



Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 1 March 2023

Present: Marie-Anne Jackson - Chair, Margaret Maciver – Secretary, Jackie Lennox – Treasurer, Kirsty Broadfoot – Minute Secretary, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Cllr Craig McKay, Cllr Bob Pollock.

Council Members: Lindsay Campbell, Katherine Woodhouse, Gail Whyte, Judith McCaughey, Susan Forsyth, Carolyn Adams, Alison Braddock, Fiona Stanbridge.

Forum Members:

Apologies: Joanne Christopher – Vice Chair, Emma Inglis, Cllr Kenneth Bell, Robert McLaughlin, Dr Sargent.

1. Welcome and apologies

Marie-Anne welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Action Review

No actions were discussed.

3. Captain's Report

S6 Captain Brooke Hailstone gave the following updates:

- £300 had been raised for local charity, the Micah Project from a dress down day.
- A 'wear it purple' event had been held for LGBT Youth Scotland. Included in the events were a bake sale and Mrs Morton won the event – well done!
- Marr received an award for excellence in holocaust education from Vision Schools. The event took place at the Scottish Parliament.
- 600 people attended the Careers and Options event on 16th February. Thanks were given to the parent council for their help in ensuring it ran smoothly.
- A Young Musician's and Singer's concert was held on 2nd March – this was a fantastic event and showcased the amazing talent within the school.
- More seating has been added to the dining hall as part of the school improvement plan.
- Easter school and master class sessions are taking place during the Easter holidays – further information will be given to pupils soon and it is recommended that as many young people as possible attend.

4. Head Teacher's Report

This was circulated prior to the meeting. George asked for feedback on the content. A query was raised around the 'wear it purple' event, some felt it had been a bit short notice. George advised the event was to raise money for LGBT Youth

Scotland – the school are aiming to gain the Silver charter. George went on to note there had been a dip in the amount of donations for the last few dress down events. Cllr Pollock felt the 'carers' day' event held on 2nd February had been well attended and there had been positive feedback from the attendees. A film entitled 'The Weekend' has been produced by two Marr pupils. This was shown at the event and will also be used in PSE classes. George is also looking at putting this out to all parents. Carolyn asked about teacher tokens. George advised this initiative started at the beginning of February and is related to house points. It is a system aimed at encouraging positive behaviour. George confirmed that two English teacher vacancies have been advertised. He is ideally looking for someone with media experience. George went on to note that he is still looking at options for a Marr bus. He met with Cllr Bell to discuss driver permit. The issue of charity status came up – Cllr Pollock suggested contacting Melissa McCulloch (SAC employee with responsibility for external funding). George confirmed he will contact her. ¹There is also a community wish list – details of this are on SAC's website – parent council could look into this as another possible funding option.

5. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1 February were approved by Lindsay Campbell and seconded by Alison Braddock.

6. Summer Concert Planning

The event is planned for 13th and 14th June. Entitled 'Evolution' the show features music through the decades. Auditions are taking place. The group discussed possible fundraising opportunities including raffle, bottle stall, tuck shop or hampers (PC members to donate items). School to update letter and send out prior to the Easter break asking for donations.

7. Parent's Evening: feedback from BGE

George handed out a 'Parent's Evening Feedback' sheet. He summarised the results of the survey responses. The key points that were noted were:

- S3 had the lowest attendance.
- Majority of parents prefer in person events.
- Majority prefer to make the appointments for the event.

After some discussion around format and timing of parent's evenings, George confirmed he will speak with some schools that have two parent's evenings per year to see how this works as well as speaking with the staff in Marr. The aim is to offer more consistency for parents and pupils. Best time for S4-6 parent's evening is mid-late November.

It was noted that some parents were unaware of the date that options had to be completed. Would be good to try and ensure parents are kept up to date of things like this, it may lead to more engagement for events like the parent's evenings. George will circulate the survey results to all parents. George went on to note that all important information is also displayed on the website.

8. Zoom membership for Parent Council meeting

¹ ACTION – GEORGE CONTACT SAC RE FUNDING

After discussion, it was decided to cancel the Zoom membership due to lack of use. All meetings will therefore take place in person going forward.

9. S5/6 Parents: Timings/Communication for Senior Phase

Following discussion on senior phase reporting and parents evening dates, George suggested an early parent letter confirming prelim results followed by a targeted approach to support any pupils failing a number of prelim exams. Once the draft reporting calendar is developed for next session, George will circulate calendar of dates to Margaret.

10. Next month's agenda

- Review of career's event – Robert McLaughlin.
- Improvement Plan – George Docherty.
- Date to be claimed for meeting of the Communication group (via Zoom).

11. AOCB

- Marie-Ann volunteered to represent the PC at a P7 welcome event on 7 March.
- Cllr Pollock asked for views on a derelict building which is located close to the sports pavilion. The building is owned by the Marr Trust but has come into disrepair over recent years. It was felt that the building could be used as a facility for catering when hosting visiting sports teams. Cllr Pollock felt it would be useful to arrange a meeting to discuss the options.
- Next meeting – Thursday 4th May. Moved from 3rd due to Troon 10k race.