

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Forum Meeting



Wednesday 27th April 2016

Present - Duncan Beckwith - Chair, Alan Blackwood - Vice Chair, Angela Malcolm - Treasurer, Elaine McGregor-Sloman - Head Teacher, John Allison - DHT, Hilary Ramage - Secretary & Katherine Woodhouse - Minutes

Council Members – Kate Dunn, Katy Purdie, Lindsay Campbell, Lindsay Gwynne, Mark Fitzpatrick, Stuart Harris, Timothy Wight & Cllr Peter Convery

Forum Members – Joy Paul

Apologies – Catriona MacGarvie, Clair Milne, James Morgan, Julie Cotter, Karen Dunlop, Kaye Matthews, Wendy McKenna

	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u> Duncan welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted from those unable to attend.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising</u> The minutes of the meeting of 2nd March 2016 were agreed as being correct. Proposed by Katy Purdie and seconded by Hilary Ramage.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Captains Report</u> Corrie, Campbell and Kirsten were in attendance for the Captains' final meeting (unfortunately the three other Captains were unable to attend due to being at a Business Enterprise Awards evening). They presented an overview of their achievements this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-branded student council • Organised multiple fundraising events as well as Halloween disco and Christmas dances • Created a 'wall of fame' in recognition of students' achievements • Represented Marr at the Troon and Dundonald Community Council meetings • Introduced 'wider achievement' stalls to parents' evenings • Introduced Junior Captains this year • Arranged for Platinum Youth Achievement students to run numerous P7 transition events <p>A draft copy of the Student Development Plan was circulated which India and Luke have been working on. The Captains discussed their objectives, evaluation and future steps for the following focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Council • Fundraising • Events • Communication • P7 Transition • Wider Achievement <p>Questions were taken from parents following this presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan asked about the stigma surrounding the Student Council – the Captains have pushed hard to get more students involved and eradicate the 'uncool' image. As a result, attendance has improved this year. • Kate complimented the Captains on the P7 transition evening which her son enjoyed. She suggested that a text should have been sent out advising parents that their children were welcome at this event – not everyone was aware of this and some children missed out on a valuable opportunity. 	

Parent Support/Involvement

Elaine highlighted the note received from David Strang of SAC regarding parking in and around the school and the involvement of the Ayrshire Roads Alliance's parking attendants and police. This applies not only to Marr College but to every school in South Ayrshire including primary schools. There are still issues at Marr with parents turning in the driveway after dropping off their children.

SQA

- Exams begin on 3rd May – timetables have been issued to students and parents. Results will be released on Tuesday 9th August.
- There were 90 hours of Easter school provided for students.

Staffing

- Staffing is stable at the moment with very little change anticipated for 2016/17.
- One maternity leave is being covered currently.
- Interviews being held on 9th May for post of History/Modern Studies teacher.
- One person has tendered their resignation because they are moving.

Students

- S1 Learning Review Week scheduled for w/c 16th May and this is being rolled out to all year groups in 2016/17 in addition to the usual parents' evenings.
- There have been several sporting achievements but Duncan highlighted in particular the success of the S3 hockey team coming 6th in Scotland and the U16 and U18 volleyball teams both being Scottish champions.
- Interviews for new captains will take place on Monday 6th June.

Website

The school will continue to use Weebly as the provider and the website is in the process of being updated.

School Improvement Plan

- SIP is not due to be submitted to SAC until 17th May – Elaine has been through this with Duncan but would welcome reviewing some of the new documents with a small group of parents.
- SQA Visit is not until 21st October. The visiting Head Teacher for this will be from Kyle Academy.

If there are any particular areas of the school that the Parent Council would like to hear about at future meetings, Elaine would be happy to arrange this.

6. **Student Leadership – John Allison**

John gave a presentation on Student Leadership, detailing the various opportunities on offer at Marr College for all young people in order to aid their development, starting in the classroom with active learning. Some of these opportunities include:

- Business leadership experiences
- Leadership in wider achievement, e.g. DoE, opportunities to work at the Open Golf this summer
- Columba 1400 programme – over 40 students taken part in last 18 months – helps students to release potential and gain confidence to transform their own lives
- Residential leadership academy at Arran Outdoor Centre
- Tutor time – trying to promote leadership by looking at activities and leadership styles
- Rights Respecting School award – aims to ensure the ethos and culture of Marr College is one of a happy, healthy and a safe environment
- Student profiling – allows students to reflect on their achievements and evaluate their learning experiences
- Developing young workforce – prepares young people to be more career ready at a young age incorporating Skills Development Scotland and My World of Work
- Curriculum leadership, e.g. personal development awards, extended work placements, vocational college options
- 'Celebrating success' week in August – separate award ceremonies to be held for S1-S3

<p>and Seniors</p> <p>Alan asked if the Junior Captains could be brought in earlier as they did not start until January this year. Katy felt it was better for them to start in December/January and remain in the role until the following December. In the long term John would like both sets of Captains to work together.</p> <p>John will provide an electronic copy of his Powerpoint presentation to the Parent Council.</p>	<p>JA</p>
<p>7. <u>Building Works – Elaine McGregor-Sloman</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decant meeting to take place tomorrow and one of the key decisions is whether the decant takes place before Christmas or in January. Consideration will have to be given to whether a full closure will be necessary. One of the advantages of waiting until after Christmas is that if anything goes wrong there are people around to help. Everyone within the school will move apart from PE department. Some science rooms will be turned back to general teaching classrooms. • Rae is working on Risk Assessments so she can start taking groups of students out to view the new building taking shape. • Several work experience opportunities have arisen through the new build project, including over the summer. Two new skills options have been introduced for S3 - 'design, engineer and construct', and a group of approximately 15 students from S3 have opted to work on producing a newspaper about the new building as a skills elective for news journalism. • Gym hall – concerns had been raised about the build up of CO² in the exam hall during parents' evenings and exams. Elaine has looked into this matter but in the meantime the door will be kept open when possible. Rae and John have worked on a time schedule with Kier so that works are quiet during exam time. Elaine would only bring work to a halt in extreme circumstances. 	<p>RA</p>
<p>8. <u>Next Meeting</u> The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st June 2016 at 7.30 pm.</p>	