

Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

Disathairne 25 Samhainn 2023

10:30m

Taigh-Osta Maldron, Glaschu



An làthair:

Helen MacKinnon (Cathraiche)
Fiona Stephen (Iar-Chathraiche)
Gill Steele (Rùnaire)
Sarah Thomas
Kirsteen Murray (Comann nam Pàrant)
Zoey MacLeod (Bòrd na Gàidhlig)
Magaidh Wentworth (Comann nam Pàrant)
Innes MacQueen (Comann nam Pàrant)
Athene Richford
Karen MacKay

1. Leisgeulan /Apologies

Dan Mahon – East Ayrshire
Wilma Laird – Edinburgh

2. Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh 26 Sultain 2022

Minute of Meeting 26 September 2022

Proposed – Fiona Stephen

Seconded – Sarah E Thomas

3. Gnothaichean ag èiridh nach eil air a' Chlàr-chùisean Matters Arising not on Agenda

No matters arising that are not on agenda.

4. Fios as ùr bho Chomann nam Pàrant (chithear aithisg) Update from Comann nam Pàrant (see report)

A report was distributed beforehand.

Discussion regarding the Scottish Languages Bill that it will be going to parliament w/c 27/11/2023. There was a leak to BBC with information about contents of the bill and based on that information a Eorpa programme will be aired this week to discuss the bill. After the Bill is introduced to parliament it is still subject to change and we will be able engage with the process as it progresses from Stage 1. We should also encourage local groups to respond and to contact MSPs highlighting the importance of the bill and if any issues within the Bill why these should be resolved.

Magaidh gave a further update on East Dunbartonshire. CnP & BnaG have been meeting with the council to try and rectify the current sgoil-àraich provision which is not providing wraparound options for pupils in sgoil-àraich.

Innes reported on North Lanarkshire. There is a consultation currently live for the creation of a standalone Gaelic school in Cumbernauld. This would involve moving the GM pupils to a neighbouring English school (Baird Primary) and moving the English medium pupils out of that school to the school that currently hosts GME (Condorrat). Although the proposal has been welcomed by Gaelic Medium parents, there is a lot of opposition from EM parents in Baird Primary resulting in a negative attitude toward Gaelic and GME. Consultation events to take place w/c 27/11/2023. If agreed by council in May 2024 they expect the Gaelic school to commence August 2024.

Magaidh & Kirsteen have been meeting with Comhairle nan Eilean Sair to discuss provision within Stornoway. Childcare continues to be an issue with few options for parents. Over 20 parents of early years aged children signed a petition for a standalone Gaelic School within Stornoway and sent this to the council although the parents have never received a response. Overcrowding in the Nicholson still continues to be an issue.

The consultation on a new qualifications body and approaches to inspection currently open. [Education Reform: A Consultation on the provisions of the Education Bill - Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space](#)

Discussion surrounding no statutory obligation to provide pre-school still impacting certain GM communities. North Ayrshire still does not have Gaelic Medium Pre-school but a strong early years group and it is thought there is about a 50% drop-off between croileagan and those starting GME. As there is no dedicated GM provision many go to their local school for nursery and then enrol in that school. Some parents travel to East Ayrshire but this is a big commitment and there is no guarantee that parents will get a place.

5. Fios as ùr bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig (chithear aithisg) Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig (see report)

Zoey MacLeod, education manager, attended the meeting and highlighted some aspects of her report.

BnaG hope to share the report on Gaelic Early Years prepared by Wilson Macleod in early January.

A 2 day event for pupils from Plockton & Portree who were interested in a career in Gaelic Education was organised by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and had 12 places on it. It was very popular and very well received by the pupils who took part.

Sian Baldwin has been going to schools and different events promoting Gaelic teaching as a career. Discussion regarding the importance of including early-years as a career option also. The STEM bursary which now includes Gaelic includes a condition that they must have 2:1 Honours Degree to qualify. Although this means that not everyone is eligible it does seem common practice for other bursaries, scholarships etc.

There is uncertainty about the SVQ3 offered by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig which was created as part of CnP's wish for language assistants. Only available to CNES & Highland council with

low uptake. Also, uncertainty as to courses available if you wish to train as an early year's practitioner through the medium of Gaelic.
MW to contact SMO for clarification on course content and availability.

