



Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 12 January 2022 (via Zoom)

Present: Marie Anne Jackson - Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Lindsay Campbell – Secretary, Kirsty Broadfoot – Minute Secretary, Robert McLaughlin, Dr Gillian Sargent, Lindsey Connell, Andrew Harrower, Councillor Craig Mackay & Councillor Bob Pollock

Council Members:

Forum Members: Carolyn Adams, Alison Braddock, Kirsty Lee, Emma Inglis, Pamela Foster, Caryn Mair, Judith McCaughey

Apologies: Jackie Lennox – Treasurer, Kate Dunn, Susan Forsyth, Katherine Woodhouse, Morgan Stone, Ady Allan, Jeff Lawlor, Katie Atkinson

	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u> Lindsay chaired the meeting due to illness. She welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Captains' Report</u> George noted that due to prelims there would be no report from the captains.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> The minutes of the parent council meeting held on 1 December 2021 were approved by Alison Braddock and seconded by Marie Anne Jackson. Lindsay noted that Lindsey Connell had been present at the meeting, but this was not noted on the minute.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School show support plan – George confirmed that a Groupcall/Xpressions message has been prepared and will be sent out to parents next week. He will be speaking with Liam Baillie soon. • Study timetable anomaly – the timetable has been emailed out to parents. • Anti-bullying policy – a survey is being sent out to parents tomorrow via Groupcall. • Blazers – George will continue to work on trying to contact ex-S6 pupils. • Parent's Night – dates scheduled for virtual parent's nights, starting with S4 on 18 January. 	
<p>4. <u>Covid update</u> George provided an update. Attendance was 92% on the first day back after the Christmas holiday. Eight members of staff had been self-isolating but are now back. Confusion amongst teaching staff due to the short notice of restrictions from local council. Positive news that case numbers appear to be decreasing in England. The only major change in school is that we have had to return to no visitors, any urgent appointments are being carried out either before or after the school day. Also had to return to split lunches which is proving a challenge for teaching staff. Seating plans have been in place since the return to school last April. Continue to review Covid rules regularly and these restrictions will be reviewed before the February weekend, depending on South Ayrshire Council guidance.</p>	

<p>George advised that the prelims have been taking place and the feedback has been positive so far. A number of new invigilators have been recruited.</p> <p>It was agreed to rearrange the order of the agenda items (see below).</p>	
<p>7. <u>Parent's Evening Booking System</u></p> <p>George asked for feedback on this. Alison felt it was very good, quick and it did everything for you. Lindsay had to register on the site twice. George will look into this issue. So far 59% of parents have booked an appointment. Reminders to be sent out on Friday and Monday to parents who haven't booked up yet. It is good for teachers as they can log in and see who has booked appointments. Teachers will work in school for the evening, it is hoped using the school's IT will avoid any technical issues, SLT will be on hand to assist. George felt the system could lead to other opportunities/scope to expand. There is helpful information and video guides on the website.</p> <p>George asked for S2 parents' opinions on possibly limiting the number of appointments for their parent's evening. As there are 220 S2 pupils, it won't be possible for appointments to be made for all pupils with all teachers. The consensus was that this is an important year group as will be selecting S3 options soon. The group was in agreement that a limit of 12 appointments per pupil was satisfactory. George advised that staff could add on appointments at the end of the evening, if they needed to.</p> <p>Gillian Sargent noted that as she has 60 children assigned to her for S2 there may be some parents who are unable to get an appointment. George will look into this. He noted that this is the only year group who may be affected.</p>	<p>GD</p> <p>GD</p>
<p>6. <u>Career and Options Evenings</u></p> <p>Robert McLaughlin confirmed that two online events had been organised. One on 3rd February for S2 parents and 8th February for S3 to S6. Both events will last between 30 and 45 mins. Going to condense the presentation following some feedback from last year's event. Robert is going to produce a Sway presentation for the website. No outside agencies will be taking part, most have cancelled due to current restrictions. Topics covered will include options, my world of work, apprenticeships. Pupils will get to speak with teachers during the same week regarding options.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Cycling/Swimming</u></p> <p>George provided some background. Following Marie Anne's discussion at the last meeting, George advised that the school are very keen to get involved with organising swimming lessons and cycling assistance to pupils who would benefit. May be difficult to identify suitable candidates. Could look at sending MS Forms out, more discreet. He has spoken with Andrew Harrower who is delighted to assist with the cycling. George has spoken with Craig Mackay who has approached the active travel hub. S6 pupil Lucy Grieve has qualified as a swimming instructor and is willing to assist. Contact Troon pool. Caryn Mair advised just finished block with P5 and 6 pupils at Muirhead PS. Troon pool staff very accommodating. She said there were more non swimmers at the start of the block than in previous years, but quick progress was made. George confirmed this will take place in the summer term as more capacity and also better weather. Craig Mackay felt that more parents and pupils should be encouraged to cycle or walk to school. He also said he will contact the council about some unallocated funds which could possibly be used towards the swimming sessions. Bob Pollock thought it might be advisable to contact the Marr Trust as well.</p>	
<p>8. <u>Next agenda month's items</u></p>	

<p>Marie Anne asked if it would be possible to have an update on the virtual parent's evening. Robert agreed to email the Sway presentation – email to Lindsay and she will circulate.</p>	<p>RM & LC</p>
<p>9. <u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay advised that Jeff Lawlor would be joining the parent council from next month. He was unable to make this evening's meeting. She also noted that she would be tidying up the current list of members as the constitution has strict rules regarding attendance. Lindsay invited the other attendees to provide updates on any relevant business. • Alison gave an update on blazers. She has now got plenty for S1/2 but very few for older age groups. • Judith raised the issue of low attendance in the run up to the Christmas holidays and a few other parents agreed that it was disappointing that children don't seem to be encouraged to attend over the last few days. Caryn said it was the same in Muirhead PS. It was acknowledged that this was not the school's fault. George felt that this year was unusual in that many parents wanted to keep their children off to avoid self-isolation over the holidays. He said that the school runs reward afternoons during this time. It was suggested that perhaps the children could get involved in some community work or look at other ways to encourage them to attend. • Lindsay said it would be good to get some of the updates on the website shared on the parent council social media pages. Kirsty agreed to help with this. • Gillian Sargent advised that one of the teaching staff in the English department is leaving and they are sharing the advert through Twitter to try and ensure they receive a high calibre of applicants. 	<p>KB</p>
<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 February 2022 at 7pm via Zoom. Further details will be provided prior to the meeting. Lindsay noted she is on holiday and won't be able to attend. She will ask one of the other members to circulate the meeting details in her absence.</p>	