

# Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Forum Meeting



## Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015

**Present** - Duncan Beckwith - Chair, Alan Blackwood - Vice Chair, Angela Malcolm - Treasurer, Gillian McTaggart – DHT, Neil McLean - ADHT, Katy Purdie - Secretary & Katherine Woodhouse - Minutes

**Council Members** - Catriona MacGarvie, Hilary Ramage, Julie Cotter, Kate Dunn, Kaye Matthews, Mark Fitzpatrick, Stuart Harris & Timothy Wight

**Apologies** - Elaine McGregor-Sloman, Rae Anderson, Clair Milne, Janet Wylie, Lindsay Campbell, Lindsay Gwynne, Cllr Bill McIntosh & Cllr Peter Convery

1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b> Duncan welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted from those unable to attend.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Captains Report</b> Campbell provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next week is Christmas week in school when there will be activities during lunchtimes and dances at night. Money raised will go to 3 different charities as agreed by the Student Council - SSAFA (raises money for retired servicemen who are restricted by injuries), Text Santa and Hansel. Food bank donations will also be collected during the week.</li> <li>• S1 parents’ night – wider achievement stalls set up in library but unfortunately did not prove very successful; complaints from parents that the corridors were too narrow.</li> <li>• Fundraising – Children in Need day in November raised £1060, just short of target. Non uniform day raised £700.</li> <li>• Youth enterprise pupils had a successful stall at Wintertainment and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Micro Tyco group did well with their stall at S1 parents’ evening.</li> <li>• P7 transition – meeting last week for the quiz being held by Rotary which will take place in March.</li> <li>• Communication – prom and yearbook meetings taking place. Jasmine Burke taken on role of developing the newsletter and has recruited a couple of helpers; should be issued in the next couple of weeks.</li> <li>• Captains are now going to be part of the Dundonald community council – India Beckwith and Kirsten Davis will attend meetings.</li> </ul> <p>Neil congratulated the captains for all their hard work and the energy and passion they are putting into their roles.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising</b> The minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were agreed as being correct. Proposed by Alan Blackwood and seconded by Timothy Wight.</p> <p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Student Support &amp; Development</u> – Alan briefly outlined his meeting with Graeme Hobson to come up with a simplified version of the Student Support &amp; Development document in leaflet form which could also include advertising of school clubs, sports, etc., with an emergency number on the front page. Will continue meeting with Graeme and present feedback at the next meeting in February with basic recommendations.</li> <li>• <u>Sports Pitches</u> – Duncan advised that a sign entitled ‘Marr Playing Fields’ will be erected at the entrance together with a further sign regarding parking which will prohibit coaches from entering. Potholes need to be repaired and councillors have been looking at improving the lighting situation in the car park.</li> </ul>	AB

<p>4. <b><u>Head Teacher’s Report – Gillian McTaggart</u></b>  In Elaine’s absence Gillian talked through the Head Teacher’s report.</p> <p><u>Building</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December with Kier and representatives from SAC to discuss ‘lessons learned’ and resolve any issues raised.</li> <li>• Rae and Elaine will meet with David Strang on 4<sup>th</sup> December to discuss Phase II of the project.</li> </ul> <p><u>Curriculum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum consultation underway with staff re structure and options for 2016/17. Curriculum structure will not be changing. Options evenings for 2<sup>nd</sup> years will be held in January and for S3/4/5 in February. There will be more information post-Christmas about this.</li> <li>• Focus on Health and Wellbeing in December with particular emphasis on safety as part of the SHANARRI principle. Students involved in lessons across the curriculum and cyber safety will be discussed at tutor time. Drama group producing a whole school DVD on safety.</li> <li>• S2 presentation based on ‘My World of Work’ careers website launch being led by Skills Development Scotland.</li> </ul> <p><u>Parent support/involvement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prelim exams will commence on 14<sup>th</sup> January and finish on 27<sup>th</sup> January and there is no study leave for students during this time, although students are permitted to go home after completing an exam.</li> </ul> <p><u>Staffing</u>  Philip Ross, permanent English teacher to replace Ms Wilson started on 30<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p><u>Students</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S4-6 supported study sessions in place and students should be encouraged to attend.</li> <li>• Kirsty Pattison in S6 held a fundraiser on 28<sup>th</sup> November and secured over £4,000 of the required funding for her trip to work with young children in Malawi.</li> <li>• School familiarisation visit for P7s to be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.</li> <li>• S1/2 Christmas assemblies will be held in St Meddan’s church on 13<sup>th</sup> December.</li> <li>• School choir will be singing in Portland church on 20<sup>th</sup> December and have been invited to perform at the Highland show in June 2017.</li> <li>• Neil provided an overview of Marr Matters which is discussed with staff every Monday and highlighted a variety of student successes in competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ 6 students from S5 took part in the National Accounting competition in Glasgow and achieved first place, taking them through to the regional competition in Birmingham.</li> <li>➢ Jenny Purdie (S5) was runner up at the St Andrew’s Day Debating Tournament at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on 30<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>➢ Luke Light (S6) and Rebekah Jack (S6) advanced to the next stage of the Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Tournament last week – Scotland’s biggest senior competition.</li> <li>➢ Molly MacDougall (S3) and Chloe Russell (S3) won the annual Victim Support Public Speaking competition at UWS on Wednesday evening last week by delivering powerful speeches on the topics of rape and sexual assault.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Further details can be found on the website.</p>	
<p>5. <b><u>Building Works – Neil McLean</u></b>  In Rae’s absence Neil provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piling has been completed and concrete foundations are being constructed on site.</li> <li>• Housewifery building has been demolished. First half of Marr building has been separated from the operational side and sealed off.</li> <li>• Temporary accommodation is proving very impressive.</li> <li>• Hub SW and Kier have training courses for local businesses rolling out in September.</li> <li>• High level lighting to be installed on to pavilion, although car park is not lit at all. Potholes have been reported and will be fixed.</li> <li>• Scottish Power worked to resolve the problem that caused the floodlights to fail on 25<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>• School had to be evacuated due to water coming in from the smoke alarm on 25<sup>th</sup> November. There was then a second evacuation straight after as a student in S4 activated the alarm whilst returning to class. The student responsible was identified and spoken to by the fire master and Campus PC. The investigation into the recent incident with a</li> </ul>	

