

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting



Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 6:30pm

Present: Judith McCaughey (Chair), Margaret Maciver (Secretary), Susan Forsyth (Treasurer), Margaret Anne Arnott (Minute Taker), George Docherty (Head Teacher).

Council Members: Gail Whyte, Amy Griffiths, Cllr Bob Pollock

Forum Members: Lynda Hardman

Apologies: Thomas Jenkins, Katherine Self, Alison Braddock, Cllr Bell

1. Welcome and apologies

Judith welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Action Review

- No actions to review

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 January 2025 were approved by Gail Whyte and seconded by Susan Forsyth.

4. Captains Report

Mr Docherty provided a report on behalf of the captains. This consisted of an overview of the fantastic work that the Captains are achieving:

- BGE Conference – This was led by the student council for S1 – S3s – They randomly selected 109 pupils to attend. They identified a few hot topics including getting pupils involved from the beginning of discussions and involved in improvement planning allowing their voices to be heard. A few matters have been identified, an example being improving the toilets to replace seats and repaint. They reviewed 6 hot topics and a further update will be given at a later date.
- Three Topics Dreamer, Realistic and Critic where they were allowed to come up with ideas. Lots of great ideas raised including a swimming pool for the dreamer section. All of this information will be fed into improvement plan.
- It was a successful event and well attended

- Senior and Junior House Captains meet every 2 weeks and go over relevant matters and plan events.
- Manchester trip – 72 pupils took part in this trip. It was very successful and everyone had a total 'ball' of a time. A big thank you to Miss Kennedy for kicking the event out the park.
- The school show has been announced as "Legally Blonde", the cast has been announced and it is looking set to be a great event. Well done to all who auditioned and who gained a part.
- Holocaust Memorial Day – Attended by Connie, Megan and Mr Docherty. Great to have the school represented at such an important event.
- Well done to the House Captains who are absolutely smashing their role and forging a new pathway for future House Captains. Phenomenal achievements and fantastic enthusiasm... Keep up the great work.

5. **Head Teachers Report**

No HT Report this time however a few updates are as follows:

- Senior phased assessments have went well with good attendance. Mr McLean will pull focus groups together to reflect on how things went.
- Careers Update – The event went well, and kids were engaged. Amy was present at her own stall and it was well organised and enjoyed by everyone. The racecourse careers evening was also useful.
- Some Advanced Highers are moving to online courses where face to face courses can't be run. This is due to reduction in transportation budgets. It means that a teacher in Marr can teach young people from all over South Ayrshire and vice versa for other schools. It is more viable to run this way.
- BGE assessment calendar is coming out so that parents know where their young people are in each subject, for example do they have any assessments coming up. Some ideas and suggestions were provided around this including adding in links to resources that parents can tap into for reinforcement at home.
- Supported study is now on a Saturday morning in the dining hall, library and IT suites. Put this out to parents to raise awareness of this.
- A homework grid for science has been created where our young people can choose a particular task on the grid that they can do for homework. This was well received and appears to be encouraging fun and better engagement with parents and young people.
- There is a Marr S1 book festival being planned for P6 pupils. Mr Docherty read out an email that he had received from the planning team asking if the PC could support their endeavours. It was agreed to donate £130 to this wonderful event. Margaret to work on a response asking if the Marr PC can attend the event. We are all looking forward to this.

6. **PC Chairs Meeting Update (Judith McCaughey)**

Judith gave an update on various matters that are arising at her PC meetings at Troon Primary.

Screen awareness – Too much screen time is detrimental, and studies have shown poor speech and language development along with struggling to

concentrate. 2 to 3 hours of screen time can be damaging. Some schools are trialling a blanket ban on phones. Screen Awareness Week is on 5 – 11 May 2025.

Inclusion co-ordinators – There has been a 1% improvement in attendance which has been an excellent result.

Discussions around Marr College changed things around for the last week in June and December 2024 where there were lots of activities occurring throughout this time to keep young learners in school.

ASN in Troon is going to cabinet 26 February 2025 to get the rubber stamp with a view to ASN provisions opening at Troon Primary in August 2025. All are looking forward to this.

7. Update from communications group

No update at this meeting

8. Next Month's agenda

- Communications Group update
- Overview of moving from prelims to senior phase assessments

9. A.O.C.B

- None

10. Date of next Meeting

- TBC