

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Forum Meeting



Wednesday 25th April 2018

Present – Hilary Ramage - Chair/Secretary, Kate Dunn – Treasurer, Elaine McGregor-Sloman - Head Teacher, & Katherine Woodhouse - Minute Secretary

Council Members – Ady Allan, Alan Blackwood, Angela Malcolm, Clair Milne, Julie Cotter, Lindsey Connell, Cllr Peter Convery & Cllr Bob Pollock

Apologies – Katie Atkinson, Lindsay Campbell, Lisa Rossi, Mark Fitzpatrick, Kaye Matthews, Timothy Wight & Cllr Craig Mackay

	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u> Hilary 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 held on 21st March 2018 were approved by Alan Blackwood and seconded by Kate Dunn and the action plan reviewed as follows:</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi – Alan advised that he has contacts at Prestwick airport that may be able to help with the Malawi project in terms of transport. Hilary asked him to e-mail Stuart Harris directly regarding this. • School show – Hilary has e-mailed Marianne Gunne for an update on the school show but has not yet received a reply. It would be useful to know if there is anything else the Parent Council can do to help in advance of the show. Elaine agreed to follow this up with Marianne. Hilary has also contacted Karen Martin of Material Things with regard to making up stage masking but she needs a measurement before she can provide a quote. Elaine will provide this. • Programmes – Kate advised that she has acquired £250 worth of sponsorship from Stewart Milne Homes for the show. Kate will e-mail their logo to Elaine so that she can send out a thank you letter. Kate asked who would be organising the advertising/publicising of the school show. Elaine advised that she should contact Marianne Gunne. • Communications – Elaine advised that the letter regarding the introduction of Groupcall is ready and will be going out to parents this week. • Lighting in auditorium – David Strang is working his way through these issues and Elaine will provide feedback once received. • Uniform – pop-up shops went well. The Schoolwear shop have not confirmed whether they will be able to supply the PE t-shirts yet – there is an issue surrounding the heat-seal logo and the alternative may make them less competitive. Angela to e-mail them for an update. <p>Elaine advised that the Darley Laundrette is accepting second-hand blazers for cleaning and then selling them on. She would like to support families who cannot afford new blazers and it was suggested that students be asked to donate old blazers to the school. Ady asked Elaine if the uniform rules were upheld in general – Elaine advised that the biggest issue currently is black jeans, despite the policy being no jeans as stipulated in the letter at Easter. She cannot insist on children wearing uniform in case that is all they have to wear, and it is more important that they attend school rather than be sent home for not wearing the correct uniform. She hopes that the 'smart start' in the morning will help when it starts in August. At the moment Elaine will keep working on what the expectations are – if the majority of children are kept on track she can focus on the minority.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AM</p>

