

# Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

## Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019



**Present:** Hilary Ramage – Chair, Timothy Wight – Vice Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Kate Dunn – Treasurer & Katherine Woodhouse – Minute Secretary

**Council Members:** Alan Blackwood, Julie Cotter, Joy Paul, Mark Fitzpatrick, Katie Atkinson, Lindsey Connell, Cllr Peter Convery & Cllr Craig Mackay

**Apologies:** Ady Allan, Clair Milne, Karen Dunlop, Kaye Matthews, Lindsay Campbell & Cllr Bob Pollock

	<b>Action</b>
<p>1. <b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b> Hilary welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted from those unable to attend.</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising</u></b> The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved by Alan Blackwood and seconded by Tim Wight and the outstanding actions reviewed as follows:</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications Group – flow chart on communication with the school to be progressed once Hilary has contacted the school office to discuss. HR</li> <li>• S6 trip to Alton Towers – George confirmed that 80 students have handed in their forms and paid a deposit for the trip on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.</li> <li>• S6 last day – George advised that pupils involved in the yearbook are putting together a movie show for the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> April. There will be a celebration assembly where leavers certificates will be given out and there will be speeches from the captains and George with opportunities to have photos taken. George hopes that, whilst some 'pranks' are expected, there is nothing that will cause conflict. GD</li> <li>• Cllr Pollock was going to write about the Pupil Equity Fund in his column for Going Out, however he was not in attendance at the meeting. George suggested having a couple of stalls at the uniform pop-up shops to raise awareness about the PEF and about the availability of purchasing second hand uniform. Cllr BP</li> <li>• Hilary will contact Angela to find out whether she has any dates for the schoolwear pop-up shops. She will also contact Darley Laundrette about the recycling of blazers. HR</li> <li>• George suggested putting the school newsletter in Going Out as one of their flyers but will need funding to produce an insert. Kate suggested contacting Stewart Milne builders as they might be willing to help. GD</li> <li>• School show - Kate will send on the details of the contact at Stewart Milne (Kevin Moreland) to Marianne Gunne as it may be worthwhile sending an e-mail from the school to request funding for the school show. She also advised that Corum are good at providing sponsorship, particularly if the captains were to call in and ask. KD</li> <li>• George confirmed that a meeting took place to discuss mental wellbeing with Karen Lee from the NHS (also a parent) in partnership with CAMHS and a proposal is being processed regarding a mental health nurse being posted in the school. There will be a follow-up meeting to discuss this. The likelihood is that the government funds for this will be provided directly to the Authority who will provide counselling. The meeting was based on utilising tiers of early intervention rather than referring straight to CAMHS. The results of the mental health survey were fed back and will be communicated. GD</li> <li>• Thematic visit – 7<sup>th</sup> March – focus groups have been organised made up of parents and community partners.</li> <li>• School calendar – Tim advised this is still work in progress as he needs to get together with a member of staff to discuss the internet address that should be used before this goes out to parents, and the particular member of staff involved is not in school at the moment. TW</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C K Marr – Nan McFarlane is looking to fund a permanent statue at the front of the school and is in discussion with the Marr Trust in this regard.</li> <li>• Team photos – Duncan was going to contact Robert McLaughlin about organising photos of school sports teams. Need to co-ordinate a date with Tempest for the teams to come into school for this.</li> <li>• Parent Council meetings at feeder primary schools – Lindsay had passed dates of meetings on to Tim which he shared with the meeting. He felt it would be a good idea to have a briefing document so that everyone is talking about the same topics and is happy to compile the sheet if the relevant information can be sent on to him. Volunteers to attend each meeting were as follows: Troon Primary – 15<sup>th</sup> April: Hilary &amp; Katie Dundonald Primary - 29<sup>th</sup> April: Tim Barassie Primary – 13<sup>th</sup> May: Mark (TBC) Struthers Primary – date TBC: Lindsey Connell George advised that guidance staff and S1 pupils will also be going out to give a presentation to each primary school.</li> </ul>	DB/GD  TW  HR/KA TW MF LC
<p>3. <b><u>Parent Council Funds</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following on from the last meeting, George had given consideration to how the Parent Council funds could be used to benefit the school. One idea was to re-introduce a nurture room in the school as he felt that this type of support is really needed again. In practical terms 3 seating areas would be required - a table area, working area and soft furniture area. Equipment needed would include a partition, pump for a sink, toaster, crockery, etc. This room would be used by groups of young people and, as part of the equity funding, would be looking to appoint a nurture teacher on a 0.5 basis. Mark advised that he may be able to source some of the items required and would discuss with George at the end of the meeting.</li> <li>• Radio mikes – a lot of money is spent each year hiring radio mikes for the school show (approximately £1600) and it would be better to buy a couple each year (cost around £500 each). George advised he would be able to provide £2000 from the bequest fund in school to buy 4. Alan suggested contacting all the tech companies (6 in total) who came to the careers evening to see if they would be interested in providing sponsorship and Cllr Convery agreed to contact Stuart Cresswell of AB Ports. Troon Community Council have offered a small amount of money as have Rotary Club. George will ask Rae Anderson to contact Kier also. Hilary asked for responses no later than 26<sup>th</sup> April.</li> </ul>	MF  AB/Cllr PC GD
<p>4. <b><u>Show My Homework</u></b></p> <p>The SMH staff training day is confirmed for 28<sup>th</sup> May. George suggested that the app should be launched in June (for the junior school only) which will allow time for any initial problems to be ironed out prior to the start of the new term in August.</p>	
<p>6. <b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expressions app – Kate asked if the facility to reply was operational with regard to the absence messages from the school. George confirmed that this was live.</li> <li>• Three banners have now been delivered for Rights Respecting Schools charter, Marr Radio and school business partners. Children will be doing designs in May for the Parent Council banner and mock ups will be made for parents to review. The house points board will be fitted tomorrow.</li> <li>• The library is proving more effective in its new location due to being quieter, warmer and overall an improved environment.</li> <li>• Staffing – an advert was posted for a new PT of Art as the current PT is retiring in 3 weeks. All current job adverts have a deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> April.</li> <li>• Litter – Cllr Mackay raised complaints from the community about litter, particularly around the Keystore in Muirhead due to the fact they are now selling hot food which is creating a litter problem. George advised that he was made aware of this issue this morning and confirmed that recent assemblies have been focusing on litter and community litter picks are arranged. Mark suggested that a couple of strategically placed bins should be located on the route from the Keystore to the school. George had a focus group meeting with 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupils last week and they discussed having more bins outside.</li> </ul>	GD          GD

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Convery advised that the traffic lights at the top of the road had been re-calibrated due to the change in daylight hours, however there are still queues of traffic in the mornings so he will get back onto the Roads department about this.</li></ul>	Cllr PC
7. <b><u>Next Meeting</u></b> The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2019 at 7pm.	