

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 6th November 2019



Present: Hilary Ramage - Chair, Tim Wight – Vice Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, David Alford – PT Raising Attainment, Kate Dunn – Treasurer, Lindsay Campbell - Secretary & Katherine Woodhouse – Minute Secretary

Council Members: Ady Allan, Julie Cotter, Katie Atkinson, Cllr Bob Pollock & Cllr Peter Convery

Forum Members: Caryn Mair, Jillian Plunkett, Patricia Rowley, Paul Marsy & Susan Forsyth

Apologies: Kaye Matthews, Clair Milne & 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> Logan and Calum provided an update on behalf of the Captains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olivia and Rosie represented the school at the Troon Community Council meeting last night to strengthen the link between the school and the community. • The Young Singers competition took place recently and was hosted by the captains. There was some great talent and the winners were Amy Calder (junior category) and Leah Miller (senior category). • A non-uniform fundraising day was held on 4th October which raised £600 for the Butterfly Trust. There was also a book sale on the same day which raised £160 for the Marr Malawi project which is being co-ordinated by Mr Harris. • The captains and Mrs Cleland’s Leadership group are organising a Children in Need day on Friday 15th November which will involve a dodge-ball competition between teachers and senior students. The fundraising target is £1000. • The Halloween disco took place on 29th October for S6 and S1 and was a great success. • Two of the captains will be participating in the Remembrance Sunday service on 10th November and there will be 2 minutes silence observed in school at 11am on Monday 11th November. • House assemblies have taken place this week to celebrate the hard work of students with the awarding of school badges, ties and colours. • S6 are working in teams to continue to develop their Student Improvement Plan with a focus on improving mental wellbeing. • Logan and Calum were both members of the winning 1st XI Marr rugby team who beat High School of Glasgow 20-17 in the Scottish Schools Cup at Anniesland last night. This is a great achievement as it is the first time a state school team has reached the semi-finals. 	
<p>3. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2019 were approved by Ady Allan and seconded by Katie Atkinson.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groupcall – some parents are still not able to access attachments on Groupcall. George confirmed a call had been logged but he has not heard anything back yet. Lindsay sent a list of parents who were having a problem to Rae. George will follow this up. 	GD
<p>4. <u>Show my Homework – David Alford</u> David was introduced as the PT of Raising Attainment who is currently overseeing the implementation of Show My Homework (SMH).</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMH is going well despite a few teething problems due to some pupils having 2 Glow accounts. The different platforms are linked to each other so this caused some initial issues. • In terms of statistics, there are 423 parents using SMH regularly with 646 accessing it since the launch. Of those who have accessed it not all of them are monitoring it on a regular basis. There are 250-300 students who do not have a parent linked to SMH but many of these are in S5/6 therefore parents may not feel the necessity to monitor homework at this stage. • The feedback from other schools is that it takes around 3 years for parents to fully start using SMH regularly. • 90% of students are logged in and using it. There is a plan to help those who are not logged in. • There are 63 class teachers using it regularly – David will speak to the 9 teachers not using it to find out why. • Lindsay mentioned that some parents do not seem to have their login details or have lost the original letter. David confirmed that the school office has all the individual codes and teachers will bring this up at parents’ evenings and provide codes then. • Cllr Pollock asked what the feedback has been like from the students. David said most seemed to like it, however there were some not as keen although they understood the value of it. • George advised that the next step would be to conduct a parental survey to find out what the issues are and whether it is of value. He suggested having a sub group meeting to come up with questions for the survey and asked who would be available to meet with David to discuss this. Katie, Hilary, Lindsay and Patricia all volunteered to help. • The English department has created a policy for teachers outlining the parameters for when homework can be posted in order to prevent causing anxiety for students. • George will run through a top tip checklist at assemblies next week to remind students how to use SMH and tick off homework once completed. • Jillian felt that the facility for allowing teachers to give positive feedback on completed homework was useful. • It was noted that SMH seems to have increased the amount of homework being issued. George pointed out that this project stemmed from concerns surrounding the lack of homework in S3 and students not being fully prepared for S4. 	<p>DA/KA/HR /LC/PR</p>
<p>6. <u>Head Teacher’s Report – George Docherty</u> George provided an update to his written report.</p> <p>Counselling in schools funding – following the Scottish Government’s commitment to invest in school counselling services across education in Scotland, funding has now been allocated to individual schools. Marr received £29,103 this year; this figure will increase to £39,000 next year. The school already pays £10.5k for counselling per year and has a mental health nurse at a cost of £7.5k per year which is covered by the Pupil Equity Fund. The extra funding allows the school to appoint a full-time Welfare Officer and Jill Scott, previously in Pupil Support, has already started in this role. There is a cluster Head Teachers’ meeting next Wednesday where discussions will take place on how to provide a counselling service as a cluster. It is also intended to upscale staff to have training in this area so that they can also provide support.</p> <p>Marr Cluster Wellbeing Evening - Due to the number of referrals to CAMHS there will be a cluster evening next Wednesday focusing on Wellbeing and led by a pupil group with various different workshops. A group of students have already completed an online module for training.</p> <p>Marr Hockey – George met with Tracy Corrigan (chair of Marr Hockey Support Group) and Fraser Auld (senior hockey coach) who provided updates on the numbers of parents involved and the lack of coaching availability. George agreed that there needs to be a focus on promoting hockey throughout the school and increasing capacity. Tracy is going to contact Rhoda Howe of Troon Ladies Hockey Club to try and establish a link between the club and the school which will allow the school to access a Hockey Development</p>	

