

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 30th May 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, Duncan Beckwith, Julie Cotter, Katie Atkinson, Lindsey Connell, Mark Fitzpatrick & Kaye Matthews

Apologies – Clair Milne, Jackie Harvey, Lindsay Campbell, Lisa Rossi, Timothy Wight, Cllr Bob Pollock & 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 25th April 2018 were approved by Kate Dunn and seconded by Angela Malcolm and the action plan reviewed as follows:</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi – Alan had been in touch with Stuart Harris who agreed to e-mail details of the type and anticipated volume of items to be sent to Malawi. • Kate is arranging to have a presentation of the sponsorship cheque from Stewart Milne and has invited their representative to the school show. • Lighting for show – Elaine is hoping to persuade Alan Walker to allow the school to borrow his equipment, however if this is not possible Marianne has confirmed they will manage without it. • PE t-shirts will be provided by PSL Team Sports on line. This can be re-visited with Ayrshire Schoolwear for next year. • Kate is looking into changing the bank account so that it can be accessed on-line or via an app. It may be easier to simply set up a new account and transfer the money across rather than change the existing account. • Nan McFarlane has been in touch with Hilary and visited the school with regard to providing some history of the school at the open day on 16th June. • Ady advised that despite putting requests into Going Out, Ayrshire Post and on Facebook, no other memorabilia has yet been handed in. If nothing else is received it is not worth doing as the only items are currently hockey photos. There may be old photos in the archives or it may be worth checking the Facebook page 'Marr College – new school on old surroundings' where some old photos have been posted. Katie advised that an ex teacher, Alan Brown, confirmed he had some items. Ady advised that she had been in touch with the brass teacher, Sandy McAughtrie, who remembers the school song and is going to look into whether it can be recorded to play at the open day. • Elaine has advised that the process of making ballots for school trips fairer is in hand. 	<p>SH</p> <p>KD</p> <p>AA</p>
<p>3. <u>Update on SIP – Alan Blackwood</u> Alan met with Elaine on 24th April to go through the draft SIP. The first part of the meeting was spent dealing with some of the ongoing issues faced by the SMT, one of which was the fact that some of the feeder primaries are failing to meet the standards required by Marr. To address this, members of the SMT went round the primary schools to discuss this and the reaction was very positive. Numeracy in particular is an issue across South Ayrshire and possibly nationally and Elaine advised that the schools will continue to work together to improve on both literacy and numeracy. A discreet literacy and numeracy session has been introduced in S1 and S2 to identify those who may need to catch up.</p>	

<p>Alan outlined that the SIP covers 2 years and this is the 2nd year of the plan. There is a second part that is being developed for 2018-20 entitled "Spotlight on Success" and this will provide the new Head Teacher with something to work on. It was the preliminary copy that was discussed at the meeting and yesterday Elaine took all the staff through it so that by 1st June they will get the first draft of departmental plans in place. It was also Elaine's intention to provide the preliminary version of the report to each of the interviewees to give them an overview of the school's plans.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Summer Fundraising Event</u> Hilary updated the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 299 slots have been sold on the tours so far and there are 61 spaces available, mostly at 10 am and 3 pm. There is capacity to add extra tours if required as there may be a number of people still interested. • Rae Anderson is organising the tours and will ensure there are a couple of different routes. Hilary suggested having a meeting to discuss this prior to the event. Elaine confirmed that there are students available but she cannot advise on seniors until they return to school next week. She is more concerned about the availability of staff and will continue to appeal for volunteers. The children do not need an adult to accompany them as long as staff are strategically placed. • Round Table have confirmed their availability to help for 2 hours. • Clair Milne has been doing a great job with securing stalls for the day and baking from local hotels. • Elaine confirmed there will be a photographer coming in to shoot a virtual tour of the school on the day. 	HR/RA
<p>5. <u>School Show</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark had a meeting with Kirsty Walker with regard to stage painting. At the moment it is not clear whether painting the stage black would be allowed, however it would also require scaffolding to be erected to access the sides of the stage therefore is more of a professional job. Elaine advised that the council would do it but their fees are extortionate. It was decided to wait and see how the show went before deciding if it is necessary to paint at all. • Hilary has now got the dimensions for the curtains, however the school show will go ahead as it is now. 	
<p>6. <u>Plans for Next Year</u> Meeting dates were agreed for session 2018/19 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th September 2018 (introduction to new Head Teacher) • 3rd October 2018 (Results & feedback from SIP visit scheduled for 27th September) • 7th November 2018 (AGM and election of new office bearers) • 5th December 2018 • 6th February 2019 • 6th March 2019 • 27th March 2019 • 8th May 2019 • 5th June 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaine felt it would be better to have a sub-group of parents to deal with items such as the school show and careers evening so that they can just feedback to the main meeting. • Mark raised the issue of the study skills evenings where parents felt these should be held earlier in the year. Alan felt they should be closely followed by the careers evening and this should be before the prelims. He also felt that the careers evening should be led by the Parent Council with the assistance of the teachers and he would be happy to start the process. He felt it was left too late to organise this year due to circumstances. Elaine suggested that a couple of people meet with the new Head Teacher to decide how they wish to proceed with this. • It was agreed that more discussions on curricular areas would be beneficial. Elaine asked for consideration to be given as to exactly what aspects of the curriculum/departments would be of interest. There should also be time made available for SQA updates early on in the school year. 	HR ALL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alan felt it might be useful to identify a number of items to be discussed at each meeting to present to the new Head Teacher so that they can select those items they wish to have on the agenda. As items had already been allocated to the first few meetings Hilary thought it may be an idea to ask the newly appointed Head Teacher if they wanted to meet with the Parent Council to discuss this before the end of term. 	HR
<p>7. AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lower school will get their new timetables on Friday with S5/6 getting theirs on Monday morning. S6 will be having their induction at the Walker Hall on Monday morning. Litter – Elaine advised that they are looking into zoning the school. She noted that there has been an improvement and has hardly been any litter from S1-3 whilst the seniors were on study leave. Mark suggested a plastic bottle recycling unit be set up at the sports pitches. The school also has a crushing machine which will be re-introduced as soon as the Design Awards are complete. Elaine advised that Mr Stewart from Marr Trust has been in touch to advise they have sold off the Snake Charmer painting and the Peter Pan bronze to raise monies that will provide bursaries to help support S6 students who move onto higher education. They will be presenting a print of the Snake Charmer to the school on 26th June. He also advised that the Alex Walker charity (sub group responsible for providing bursaries) will now be able to give £150 to those students living in Dundonald, whereas previously it was only £50. This being Elaine’s last meeting in her post as Head Teacher, Hilary presented her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Parent Council. Elaine said it had been a privilege to be Head Teacher at Marr College; the school is in a great place and she is leaving with a slightly heavy heart, however feels she has done what she can to help the school move forward. This has been achieved with the help of fantastic students, parents and staff who should all be very proud of their school. 	
<p>8. Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th September 2018 at 7pm.</p>	