



Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 2 March 2022 (in person and via Zoom)

Present: Marie Anne Jackson - Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Kirsty Broadfoot – Minute Secretary, Cllr Bob Pollock, Sophie Lennox, Jake Murray, Angela Mendy, Pamela Drewett, Diane Russell.

Council Members: Jackie Lennox, Susan Forsyth, Katherine Woodhouse.

Forum Members: Carolyn Adams, Kirsty Lee, Pamela Foster, Caryn Mair, Emma Ingles, **Simone W.**

Apologies: Lindsay Campbell – Secretary, Hilary Ramage, Katie Atkinson, Lindsey Connell.

1. Welcome and apologies

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

2. Captain's report

Sophie and Jake presented the Captain's report. The following updates were noted:

- Masks no longer required to be worn in classrooms.
- Weekly assemblies have resumed.
- Supported study timetable has been updated on the website and Twitter – Saturday morning maths classes are being planned.
- Girls' hockey team got through to final against Galashiels.
- Boys' rugby team also reached finals.
- Organising S3 inspire sports day.
- Captain's Daily Dozen for S1-3 pupils – looking for different ideas for this.
- S6 leaver's hoodies have been ordered.
- Planning a celebration for S6's for end of April.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved by Carolyn Adams and seconded by Kirsty Lee.

Matters arising from the minutes were discussed.

- School show – it was discovered that there was an issue with completing the MS form asking for helpers. George will amend this and resend the form. Kirsty B will also share this on the pc social media pages. ¹
- A new mic has been purchased to help with sound quality during hybrid pc meetings. This seemed to work well.

¹ Kirsty B share on social media re. school show helpers.

4. Presentation on Literacy and Numeracy

George introduced Angela Mendy, Pamela Drewett and Diane Russell to give their presentations.

Diane spoke about the ways in which the school develops literacy and commented that being literate allows pupils to become fully fledged members of society. The school promotes the development of reading and writing, and listening and talking using guidance from the national improvement framework. The school is aiming to improve literacy attainment and assist pupils with their employability. Pamela went on to speak about the dedicated S1 literacy period and that there is a new P7 transition project on this topic. Some other strategies that are used include planned literacy and writing groups; using a focus on non-fiction text and using morphology to assist pupils with unfamiliar text.

Pamela then updated the members on the accelerated reader programme. This programme helps to improve pupils' reading ability using suggested books and star reader quizzes. The quizzes are linked to inhouse competitions and prizes are given for most words read. The aim is to challenge and increase pupils' vocabulary. This has been very popular with S1 pupils. The school can collect data to allow them to monitor growth over the year. The programme helps identify and put interventions in place for those with lower reading ability or dyslexia. It also links in with Glow. Pamela gave examples of two star reader reports. Pamela spoke about the hopes for the library to become the heart of the school and promote a reading culture. Important to build on the success of accelerated reader and celebrate success at assemblies. Pamela noted that 30% of higher marks are available to pupils if they can simply read the questions.

Angela spoke about numeracy and how the school are looking at gaps in knowledge post covid by using GL assessments. The school have been able to research different methodology during covid. Mathletics is used to support learning and there are also several other apps to help pupils with their numeracy – oodle, math workout, count master etc. The department is very forward thinking and there will be more of a focus on problem solving this year. For the senior phase, non-calculator skills have been removed, but this will remain for Nat 5. There will be Saturday morning study sessions in preparation for exams. Staff in the department have also had some twilight training in numeracy to help them better understand primary teaching methods. This will help with the primary to secondary transition. Angela noted that children should be encouraged to use numeracy in everyday life. Caryn asked about resources for S3/4. Angela said Mathletics is a great resource and George recommended Click View which is accessed through Glow.

5. SQA Exam update

George confirmed that the school were still waiting on the revision guide from SQA. Staff will then tailor revision accordingly. He mentioned that an Easter school programme will be available through Esgoil and this will be a mix of in school and online classes. There will also be Saturday morning maths sessions. A full day of business education revision is planned for 26th March. George noted that he is unsure how the exam and revision programme will look next year. The new timetable starts on 6th June.

6. School Show

George confirmed he will check the MS Forms survey and re-issue to parents.² There are four main areas for which assistance is needed including IT and lighting. Jackie asked about sponsorship and it was agreed to approach Troon Business Association, Rotary Club and the Round Table to see if they would be able to sponsor the programme. George advised Stewart Milne used to sponsor this. George will invite all interested parents to a zoom call with Liam Baillie.

7. Next month's agenda items and review of meeting dates

Date of next meeting confirmed as 4th May. Also agreed on a possible informal meeting on 31st May – George suggested this could be held in Lido as a thank you to the S6 parents who've been heavily involved in the parent council over the years. George will speak with Lido on this.³

Next month's agenda items:

- Further detail on SQA timetable.
- School show.
- Improvement planning.

8. AOCB

Susan mentioned that the S3 report due on 16th February hadn't been received. George confirmed that it had been a busy time with organising all the virtual parent's evenings but that options can still be changed up to the date of the form going in. George confirmed the school is looking at the format and timing of next year's parent's evenings. They are considering a showcase event for S1 pupils and parents. If continuing to hold virtual evenings then a dedicated phone number would be useful for anyone having issues getting connected. Caryn asked if there is the option to make an appointment with guidance teacher. George advised that guidance teachers are always available to speak with.

Pamela asked if the school were planning on anything to raise money for Ukraine. George will investigate this.⁴

² George to resubmit MS Forms re. school show.

³ George to speak with Lido re. 31 May.

⁴ George to look at fundraising for Ukraine.