<p>Officer through applying for DCI funding (£10k). It was felt that children should be introduced to hockey at primary age. Having a link with Troon Hockey Club should help to boost numbers and in terms of coaching/supervision it would be worthwhile getting students involved, e.g. S6, Sports Leadership, DoE volunteering.</p> <p>Cost of the School Day – Education Scotland has set up the Cost of the School Day programme, which supports schools in identifying and overcoming barriers that children from low income families face in terms of the costs associated with their participation and engagement at school, e.g. the cost of uniform, travel, school trips, eating at school, clubs and activities. Jill Scott will lead on this by looking at two specific areas and report back – some support from parents may be required. Katie pointed out that there are a lot of students who are entitled to free school meals but don't claim them for a variety of reasons.</p> <p>Dundonald Study & Homework Café – this proved very successful and will start again this month for supported study and run until the end of the exam period. It will be expanded to include a homework club which will be run by S6 students. Troon Community Council have a few volunteers who are willing to help and Fiona Paterson, Head Teacher of Dundonald Primary, is happy for their school to be used. Graeme Hobson will take the lead on this.</p>	
<p>7. Careers Evening – 5th February 2020 Discussion took place on organising the Careers Evening and preparations need to begin now so that organisations and educational establishments can book the date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilary has a list of those people who attended last year, which Lindsay will e-mail round the Parent Council. It would be helpful if committee members could then volunteer to contact specific categories. • Hilary will e-mail all the universities with the date as they tend to get booked up with similar events. • In terms of employers, Caryn provided details of the contact at the Chamber of Commerce who will be able to arrange for some local employers to attend. Cllr Pollock will provide a contact for bringing in Council staff as they are a large local employer. • George is in contact with the Rotary Club and agreed to ask them about it as they are usually keen to be involved. • There is usually a letter from school to parents to see if anyone is available and willing to talk to students on the night about their career. • Tickets will be booked on line via Eventbrite as per last year. • It would also be useful to find someone willing to run an interview workshop with a view to having a separate interview and feedback session for S5 students on another occasion. 	<p>LC ALL HR Cllr P GD GD GD/ALL</p>
<p>8. AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan raised an issue regarding the S1 Tempest school photographs as they were very dark with poor colour quality, not helped by the dark background. If the school wanted to change to a different photographer, it would need to go through Procurement and obtain 3 quotations. George agreed to speak to Rae Anderson who organises school photos and would be happy to raise the issue with Tempest. • Lindsay suggested reviewing the Parent Council constitution to address the issue of the Parent Forum. The committee has moved away from having separate Forum and Council meetings anyway, but the existing constitution does not accurately reflect this. Hilary will research some of the information available on line and feedback at the next meeting with a view to amending the constitution. • Hilary advised that Duncan Beckwith has been in contact to say he is still attached to the Easy Fundraising app for Marr. Given the very small amount of money, if any, that is raised via this method it was decided there was no longer a need for it. Hilary will advise Duncan to close it down. 	<p>GD HR HR</p>
<p>8. Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th December 2019 at 7pm.</p>	