

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Forum Meeting



Wednesday 6th December 2017

Present – Hilary Ramage - Chair/Secretary, Timothy Wight - Vice Chair, Kate Dunn - Treasurer, Graeme Hobson - Acting Head Teacher, Fiona Young - Acting DHT, Kirsty Walker - Music Teacher, Marianne Gunne - English & Drama Teacher and Katherine Woodhouse - Minute Secretary

Council Members – Ady Allan, Alan Blackwood, Kate Dunn, Katie Atkinson, Kaye Matthews, Lindsay Campbell,

Forum Members – Lindsey Connell & Ross Connell

Apologies – Angela Malcolm, Clair Milne, Duncan Beckwith, Jackie Harvey, Julie Cotter, Mark Fitzpatrick and Rae Anderson

	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 of 4th October 2017 had not been approved at the last meeting due to time constraints. These were approved by Alan Blackwood and seconded by Katie Atkinson.</p> <p>The minutes of the AGM held on 8th November were approved by Kate Dunn and seconded by Timothy Wight.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November were approved by Ady Allan and seconded by Alan Blackwood and the action plan reviewed as follows:</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback regarding lighting of outside signage – Graeme will chase this up with Rae Anderson. • Research into MCR Pathways – Hilary will forward the link to Graeme to allow him to look into this in Elaine’s absence. • Hilary has been in touch with Carol Pritchard regarding funding – the cut off date was end November, however there is another window in February and again in March. She suggested meeting up mid January to get a couple of teams together to do proposals. • Hilary had tweeted the Dyslexia link following last month’s presentation. • Head Teacher’s report had been provided in advance of meeting. 	<p style="text-align: center;">GH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HR/GH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HR/GH</p>
<p>3. <u>Captains’ Report</u> Gigha, Reece, Marcia and Meghan introduced themselves and provided an update to the meeting:</p> <p><u>Fundraising</u> Children in Need day proved successful, particularly the dodgeball tournament and the teachers’ bake off, raising £150. Christmas fundraising will include a candy cane sale (20p each) and Christmas jumper day (£1 per student). A non-uniform day is proposed for 2nd February which will raise funds for school. The possibility of introducing a colour run for sports day is also being considered. Fundraising proceeds will be split 50:50 between charity and school as there is more support from local businesses if the money raised is not entirely for the school.</p> <p>The Parent Council can help by spreading the word about upcoming events and the Captains agreed to produce a list so that the Parent Council know what to work</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Capts.</p>

towards.	
<p>4. <u>School Show – Kirsty Walker & Marianne Gunn</u></p> <p>The school show next year will be 'We Will Rock You' and will take place over 3 nights on 6th-8th June. Approximately 50 students auditioned and recall auditions took place for 17. All those who auditioned were given a part and the show is fully cast apart from one male lead. Kirsty and Marianne would like to know of any male singers in the 16-18 year old age group who may be interested, otherwise this part will have to be cast as female.</p> <p>The following support was requested from the Parent Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuck shop – Hilary asked whether the HE department would provide home baking for sale and the school would organise teas and coffees, with the Parent Council looking after the tuck shop. • Front of house presence to direct people who do not know the school. • Fundraising – bag packing at Morrisons with the cast in costume – Hilary agreed to pass on the name of the Community Champion at Morrisons to Graeme so that the school can make contact to organise a date. • Raffle prizes from local businesses – Parent Council could facilitate some prizes but it would be worth speaking to Stuart McNeill as he has links with the community. • Programme – Kate agreed to look into having a glossy programme produced, perhaps using the Copy Stop in Troon as they have children at the school. • Radio mikes – these are expensive to buy (£350 each) but would be a good investment for the school. Alternatively, Tim is Technical Advisor to Centrestage and agreed to ask them whether they would rent out their radio mikes. <p>The show is not about making a profit but simply just to sustain Marr Musical Theatre for future years.</p> <p>Problems with the auditorium were raised as these will need to be addressed prior to the show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acoustics are a concern; • Health & safety issues regarding the curtain over the balcony – balcony cannot be used as the balustrade is too low; • Temperature - Tim commented that it was very hot during the recent official opening and he questioned the ventilation and whether the new lighting used LED bulbs. If not Tim suggested seeking the help of local businesses to make it a project to replace any old style lighting with LED bulbs which would make the temperature more comfortable for the audience. <p>Tim agreed to have a look round the auditorium and work with the school on possible solutions to the above issues, perhaps utilising the support of local businesses.</p>	<p>KW/MG</p> <p>HR</p> <p>KD</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>
<p>5. <u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>Graeme had provided a written report for the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new acting PTs have been appointed – Fiona Young (Student Support) and Fiona McHugh (Maths). • Graeme will send out a Christmas newsletter as there is a lot happening in school and a lot to celebrate. This will also include the issue of parents dropping children off in parking bays rather than in the car park. • Graeme advised that the school website has changed and has been re-developed so parents should see an improvement. 	
<p>6. <u>Communications – Lindsay Campbell</u></p> <p>Lindsay advised that South Ayrshire Council have launched a pilot scheme in a few schools to assess the success of a school app called Expressions. Troon Primary is currently piloting it. Graeme advised that Muirhead Primary had tried their own version of the app and the feedback was that people did use it. The advantages of the app over the website are that it would be more user friendly and would send push notifications to users. Graeme will speak to SAC to find out more about this.</p> <p>Lindsay felt that the Twitter account had been quite successful, however it is difficult</p>	<p>GH</p>