<p>3. <u>Treasurer's Update – Kate Dunn</u> The current account balance stands at £1302.66. Kate would like to change the account so that correspondence is addressed to the school, marked for the attention of the Parent Council Treasurer. She would also like to look into setting up on-line banking and increasing the number of signatories authorised to sign cheques. Hilary pointed out the importance of choosing parents whose children are going to be at the school for a while – it was suggested that Katherine and Lindsay could become signatories as they have younger children starting in S1 in August. Kate will look into these changes over the summer.</p>	<p>KD</p>
<p>4. <u>Summer Fundraising Event</u> Following an earlier meeting to discuss the summer event, Hilary confirmed that it is all coming together and the priority now is ensuring there are enough volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilary requested a volunteer to be in charge of traffic management. Alan volunteered to do this and Ady offered to help, although it was felt a small group would be required. The Rotary club have also volunteered to help out in the car park. Cllr Pollock agreed to liaise with Tommy from Ayrshire Roads Alliance who will contact the police. There are around 80 car parking spaces and the old car park (current netball court) can also be used. • It has been decided to arrange bookings through the office staff and parent volunteers. People will be booked into time slots and it is planned to have a maximum of 5 tours of 20 people every half an hour. There are around 6-9 slots booked in already. Students should be encouraged to help (will need approximately 100) and some staff members will be required. • Hilary also asked for information on anyone who might be willing to be there on the day to talk about the history of the school. Cllr Convery suggested Cllr Nan McFarlane, whose knowledge is superb. Hilary has already tried to make contact with her to no avail, therefore Cllr Convery will ask her. • Ady would like to have all the memorabilia in place by 16th May and requested access to the art department as some of the items will need to be mounted. Elaine agreed to this. • Kate asked whether any of the other departments are planning to make anything to sell at the event. Elaine said she would look into this. • It was decided not to make an entry charge but to ask for donations for tea and coffee instead. Kate felt it would encourage people to donate if the money raised was being put towards something specific. It was therefore agreed that the money should go towards Stage Production for equipment for the school show. • Marr radio will be available on the day and will be able to make announcements about the timing of tours. 	<p>AB/AA Cllr P Cllr C AA EMS</p>
<p>5. <u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music tuition – Alan raised the issued regarding musical instruments and the fact that one of the Council's cuts meant that children would now have to pay for their music lessons. This is causing some children to give up their music tuition which has a detrimental effect on the school orchestra. He wondered if there was anything the Parent Council could do. Cllr Pollock advised that this matter has been referred to the Children's Commissioner as it could possibly be a breach of human rights under the European Rights Legislation. If this is the case, SAC may have to reverse this decision. • Cllr Convery advised that the council has received a lot of complaints about the gate from the school grounds to the golf course being closed at night and preventing people walking through the school grounds. Elaine pointed out that this is not a right of way and this was investigated when she first came to the school. She would strongly object to the gate being opened during the day apart from when it is opened by PE staff for children going to the playing fields. If the gate was opened at night this could encourage people to walk through with dogs causing potential mess in an area where children may be eating their lunch. There are alternative routes but these add approximately one mile onto the journey. Hilary asked whether there was anything that could be done to improve the alternative route across the golf course at night, but the cost of putting lights in is prohibitive. 	

<p>The councillors will take the views of the Parent Council and Head Teacher back to the community, advising that the preference is for the gate to remain closed at night. In addition Elaine pointed out that during the first week of the Easter holidays the school was broken into, which is another reason for restricting access to the school grounds at night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Convery has also received a complaint about the 20m/hr speed lights being on at the wrong times. This is not controlled by Ayrshire Roads Alliance but a completely independent company. He has contacted them to ask for the lights to be reset and hopefully this issue has been resolved. • Hilary asked whether the school was aware of an event called Fired Up at the SSE Hydro which a parent had asked about on the Facebook page. Elaine confirmed the school is fully aware of this and has been allocated tickets as part of the Tree of Knowledge. Gavin Oates, a former pupil and inspirational speaker, will be speaking at it. The Tree of Knowledge is all about how to improve through self-help. • Elaine will put out a date to go through the School Improvement Plan with those parents who volunteered. It will be mid to end of May as the SIP needs to be submitted by the middle of June. • Elaine advised that a parent had contacted her regarding trips and activities with regard to the fairness of children being selected for trips. She felt this was a valid point and is going to look into this to maximise the number of children who are given the opportunity of going on a trip. The Director of Education looks very carefully at all school trips to make sure they are both educational and inclusive. Trips are starting to happen again after they were put on hold during the building works. • Alan advised that the main road to Dundonald (A759) would be closed for 8 working days from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm and asked what plans are in place for children who rely on the bus. Elaine advised that there would be taxis laid on for Dundonald children during exams but she will enquire about any other disruption and advise all those concerned. She was not aware of this – usually the bus company deals with any issues however it would be useful if information could come into the school when roads are going to be closed which affect the school bus route. She will ensure that a message is put out advising of the diversion and the possible delay in children getting home. 	<p>EMS</p> <p>EMS</p> <p>EMS</p>
<p>6. <u>Agenda items for Next Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaine advised that the Captains would not be in attendance next month due to exams. • Alan suggested starting to formulate a plan for next year’s activities/events so that this is in place by the August meeting. 	<p>HR</p>
<p>7. <u>Next Meeting</u> The final meeting of this academic year will be held on Wednesday 30th May at 7pm.</p>	