



# **Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting**

## **Wednesday 7 December 2022 (in person and via Zoom)**

**Present:** Iain Ward – Depute Head Teacher, Marie Anne Jackson - Chair, Margaret Maciver – Secretary, Jackie Lennox – Treasurer, Kirsty Broadfoot – Minute Secretary.

**Council Members:** Gail Whyte, Judith McCaughey, Carolyn Adams, Cllr Bob Pollock.

**Forum Members:** Kerry Walker.

**Apologies:** George Docherty – Head Teacher, Joanne Christopher – Vice Chair, Katherine Woodhouse, Lindsay Campbell, Fiona Stanbridge, Susan Forsyth, Emma Inglis.

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

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

### **2. Captain's report**

Due to a technical issue, the Captain's report was presented by Iain Ward. He noted that:

- The school took part in Children in Need day on 18<sup>th</sup> November, raising £1,000 through a variety of events.
- The S6 leadership team met with the Director of Education in Ayr as part of the National Discussion on the future of education in Scotland.
- Prelims have started for S4 students with English being the first subject undertaken. All dates are on the school website. Higher and Advanced Higher prelims will take place in January.
- Study café has started in the library on Thursday nights – programme available on the school website. There has been great attendance so far.
- Christmas activities – the school is organising various activities including Christmas jumper day, S1 panto trip, Christmas dances. There will also be a week of activities in the final week which is being organised by the S6 leadership team as well as plans for an open mic event each month.

Iain thanked the Captains for their comprehensive report.

### **3. Action Review**

It was agreed to move this to next month's meeting given the technical issues.

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 November were approved by Margaret Maciver and seconded by Jackie Lennox.

### **5. Developing the Young Workforce: presented by Iain Ward**

Iain outlined the DYW National Improvement Priorities, highlighting that the focuses are to improve attainment in literacy and numeracy as well as enhancing the quality of work experience options for young people. Career Education Scotland aims to ensure that young people are prepared for work from day one. Responsibilities for the school are to enhance family learning, ensure work placements are more targeted, including more flexible/longer term placements and building on our links with local colleges. Iain went on to note that Vocational Bursts are available for S2 and S3 pupils. These are 6-week introductory sessions in a variety of topics such as care, cookery, child care and are run by Ayrshire College. A Criminal Minds burst is being planned for the New Year. These courses provide practical experience for future careers. Another innovative project being held in school is the skills academy which offers S3 and S4 pupils the chance to take part in practical topics such as barista, nail bar and bike maintenance. There is also a school/college partnership for S4-6 pupils which offers a foundation apprenticeship and is held 2 afternoons per week. This offers young people a stepping stone into work or uni and the courses taught range from trades to sciences. Ayrshire College website has full details. The application process for this is supported by the guidance teachers. The school is committed to all pupils from S3 onwards gaining work experience and there are links with a number of local employers, for example, JP Morgan. A previous S6 pupil went on to secure a post with JP Morgan following a work placement. The school also works in partnership with Gemma Fraser (Careers Adviser), South Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire College, DYW as well as further and higher education bodies. Young people and parents are encouraged to check the @DYW Twitter page as well as Teams for updates on opportunities.

Cllr Pollock highlighted that South Ayrshire has the highest leaver destination statistics in Scotland.

#### **6. Curriculum Focus**

There has been positive feedback following the focus group discussions. Next stage to look at planning. Keen to get parent council's thoughts on this.

#### **7. Christmas Concert: 14 December 2022**

A number of stall holders have committed to attending the event. Charge is £15 per table. Judith and Carolyn volunteered to go along to assist with set up etc of stalls and Marie Anne will attend the concert too. No other involvement required from Parent Council other than to promote the event on Facebook.

#### **8. Careers Evening Hospitality: 16 February 2023**

It was agreed to provide hospitality to the stallholders attending this event. Margaret agreed to speak with Morrisons as they've supported past events. Check with Lindsay too. Speak with school about home baking. It was agreed to discuss this more fully at the next meeting in January.

#### **9. Fundraising**

Members discussed the possibility of having a separate 'fundraising' committee which could take place prior to the Parent Council meetings at around 6.30pm. It was agreed to start this from February onwards. It was also noted that it is easier to

fundraise for a specific event or target rather than ad-hoc and members discussed raising money for a 'Marr Minibus' which would assist with many trips/outings for the school. This could be a long-term fundraising effort. Iain will speak with George Docherty regarding this.

#### **10. Next Month's Agenda**

- Action Review.
- Parent's Evenings.
- Litter issues.
- Possible WhatsApp group for Parent Council members.

#### **11. AOCB**

Parent's evenings – it was felt there were pros and cons for both the online events and the in-person ones. Carolyn felt the online evening was difficult as there was no Wi-Fi where she was. Some people felt the in-person evening could have been better organised. Agreed to discuss this in more detail next month to see what improvements could be made.

Litter – Cllr Mackay had received an email about litter at the Co-op. The issue seems to have become much worse recently. A bag of rubbish had been emptied at the door of the school. George and PC Harrower have been down to the Co-op to look at the issue. It was noted that North Ayrshire Council have Environmental Enforcement Officers who are able to issue on the spot fines for littering. Cllr Pollock will find out if this is an option in our area.

#### **Next meeting**

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 January 2023 at 7pm.