<p>to gauge how many parents are followers. She asked whether there would be an appetite for a Facebook page which could be set up on an information only basis or as a closed group. There are also ways of hiding comments but it would require more than two people to administrate it, however it may reach more parents than the Twitter account. Fiona advised there are a lot of good articles on education which could be shared on the Facebook page. Hilary agreed that the Parent Council should give it a try. Graeme highlighted that there are protocols in place about staff using Facebook and he would advise them not to. It was decided that Hilary, Lindsay and Katherine would act as administrators in the first instance.</p>	<p>HR</p>
<p>7. <u>Upcoming Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Christmas fayre and concert</i> – 19th December – Hilary has met with the leadership group to see how the Parent Council can help at this event. They would like support to get stall holders in so if anyone knows of anyone who would be interested in taking a stall they should contact the leadership group directly by e-mail. Jackie Harvey has already acquired 5 prizes for their raffle. They are hoping that the Parent Council could run a tuck shop and help with taking tickets at the door. The concert will be from 7-8pm and the fayre from 8-9pm. Katie, Tim and Kaye offered to help. Graeme advised that the proceeds would be split between 2 charities – ‘Sign and be heard’ and Guide dogs for the blind. It was agreed that the Parent Council would donate any profits made from the tuck shop to the charities. • <i>Respect for Learning</i> – Laura Cleland would like to increase Marr’s status to level 2 of Rights Respecting Schools. There are not many secondary schools that achieve silver or gold status as there is quite a lot of work involved but it is very worthwhile. In order to do this there needs to be a consultation with the Parent Council so Laura is looking for a couple of parents who would be able to work with them and give their opinion or find out other parents’ views. Might just involve regular e-mail contact or coming into the school occasionally. Katie and Kate volunteered to help and Hilary agreed to help out. She will also send out an e-mail to the wider parent body. • <i>Careers Evening</i> – 7th February 2018 6-9pm: Hilary has started the process in consultation with Stuart McNeill and Jackie has offered her support. Looking for parent volunteers to come in and talk about their careers or give presentations, etc. Hilary is phoning round universities and colleges asking them to attend. As with last year there would be a separate area where teachers would be available to talk about subjects. Feedback from last year was that a map would be useful and having drop in sessions rather than an appointment system would work better. Hilary will issue an e-mail regarding this. 	<p>KA/TW/KM</p> <p>KA/KD</p> <p>HR</p> <p>HR</p>
<p>8. <u>Scottish Government Consultation</u></p> <p>Alan had reviewed a copy of the full document and his overview was that it was a complex document that lacked clarity. The plan is to replace the local council with a regional collaboration for South West Scotland which would be led by Douglas Hutchison. Their job would be to support schools far more than the Local Education Authority, but they would not deal with complaints about schools. He questioned what support the government is planning to give as it appears that SAC would still have absolute control of what the school is doing. As part of this a revision of the Parent Council Act is also planned. Graeme agreed that the document is far too detailed and complex, however he felt it would be better if the Parent Council asked questions directly. He advised that there is a Head Teachers group who have put forward draft answers to some of the potential questions which he agreed to forward on to Alan. There is also a link on the SPTC website on this topic which Hilary will forward to Alan. She will also request input from a contact she has in East Renfrewshire. It was decided that Alan and Tim would take the lead on this and Hilary will ask if anyone else in the Parent Council wants to get involved.</p>	<p>GH</p> <p>HR</p> <p>AB/TW/HR</p>
<p>9. <u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilary asked if anyone was willing to take on the role of Secretary. Katie has agreed to do the booking of lets and Graeme will review the dates for next year’s meetings so that this can be done in advance. Ady will organise tea/coffee for meetings. 	<p>ALL</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graeme agreed to issue the Head Teacher's report the week prior to meetings so that everyone has a chance to review the information in advance. • Tim asked whether there were many amateur bands in the school and, if so, a future fundraiser could be the 'battle of the bands'. This could tie in well with the school show. Tim will speak to Miss Walker about this and ask the captains at the next meeting. This may also be something that Live@Troon would be interested in getting involved with. 	<p style="text-align: center;">GH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TW</p>
<p>10. Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th January at 7.00 pm. Proposed items for the agenda are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captains report • Malawi update – Stuart Harris • Communications update – Lindsay Campbell • RRS Update • Careers Evening & School Show 	