<p>Bunsen burner highlighted a partial failure of the Risk Assessment. Fire warden and fire extinguisher training has been refreshed and the Bunsen burners are now back in operation.</p>	
<p>6. <b><u>General Tracking &amp; Broad Education for Learners – Neil McLean</u></b>  Neil provided an overview of tracking and monitoring progression at Marr College.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking is required for S4, 5 and 6 to ensure they are on target to achieve their qualifications. However, tracking is also required for years 1-3 to make sure they are getting the education they need for the transition into senior phase.</li> <li>• Curricular frameworks – tracking experiences and outcomes proved difficult. Education Scotland introduced the 'significant aspects of learning' to provide further depth for the curricular framework and a basis from which they can track. Staff have to look at how best they can organise learning based on the principles of each individual subject.</li> <li>• Learning conversations i.e. regular dialogue with young people about where they are with their learning should be delivered by the class teacher and tutors during tutor time. Guidance team also have an overview. Part of the learning conversation involves setting of targets. Introducing personal learning planner which will have targets and goals and will be made available to the tutors and guidance team.</li> <li>• In order to know whether someone is developing, consolidating or secure there have to be assessments so that teachers can plot progress. All these factors provide information for student profiles. Profile is written by the students detailing what they have learned. This can be issued at parents evening. This helps students when they progress to senior phase particularly when completing UCAS forms or university applications etc. Current 3<sup>rd</sup> years will produce a profile which will be in place before they take their options and this will become mandatory in future.</li> <li>• Reporting – teachers are asked to record the level and the stage within the level (developing, consolidating or secure). There have been conflicting views about this format. Neil explained the meanings behind each stage. Agrees progress has been made in getting this embedded and allows teachers to see where people were in P7 and how they have progressed.</li> <li>• Neil is considering putting together a leaflet and breakdown of the levels for each subject which could be inserted into the home planner. This could allow a learning conversation to take place at home.</li> <li>• Neil asked whether any parents would be interested in joining a working group in school in order to get parents' views and help steer the direction.</li> </ul>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>7. <b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S2 parents' evening will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> January from 4.00-6.30 pm. Neil asked whether anyone would be interested in having a Parent Council stall serving tea/coffee and interacting with other parents. Duncan suggested putting a note out to all Parent Council members. Due to the fact that the games halls will be set up for prelims, the English and modern languages departments will be used. Hope to go back to using the games halls for the S4/5/6 parents' evenings in February.</li> <li>• Duncan raised an issue from a parent regarding sports trophies which were taken from the children in June to get engraved but have not yet been returned. This will be raised with Rae Anderson.</li> <li>• Timothy advised about problems finding a venue to hold a school production. Having spoken to the Gaiety he discovered that some schools have been putting on shows and making quite a lot of money out of it, although the production has to be done to a good standard to attract a wider audience. The Gaiety has been approved to manage a number of venues around South Ayrshire including Troon town hall. Consideration should be given to this as it will involve a great deal of parental help.</li> <li>• Timothy raised the issue of putting money on Young Scot cards to pay for lunches and asked about the possibility of introducing a better system so that parents could add credit to cards on line.</li> </ul>	<p>HR  RA  ALL</p>
<p>8. <b><u>Next Meeting</u></b>  The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 at 7.30 pm.</p>	