6. Taic do Chloinne le Feumalachdan Sònraichte ann am FMG Additional Support Needs (ASN) in GME

There is currently a parliamentary inquiry into Additional Support for Learning - [Additional Support for Learning \(ASL\) | Scottish Parliament Website](#) – although not particular to GME, it is relevant to GME. How is presumption of mainstream working in GME?

There is groups of parents in Glasgow & Edinburgh looking at ASN provision with GME so suggested it would be worth contacting them.

Discussion surrounding dyslexia in GME and that the testing comes much later for those in GME as they don't learn English until P3/4. There is no dyslexia testing done through the medium of Gaelic. This can sometimes be difficult for pupils to not get an explanation as to why they may be struggling in certain areas of learning. There is a need for more guidance for pupils with dyslexia in GME. Proof that pupils still perform very well in both English & Gaelic despite being dyslexic. Essential to ensure that the right support and resources are in place for GME pupils and the teachers have CPD opportunities. BnaG are in discussion with Dyslexia Scotland to create more resources & support.

7. Fios as ùr bho na sgìrean ionadail Update from the local areas

Edinburgh – Fiona Stephen

There is a pause in terms of Secondary Education Development. Currently there is no chairperson in the local CnP Committee however there is a very enthusiastic committee so hopeful to get a chairperson soon. Edinburgh City Council are reviewing the City Plan currently and CnP are unsure what they can currently do. There are concerns of lack of public money generally and rising costs. Concerns of large numbers starting secondary in the following years. However, Darroch Campus is easing the pressure of James Gillespie's.

Striling – Sarah Thomas

Numbers have fallen slightly with about 65 pupils in total in Riverside primary. With 3 Gaelic classes and 4 teachers. The school is reluctant to advertise with a cap of 75 pupils in the Gaelic Medium provision. Although it is welcomed that social studies are now delivered through the medium of Gaelic at Wallace High School in S1, it stops after S1. Gaelic also continues to be treated as an extra subject.

Glasgow – Athene Richford

Good working relationship with the council contact and the working group continues to be a good space to raise issues. The P1 cap is still in place and although being oversubscribed in applications the numbers starting P1 were less than the cap of 140 the last two years. The entry system for GME entry proves quite difficult to navigate so CnP Ghlaschu are going to seek to change that. The plans to move the primary school out of Berkely Street is no longer paused although still in preliminary stages.

There are 2 acting head teachers in the Gaelic school in Govan and Glendale but there will be an advertisement going out soon for an executive head teacher for the two schools. It is challenging to get supply teachers, not helped by the closing of the pool for supply teachers including GME teachers. There are examples of GM supply teachers being unable to join the list due to the applications being closed, and they have then gone to a neighbouring authority. This is particularly disappointing when English medium supply teachers are being used in GM settings.

Aberfeldy – Karen MacKay & Gill Steele

The committee are looking at grassroots activities to try and encourage GME within Aberfeldy. Now a very strong 0-18 provision in the area and the Sgoil Àraich is well attended with 6-8 pupils. A lack of any promotion from the council so it is essential that it comes from parents.

East Ayrshire

Dan Mahon provided a written update. The newly formed CnP group continue to meet monthly with about 6-8 parents involved. The group have made links with CnP North Ayrshire and have met up and plan to again in the future. There is a new principal teacher in post and the CnP group have met with them. The principal teacher and the school are very welcoming to the local CnP and look forward to cooperating. The group had a stall at the East Ayrshire Family Fun Day and think from that one event have gained serious interest from about 12 parents in GME. Hopefully to have another stall at similar events. The group are working on reestablishing a Sradagan group and have met with Shona from CnaG.

8. Ùrachadh Fios mu Ionmhasair / Taghadh Ionmhasair Update about Treasurer / Appointment of Treasurer

Sarah Thomas was appointed as treasurer. Fiona Stephen proposed, and Gil Steele seconded.

9. GISBE/AOCB

No other matters raised.

10. Ceann-là airson an ath-choinneamh Date for the next meeting

Will wait until the Scottish Languages Bill has been published and we know what the timelines are as there may be need for a meeting in to discuss this. Innes will distribute further information.

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