would contact people they knew from different career areas as well as issuing a letter to parents. Hilary asked for feedback to the secretary's e-mail address by Monday 15th December. In the meantime Hilary will e-mail all those people who attended last year to ask if they would be willing to attend this year. 	<p>ALL HR</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A replacement for Stuart McNeill has not yet been appointed so the Leadership part of his role will be split between two existing teachers in the short term. Hilary will organise a meeting with them in January to discuss the Careers Evening and organising the Eventbrite set up. • George is attending the Rotary Club meeting in January and will speak to them about helping out at the careers evening – 3 contacts have already agreed to help with interviews. Lindsay confirmed that Jillian Plunkett had also offered to help with interviewing as her career was in HR – Lindsay will e-mail her details to George. • George advised that the HE department has started a hospitality group who will help out at school events to serve refreshments and possibly sandwiches for those people volunteering at the careers evening who may have to come straight from work. It was suggested that buckets for donations should be put out at this and other school events where refreshments are being provided. • George advised that there is a P7 careers event for the whole cluster on 23rd February focused around business so it may be useful to ask contacts whether they would be available for both events. 	<p>HR</p> <p>LC</p>
<p>8. <u>AOCB</u> George advised that the Odeon in Ayr is booking out one of their screens on Wednesday 18th December for the S1s to see Jumanji 2. He asked whether the Parent Council would be able to cover the cost of buses at £550. All were in agreement to this.</p>	
<p>9. <u>Next Meeting</u> The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 at 7pm.</p>	