

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 9th January 2019



Present: Hilary Ramage – Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Lindsay Campbell – Secretary, Kate Dunn – Treasurer & Katherine Woodhouse – Minute Secretary

Council Members: Ady Allan, Alan Blackwood, Clair Milne, Julie Cotter, Mark Fitzpatrick, Katie Atkinson, Lindsey Connell & Cllr Peter Convery

Forum Members: Joy Paul & Laura McGarrity

Apologies: Cllr Bob Pollock

	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>Captains Report</u> Charlie and Caitlin provided an overview of their recent activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Christmas dances were a huge success and their smooth running was aided by student and parent volunteers. Marr Radio provided festive music for the Christmas lunch and a Christmas jumper day was held the same day. A rewards day was held prior to Christmas in recognition of those pupils who had completed the 8 week challenge of positive behaviour and ethos where there was a choice of various different activities to take part in. The Christmas concert was held in the assembly hall on 19th December with lots of help from S6 students. Some local businesses had stalls at the event as well as the Young Enterprise and YPI groups. There was a variety of musical performances from students. Prelim exams are well underway and Mr Docherty has put together a study area between the 2 learning plazas so that students have a quiet space to study. Supported study has started at lunchtimes and after school. 	
<p>3. <u>Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2018 were approved by Ady Allan and seconded by Alan Blackwood and the outstanding actions reviewed as follows:</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> George had checked the calendar on the school website for errors and only found one which was the date of the Christmas concert. Lindsay has not yet heard from Neil McLean with regard to the Expressions app. George advised that another 20 parents had taken up Groupcall and the S1 parents' night on Monday should help to boost numbers as flyers will be given out. Some S3 prefects attended the S2 parents' night to try to demonstrate to parents how Groupcall works. George will check if it is working properly as some parents highlighted they are not able to open attachments – he will check to see whether it is the format of the attachments that is the problem. George advised that Prestwick Academy is also interested in the Show my Homework app and would like to have a joint meeting with the company once someone gets back to him to arrange. If the school was to move forward with this project it would be launched on a phased basis to ensure it is done correctly. Supported learning for students residing in Dundonald will start in February/March along with the rest of the supported study timetable. 	<p>NMCL</p> <p>GD</p> <p>GD</p>

<p>4. <u>Careers Evening – 6th February</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan advised that he had contacted 9 organisations and only 2 have not responded – NATS (there is a process to follow which is linked into the Chamber of Commerce; Hilary sent an e-mail outlining this process to Alan and Stuart McNeill) and Spirit Aero Systems (they sent 2 representatives last year so Alan hopeful they will do the same this year). Aidan McIntyre from GE Caledonian has agreed to undertake a talk in the assembly hall. • Laura advised she has a contact in medicine who would be happy to talk to people as well as a nurse and 2 pharmacists. • Two representatives from GSK have been confirmed (Roddy Campbell and Isla Cummins) to talk about their apprenticeship scheme. • Hilary has contacted Troon Business Association and is still waiting for a response from local businesses. • Representatives from several universities will be attending – Edinburgh, Glasgow, UWS, Strathclyde and Stirling. Still need to follow up with SRUC, Dundee and Napier. Stuart McNeill usually contacts Ayrshire College. The universities have asked how many students are expected to attend so that they know how many prospectuses to bring. • Johnson Carmichael accountancy firm will be attending again (former pupil) and they also run an apprenticeship scheme. • Lindsay and Joy will come along to talk about physiotherapy and radiography respectively. • Hilary and Lindsay will check the availability of 2 dentistry contacts and also Angela Malcolm regarding primary teaching. • Joy will check with her husband who works for Network Rail to see whether he is available. • George advised that the S6 Leadership group are going to be helping with promoting this event. • Some parents volunteered to help on the night with setting up and co-ordinating the event as well as directing people. • Mark recommended organising how much space is required for each organisation as some come with large display boards whereas others only require a table. The janitors need to know in advance how to plan the space accordingly. • Hilary asked if anyone has any more contacts to please pass them on. She will issue an e-mail nearer the time to everyone who is attending. 	<p>HR</p> <p>HR/LC</p> <p>JP</p> <p>HR</p>
<p>5. <u>Communication Group Update – Katie Atkinson</u></p> <p>The Communication Group met prior to the meeting and George issued the communication plan he has been working on. Various aspects of communication were discussed including the complaints procedure in the school if a parent complains as well as internal methods of communication. They also reviewed the wording of texts that are sent out to parents for absence, sickness etc. to make sure it is acceptable. Hilary will be working with a few people to look at how parents communicate with the school and will create a flow chart depicting the results.</p>	<p>HR</p>
<p>6. <u>Treasurer’s Update – Kate Dunn</u></p> <p>Kate confirmed that everything is in hand and a meeting has been arranged with the bank to get the new account up and running. She will provide a further update at the next meeting.</p>	<p>KD</p>
<p>7. <u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George had a phone call before Christmas to ask if Marr would host a delegation from France on 21st January to look at education systems, to which he agreed and is working on a plan for the visit. • The 100 year anniversary of C K Marr’s death is on 15th February and George advised there will be a special assembly with invited guests including members of the parent body. • Cllr Convery was at Troon Community Council meeting last night where 2 officers came to talk about the methodology surrounding the new cycling and walking plans. The issue of the gate between the school and the golf course surfaced again. The current plans are for a fence to get to the bottom of the golf course. Cllr Convery 	<p>GD</p>

<p>suggested they should re-consider this. George confirmed he had also spoken to them and advised that the gate will not be getting opened. They agreed to look at other alternatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Convery attended the Christmas concert and took the opportunity to congratulate the school on its success – it was very well attended, ran very smoothly and the music was excellent. • Katie raised the issue of the last day of each term and how to improve attendance from students. George advised that prior to Christmas he had put on an event after lunch to try and keep attendance up and when he was going round classrooms in the morning he did not see many films being shown; several classes were putting on activities instead. In future he will perhaps try to use some of the Marr Trust fund to offer a panto trip for S1s in December. Ady asked if the importance of attendance can be emphasised and reinforced prior to the end of any term and whether attendance could be linked to house points. • George is planning to organise a trip away for S6 students to prevent the usual last day of school ‘pranks’ on Thursday 18th April. He also plans to organise some kind of celebration event e.g. a barbecue off campus. • Kate advised that Thomas Cook in Troon will give parents a preferential rate on foreign currency if their child is going on a school trip but they need to know in advance from the school so it can be organised. 	<p>GD</p> <p>GD</p>
<p>8. <u>Next Month’s Agenda Items</u> The only specific item for discussion at next month’s meeting was BGE Reporting.</p>	
<p>9. <u>Next Meeting</u> The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7pm. Dates for the following meetings were confirmed as 27th March, 8th May and 12th June.</p>	