



Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 4 May 2022 (in person and via Zoom)

Present: Marie Anne Jackson - Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Lindsay Campbell – Secretary, Kirsty Broadfoot – Minute Secretary, Robert McLaughlin and Dr Gillian Sargent.

Council Members: Jackie Lennox and Susan Forsyth.

Forum Members: Carolyn Adams, Kirsty Lee, Pamela Foster, Judith McCaughey, Emma Inglis, Deborah Gardiner, Frances Carson - MTRA, Margaret McIver, Karen Gibson.

Apologies: Hilary Ramage, Kate Dunn, Katie Atkinson, Lindsey Connell, Katherine Woodhouse, Cllr Craig Mackay, Cllr Bob Pollock, Caryn Mair.

1. Welcome and apologies

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

2. Captain's report

George summarised the report and the following updates were noted:

- S6 have now finished up. A graduation event was held as well as a trip to Bounce Station and Dean Castle.
- Fundraising event was held on 1st April to raise funds for S6 pupil Florence Press who is taking up a volunteering role in Nepal. Various events were held including sponge the teacher and a rematch of S6 girls v boys hockey.
- Ukraine appeal: a large number of donations were received. These were taken by S6 pupils to St Meddans church and are now en-route to Poland.
- There have been 40 volunteers for the S3 captains and prefects positions.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved by Judith McCaughey and seconded by Jackie Lennox.

It was agreed at this point to alter the agenda running order.

6. SQA Timetable

George provided an update. He advised that revision support was given out at the end of March and shared with parents and young people. There has been criticism from students who have felt some of the support has not been helpful. George noted that school held classes during Easter both in school and online and revision packs have been provided from each department. Exams are now underway and the SQA

have confirmed that the modifications will remain in place until the next review in 2024.

5. Future Parent Evening Format

George gave a summary of the results of the survey following the online parents' evenings. 189 responses were received in total with the majority of responses being positive. 25% of parents said they were happy to continue with online evenings. A few issues with IT had been identified which in the main were rectified prior to the second evening starting. Some parents felt 5 minutes was too short, particularly for those whose young people were in senior years. There are pros and cons to increasing the times as this would need to be discussed as part of the working time directive. Dr Sargent prefers in person meetings but liked the fact that online appointments allowed for more preparation time and it was easier to follow up with missed appointments. Points to consider and next steps:

- Ability for parents to rebook appointments,
- More or longer appointment times available,
- Dedicated phone line available to parents during the evening in case of technical issues etc,
- Reminders issued for appointments on Xpressions,
- S1 parent's evening is being held 23 May and they will have the opportunity to come into school at the end of June,
- Consultation taking place from 16 May to 16 June and feedback will be reviewed after that.

George updated the group that reports had changed for BGE and that a full report had recently been received. He asked for feedback on the short/tracking reports. Jackie felt the shorter report was clearer and more effective. Lindsay felt there were inconsistencies between subjects ie working grade and target grade, this leads to frustration. George asked how often parents expect to receive a report from school. It was felt that S1 parents should have one or two across the year. Timing is important and reports should be out in good time so that pupils in S3, 4 and 5 can make informed decisions about subject choices.

4. Improvement Planning 2022-2023

George noted that not all of last year's targets had been met. He went on to give a presentation on the key areas for improvement for 2022-23. He spoke about the importance of the 'empowered system' which places value on parents and carers being involved in their young person's education and improving the school. George then went on to cover the key priorities for the year ahead. The aim is to get back to basics and focus on the core purpose of learning following the upheaval of the past 2 years. It is also important to devote time to staff to allow them to develop their learning. Health and wellbeing is also of significant importance and the school are looking at several areas under this topic including student participation, mentors in violence prevention and Humanotopia. This is a company who come in and work with the students on relationship issues etc. They will work with S3 as it's the largest year group. Another key point is parental engagement and George asked for the group to take some time out of the meeting to discuss ways in which they felt they would like to become involved. Topics discussed will be collated and feedback given.

7. School Show

After some discussion it was agreed that George would speak with Liam Baillie to find out what tasks he wanted the parent council to carry out. He will also send out a letter to parents asking for donations for the raffle.

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

Next meeting to be held on 31st May due to the Jubilee holiday. Lindsay is looking into booking tables in South Beach or Lido and this will be an informal meeting/celebration to coincide with several of the longstanding members standing down.

9. AOCB

It was agreed that a bottle of wine would be given to all five members who are stepping down and a voucher will be purchased for Hilary, Kate and Katie.

Lindsay noted that there are several forum members who regularly attend meetings, however, in order to be able to vote on some issues they would need to become parent council members. Anyone interested in becoming a council member should speak with Lindsay on this.

Jackie confirmed the changes to the bank account following the above members stepping down. She confirmed that Hilary Ramage, Kate Dunn, Katie Atkinson and Adrienne Allan are stepping down from their roles in the council and will therefore require to be removed from the bank account. She also confirmed that Chairperson Marie Anne Jackson is to be noted as Chair on the accounts. Also, council member Jackie Lennox, secretary Lindsay Campbell and forum member Emma Inglis would all be added to the bank account as card holders and that these details will be provided to Santander along with a copy of these Minutes.

George asked if there could be a parent council presence at the P7 evening/transition days.

Marie Anne confirmed there had been no updates to report following the latest parent council chairs' meeting.

George updated the group that the S1/2 swimming lessons were now underway and so far 18 pupils had signed up.

There have been incidents of pupils damaging a fence. This is being used as a short cut. Frances from Muirhead Tenants and Residents Association confirmed the fence had been damaged on a few occasions and one pupil in particular had been seen doing this. The cost to replace the fence is significant. The school and PC Harrower are working together with MRTA to try and ensure this does not continue to happen.