

Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

Diciadain 20 Màirt 2024

19:00

Air-loidhne

Geàrr-Chunntas / Minutes

An làthair / Present

Helen MacKinnon (Chair)
Gill Steele (Secretary)
Athene Richford (Glasgow)
Dan Mahon (East Ayrshire)
Claire Samson (East Ayrshire)
Sarah Thomas (Strling)
Magaidh Wentworth (Comnnn nam Pàrant)
Innes MacQueen
Kirsteen Murray

1. Leisgeulan

Apologies

Ali Craig
Fiona Stephen

2. Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh 26 November 2023

Minute of Meeting 26 November 2023

Proposed – Sarah Thomas
Secunder – Athene Richford

3. Gnothaichean ag èiridh nach eil air a' Chlàr-chùisean

Matters Arising not on Agenda

No matters arising.

4. Fios as ùr bho Chomann nam Pàrant (chithear aithisg)

Update from Comann nam Pàrant (see report)

Languages bill will be being discussed by committee in May. It is hoped that Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta will be invited to give evidence.

The proposed reconfiguration in North Lanarkshire which would include a standalone Gaelic school has been recommended not to go ahead. Discussion surrounding this and the disappointment considering the number of pupils enrolled in Gaelic Medium Education within North Lanarkshire. Clarity required about a next step/plan B for GME within North Lanarkshire. We will support and encourage parents to we write to all councillors before it

goes committee in May. However, parents are deflated after this recommendation and have consultation fatigue.

Discussion surrounding early years and should the Thig a Chluich model be extended to the Uist and Barra, and into Skye. Thig a Chluich has been greatly received in Lewis & Harris. Inconsistency exists regarding the provision of early years. Comann nam Pàrant to receive the report from Bòrd na Gàidhlig soon produced by Wilson MacLeod to which Comann nam Pàrant had some input. The early years Gaelic sector is under-funded.

Magaidh met with Anne Thirkill to gain clarity on the language assistant's course currently delivered by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Six students have started on the course now this year. 3 PSAs and 3 EYP from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Highland council area. CnP (N) had questioned why this is restricted to only Highland and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and have been advised that the restriction is due to staffing and funding. The course leader is required to visit the students in their workplace which takes time and has cost implications. Magaidh has requested that the Language Assistant's group that was established previously with Bòrd na Gàidhlig be reinstated.

5. Fios as ùr bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig

Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Report provided beforehand.

Discussion also regarding high school provision for areas surrounding Glasgow. Comann nam Pàrant previously asked Bòrd na Gàidhlig for funding to carry out a study regarding this but this is no further forward. We have asked Bòrd na Gàidhlig again to try and move this forward. There is uncertainty in areas such as Paisley and North Ayrshire which makes it difficult for parents when planning for secondary school and difficult to attract new families to GME when there is still uncertainty with where the secondary provision will be.

6. Co-thaghadh de bhall ùr

Co-option of new member

Pam Jardine as ASN representative – all in agreement

7. Fios as ùr bho na sgìrean ionadail

Update from the local areas

North Ayrshire

1 teaching vacancy has been filled however there is another post still vacant. Discussion as to what else can be done to promote this job. BnaG share teaching vacancies on their social media. Sradagan is now well established, only once a month at the moment but uptake has been very good with 25-30 pupils from P1 – 7. Bookbug sessions have been very well attended recently with session fully booked. Many of the parents attending are new parents to GME.

Edinburgh

CnP group hasn't met over the last few months however the group continue to liaise online. There was an issue with East & West Lothian, where families were refused a place at Taobh na Pairce but now council have rectified this saying that it was an error. However, this

caused upset and concern for parents affected. The committee always had concerns regarding arrangement between the council areas. The addition of the Darroch Campus has provided increased capacity at the moment which helps with the pressure of James Gillespie's for the increased number of GME pupils.

There were events in Edinburgh during Seachdain na Gàidhlig in partnership with other Gaelic groups within the city.

Glasgow

The over subscription continues for those trying to enrol in P1 GME in Glasgow. 168 applied for 150 spaces for August 2024. There continues to be difficulty recruiting headteachers to the primary schools within Glasgow.

The plans for the campus at Berkely street to move primary & nursery out of the building has been pushed back. It is due to be done by 2028 or at latest 2029. The removal of music tuition at primary and secondary level has been a major concern to GME families. The arrangement with music tutors in Glasgow meant GME is being seen as an exception and that cannot be allowed as there needs to be equality across the school estate. This an ongoing issue and quite contentious as there are no alternatives being offered. There are serious concerns regarding Glasgow City Council planning to cut 350 teaching jobs meaning senior management may need to take on teaching time.

Aberfeldy

Currently down to 1 teacher teaching as a P1-7. Teacher due to go off on Maternity leave. A parent in the area is currently doing probation as GME teacher in Goodlyburn. Karen MacKay is new Comann nam Pàrant chair and fitting into the role well. Secondary teacher has started up a shinty club which is very welcomed.

Stirling

The group received £6000 grant from BnaG, for 2 years' worth of out-of-school Gaelic activities. Within Riverside there is one teaching staff off long-term putting pressure on the teaching provision at the school.

8. GISBE/AOCB

9. Ceann-là airson an ath-choinneamh

Date for the next meeting

Next meeting to be AGM. Innes will distribute Doodlepoll.