

# Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Forum Meeting



## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

**Present** – Hilary Ramage - Chair/Secretary, Timothy Wight - Vice Chair, Kate Dunn – Treasurer, Elaine McGregor-Sloman - Head Teacher, Graeme Hobson - Depute Head Teacher & Katherine Woodhouse - Minute Secretary

**Council Members** – Ady Allan, Alan Blackwood, Clair Milne, Julie Cotter, Katie Atkinson, Lindsay Campbell, Mark Fitzpatrick, Kaye Matthews & Cllr Craig Mackay

**Apologies** – Angela Malcolm, Duncan Beckwith, Karen Dunlop, Lisa Rossi, Donna Read & Cllr Bob Pollock

	<b>Action</b>
<p>1. <b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b> Hilary welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted from those unable to attend.</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Captains' Report</u></b> Fraser McArthur, vice-captain, provided an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S6 Leadership group recently hosted the P7 Rotary quiz which was won by Troon Primary. They will now go on to compete in a quiz in Glasgow.</li> <li>• The Leadership group has also started an S1 PSE unit at which they discuss alcohol and drugs awareness.</li> <li>• Sports Relief is on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and this will be a non-uniform day. Various activities are planned throughout the day including an S6 vs teachers football match and a bake sale.</li> <li>• Marr radio is beginning to be launched with the help of a £1k grant from the Troon Participatory budget for equipment. On Friday lunchtime a request show will be broadcast via a speaker in the canteen.</li> </ul>	
<p>3. <b><u>Malawi Update – Stuart Harris</u></b> Stuart introduced 4 students from S5 who form part of the Malawi group. They gave a presentation on the project explaining how they got involved and what they are hoping to achieve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended Malawi Partnership youth day at Hampden recently at which there were workshops about how to get involved, language, etc, plus an opportunity to meet other schools that have been to Malawi and the impact their involvement has made.</li> <li>• Marr's partner school is in Ntenjera and there has been a lot of communication with them over WhatsApp. The school has many more pupils than Marr yet far fewer classrooms.</li> <li>• The Malawi link will benefit Marr through increased engagement with the local community, including primary schools and churches, through fundraising activities. Some of the fundraising ideas include 'walk to Malawi' and energy saving days.</li> <li>• The Parent Council can help through their links with the community and networking, e.g. using contacts at Prestwick airport who may be able to offer assistance with transporting items to Malawi. Any help with fundraising ideas would also be welcomed.</li> </ul>	ALL
<p>4. <b><u>Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising</u></b> The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were approved by Julie Cotter and seconded by Alan Blackwood and the action plan reviewed as follows:</p> <p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radio mikes – Tim has put a request in writing to Centrestage but has not yet received a reply. HR asked him to send any updates to Marianne.</li> <li>• LED lights for music stands – Tim has identified some at £10 each and it was agreed to buy one on a trial basis initially.</li> </ul>	TW  TW

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage walls – Tim advised that it had been requested to paint the stage walls black to reduce the amount of light spilling onto the stage. Elaine asked him to e-mail the request to her and she will look into the feasibility of it before anything is done.</li> <li>• Staging – Tim had a meeting with Alan Walker, one of the janitors, who was going to supply some of his own equipment from his lighting company for the show, however is now unwilling to do so following some recent vandalism to the stage. In addition, none of the janitors have the required Working at Height training to be able to install the lighting in the auditorium. Elaine will look into this also.</li> <li>• Stage masking – there is currently black cloth on the stage with wings at each side but there is not enough so it would be great if another set could be purchased. Hilary felt that funds from the bag packing may be able to be used for this. Alternatively, to cut down on cost, black material could be sourced and made to measure by any parents with sewing skills.</li> <li>• Programmes – Kate advised that these are all in hand and she will provide any updates at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Communications app - Graeme advised that he had spoken to a member of the office staff at Troon Primary as they are piloting a scheme called Groupcall. It uses the school's database of mobile numbers and e-mail addresses, therefore it relies on having accurate information and on parents being willing to share e-mail addresses. Texts work out cheaper than the current text system and there is a larger character limit. It can also send a text to the second contact on the database. Only the oldest child at the school would get the messages, preventing duplication. There is also an app called Expressions which can send alerts about school closures, reminders about trips, etc. This could also be used for an appointment system for parents' evenings. Absence messages would go out through this system and it provides an opportunity for parents to reply. The feedback was positive in that it saves the school the time and expense of photocopying, ensures parents get messages and reduces the number of phone calls from parents. Graeme would like to trial the system and is looking to implement it at Easter. There is an annual cost for the service plus the cost of texts.</li> </ul>	<p>EMS</p> <p>EMS</p> <p>HR</p> <p>KD</p> <p>GH</p>
<p>5. <b><u>SAC Proposed Budget Cuts – Timothy Wight</u></b>  Tim attended a follow up meeting with the Council to discuss the proposed budget cuts. Due to an injection of funds from central government the cuts they are now looking to make have been significantly reduced to £360,000. They are looking at various ways of addressing this shortfall, one of which being that there will be a charge imposed for music tuition i.e. for those children who currently receive free instrumental lessons through school, not for those who choose music as a subject. Douglas Hutchison advised that it would require £40k to cover the loss of the music budget. However children from deprived areas will not have to pay for music tuition. He also confirmed that the libraries would not be affected by the cuts.</p>	
<p>6. <b><u>Summer Fundraising Event</u></b>  Following discussions about inviting former pupils back to see the new school and tying this into a fundraising event, Elaine felt that this was something that should definitely go ahead as there was a feeling in the community that the school opening was going to be on a greater scale. Hilary suggested a day time event at the weekend, possibly in June, which would include a tour and cream tea with stalls etc. It should be a ticketed event with timed slots for tours to prevent people wandering around the school. Hilary will issue an email asking for volunteers to get involved and suggested having a focus group of 3-4 people plus someone from the school to discuss it further. It was decided to meet on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 1.30 pm.  Elaine would also like a virtual tour of the school that can perhaps be put on the website. Mark advised that he may have a contact that would be able to do this and will e-mail Elaine.</p>	<p>HR</p> <p>MF</p>
<p>7. <b><u>Uniform</u></b>  Hilary reported that Angela has approached Mark at Ayrshire Schoolwear to find out what dates suit him to hold a uniform pop-up shop. This is looking like being w/c 23rd April. Mark has also asked whether he could supply the PE tops. Hilary will speak to Craig McPike about this.</p>	<p>HR</p>

