

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 22nd January 2020



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

Council Members: Ady Allan, Angela Malcolm, Jackie Lennox, Julie Cotter, Katie Atkinson, Kaye Matthews, Lindsey Connell, Cllr Bob Pollock & Cllr Peter Convery

Forum Members: Caryn Mair, Claire Dorris, Karen Lee, Patricia Rowley & Susan Forsyth

Apologies: Jillian Plunkett

	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 Olivia provided an update on behalf of the Captains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior year students are currently undertaking prelim exams. Supported study continues to run during lunch time and after school and the Dundonald study café is now up and running. • Auditions for next year's school show, High School Musical, will be held next week. The show will run from Monday 15th-Wednesday 17th June and tickets will be available after the Easter break via Trybooking. • Sporting success – the U18 rugby team competed in the West Region cup and won convincingly (46-0) against Stewartry. The girls' senior hockey team reached the quarter finals of the Scottish plate but were sadly beaten 4-1 by Edinburgh Academy. Lucy Grieve in S4 competed in the Geneva International swimming competition winning Silver in junior 100m butterfly and coming 4th in women's 50m butterfly. • Fundraising - Christmas jumper day and bake sale raised over £600 for Ayrshire Cancer Support and Save the Children. • Mental Health ambassadors were nominated for the best Mental Health group in South Ayrshire Youth. Daily drop in clubs are now available to all students and staff. On 6th February there will be a Time to Talk day to raise awareness of mental health issues. This will also be a fundraising event with lots of different activities. • Digi Inventors challenge award – S3 students were crowned national winners, winning an iPad each and Andy Murray sports tops. 	
<p>3. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2019 were approved by Lindsay Campbell and seconded by Julie Cotter.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following last month's EGM a letter went out to all parents regarding the change in format of meetings. An e-mail and text was sent out about tonight's meeting as well as updating the website. • Lindsay advised that the Parent Council e-mail address on the website is incorrect and needs to be changed to the 'ktmarr' address. George will action this as Catherine Owens is not at work at the moment. Tim asked if it was possible to change the e-mail address to make it more descriptive. If it was difficult to change he suggested phasing out the old address and setting up a new one and forwarding e-mails from the old address. Lindsay will look into this and consult with George. • Lindsay had e-mailed Parent Council members asking if they still wished to be involved and only received one reply from Karen Dunlop asking to be removed. Jackie Lennox and Jillian Plunkett both requested to join the Parent Council. 	<p>GD LC</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groupcall – George has spoken to them regarding issues with attachments and they have advised there is no problem at their end, it is more likely an issue with different types of phones. They suggested un-installing and re-installing the app. George asked for a quick guide for parents but has not received anything as yet. Groupcall have an e-mail address that parents can contact if they are having difficulties – George will send out an e-mail and text advising parents of this. • Tempest photographs – George met with Tempest and asked them to use a different background for future photos as the current one is not suitable. Tempest advised that they can be contacted direct if any parent is unhappy with the quality of their photos and offered to re-take the photo for the particular family who raised the issue. They are booked in to take sports team photos on 30th January. 	GD
<p>4. <u>Careers Evening – 5th February</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilary met with Robert and David earlier this month and confirmed that most of the universities and a good selection of different careers would be represented on the evening. These include medicine, midwifery, airline pilot, law, physiotherapy, teaching, army, police, photographer, optician and textiles; and employers such as SRUC, Clyde Marine, RBS, Simpsinns, SDS, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Street League Football and Ayrshire Roads Alliance on behalf of the council. • So far 254 people have booked tickets through Eventbrite out of a total of 350 slots. • Cllr Pollock agreed to pass on details of the MD of UPM Paper Mill as well as STEM ambassadors from Hunterston power station. • Katie had contacted NATS but heard nothing so will e-mail again. • Hilary asked if there is anyone else who would like to come along to let her know. She also requested parent helpers on the evening to provide snacks and refreshments for the visitors. The school will be organising tea/coffee in the barista area and George suggested that S1 students could help out as other year groups will be attending. • George confirmed that teachers from all the different curricular areas will be in the museum to talk through subject choices as well as the SMT, Robert and David. • Hilary advised that any of the universities who cannot make it have promised to send prospectuses to the school. • The evening will start with a presentation at 6pm in the assembly hall and there will be 15 minute workshops on medicine and law. • Event details will be put on Twitter as a reminder. 	Cllr P KA
<p>5. <u>Head Teacher’s Update – George Docherty</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George is keen for P7s to start being given ties again. This used to be organised by the Primary schools’ parent councils. He has a meeting with the Primary heads on Wednesday so will discuss with them. • George has been in contact with a company who run a live booking system for parents’ night appointments and have offered a free trial for the next parents’ night, which is for S2 on 17th February. George would like to run the trial for this parents’ night and those S2 parents in attendance were in favour. The system works by sending parents a link on Groupcall which automatically has all their child’s teachers listed and generates appointments which can be edited. It will advise how many slots a teacher has available so it will still be a case of first come first served. The annual cost for this facility would be £495. • There will be a review on the new format reports for BGE which the Authority will lead on. • George had a meeting about supported study with his daily dozen and asked them about any clashes with other activities. He can then feed this back to the teachers. He also asked about Saturday and Sunday morning sessions which were held last year and were very popular. These would run from 9am-12 noon with one hour per subject. The supported study timetable will be issued around the February weekend and will run right through till the exams. There will also be an Easter school during the holidays. 	GD GD GD
<p>6. <u>Financial Update – Kate Dunn</u></p> <p>Kate advised she is in the process of closing one bank account – the balance of both accounts amounted to £1510.12 and once a cheque for £0.02 has cleared the old account can be closed. Two payments have been made recently - £19.25 (gift for auditor of accounts) and £498 (buses for S1 cinema trip) therefore the current balance is £992.87.</p>	

<p>7. <u>Next Month's Agenda Items</u> Suggested items for discussion at the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Highers – George advised that South Ayrshire is looking at having a hub system for Advanced Highers as some of the schools struggle to run them, e.g. Marr would be the hub for Computing and Biology and pupils from other schools would travel to Marr. The aim is to create consistency across subjects so that they are available every year. Hub schools will put together a pack of materials in June which can be given out to pupils so they can familiarise themselves with the course before it starts in August. Virtual on-line tutorials are also being considered. This is only just being put together and George will be able to provide more information at the next meeting. • Destination Reports - GD • Digi Inventor champions will attend the next meeting to talk about their success. 	
<p>8. <u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia asked whether there were any resources available to parents to help children with homework or prepare for tests, other than their own notes which may not be accurate or concise. George advised that some resources are available on Glow for students and suggested the Bright Red Publishing books that are available covering each level of CfE (around £15 each). Show my Homework may be the most appropriate place to attach information regarding specific assessments or tests. • PE tops – there was a general consensus that it was difficult to purchase PE tops. George will speak to Mr Brydon, PT PE, regarding the availability of PE kit. • Ady asked whether there was any study leave for prelims. George advised that there was no study leave for prelims throughout Scotland as they do not carry any weight towards the final exam and are really 'practice exams'. Class work and unit assessments can be used now as evidence in the event of an appeal. 	<p>GD GD</p>
<p>9. <u>Next Meeting</u> The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7pm.</p>	