

**Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta  
Coinneamh Comataidh May 2024**

**30 May 2024**

**Air-loidhne**

**Clàr-Gnothaich/Agenda**

**An làthair**

Helen MacKinnon – Chair (Glasgow)  
Fiona Stephen – Vice-Chair (Edinburgh)  
Sarah Thomas – Treasurer (Stirling)  
Jon Andrews (North Ayrshire)  
Ali Craig (Oban)  
Dan Mahon (East Ayrshire)  
Pam Jardine (ASN Representative)  
Joanne MacKenzie – Bòrd na Gàidhlig  
Magaidh Wentworth – Comann nam Pàrant  
Innes MacQueen – Comann nam Pàrant  
Kirsteen Murray – Comann nam Pàrant  
Lewis Laing – Comann nam Pàrant

**1. Leisgeulan / Apologies**

Gill Steele (Aberfeldy)  
Wilma Laird (Edinburgh)  
Athene Richford (Glasgow)  
Isobel Taylor (Dunoon)

**2. Gearr-chunntas na Coinneimh mu dheireadh**

***Minutes of last meeting***

**Minutes agreed**

Proposed– Dan Mahon

Seconded – Sarah Thomas

**3. Gnothaichean ag èiridh nach eil air a’ chlàr-gnothaich**

***Matters arising not on the agenda***

Discussion regarding languages assistants. The course delivered by SMO to Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is a move in the right direction but not entirely what CnP were pushing for. Language assistants are the agenda for the upcoming liaison meeting between CnP and main stakeholder organisations which will be an opportunity for further discussion. Eilidh – the need for language assistants has been discussed amongst parents in Glasgow with talk of teaching cuts.

**4. Aithisg Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

***Bòrd na Gàidhlig Report***

Joanne MacKenzie, Education Manager at Bòrd na Gàidhlig, was in attendance to update committee and a report from Bòrd na Gàidhlig had been distributed beforehand. Bòrd na Gàidhlig Corporate Plan was agreed on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Early years and targeted areas for promotional work for GME are priorities within the plan. Development of a strategy for adult learning is also in the plan.

Fiona asked Joanne if BnaG had any update from Edinburgh as all is very quiet regarding developing secondary provision. Joanne will follow up on this query.

CnP, BnaG & SMO submitted responses to the ASL enquiry but disappointingly Gaelic is not mentioned in the report published by the Education, Children and Young People Committee. Pam Jardine updated the committee on her involvement with the ASL network.

There continues to be discussions and questions raised from parents regarding a standalone Gaelic school to serve the local authorities surrounding Glasgow. CnP has asked BnaG about potential of funding to carry out an options appraisal and this is going to be discussed within Bòrd na Gàidhlig. East Ayrshire have been considering this also and would like to continue to be involved in discussions. If smaller provisions in different local authority pull resources together parents felt that this would be a better use of money. If successful with funding these discussions and topics can be picked up within the CnP research.

## **5. Aithisg Comann nam Pàrant**

### ***Comann nam Pàrant Report***

Disappointment was expressed by members that CnP weren't called to give evidence on the Scottish Languages Bill by the Education, Children and Young People Committee and expressed disappointment at how little discussion on Gaelic medium education there seems to have been by the committee and witnesses. With many topics being discussed by the Education Committee it is essential that it is made clear that Gaelic Medium Education still needs support in order to progress. Secondary provision still has a lot to improve on to ensure a coherent 3-18 Gaelic education journey. Discussions during evidence also showed how difficult it is when the Bill is trying to cover both Scots and Gaelic with both languages being in very different scenarios. Discussion regarding lack of further Gaelic education options for teenagers who don't want to continue Gaelic as an academic subject but want to continue using the language, for example pupils that go straight into employment and/or apprenticeships after school rather than going on to university/college. Opportunities need to be created for pupils to use Gaelic even if they aren't doing Gaelic as a subject.

Comann nam Pàrant are hopeful that the Early Year's report from Wilson Macleod will be published next month and that it will demonstrate a demand for continued growth and support in early years and provide good evidence for additional funding.

## **6. Fios as ùr bho na sgìrean ionadail**

### ***Latest information from local areas***

#### **Edinburgh**

The committee continuing to liaise online although still without a chairperson, but they are hoping to recruit new parents from the latest transition into the primary school. There is still no movement with the secondary school in Edinburgh. Primary school has paused recruiting for head teacher after several unsuccessful attempts and are continuing with an acting headteacher. Are surveying parents to discuss the possibility of recruiting a Gaelic learner as opposed to a fluent Gaelic speaker as HT.

Disappointment expressed although that Edinburgh weren't offered any probationers this year. The introduction of the Darroch annex has been a massive success and pupils seem very positive about Gaelic at Darroch. The Primary School is celebrating 10 years this year. Highlighted that there is good feedback from parents who are taking part in Comann nam Pàrant Gaelic classes. It is clear that there is a positive attitude to learning Gaelic amongst parents, and they are keen to improve their language skills in order to support their children.

### **Stirling**

Advertising for a new Gaelic support worker. The current support worker is leaving after many years at the school which will be a loss to the Gaelic medium class. At least 8 children, that the parents are aware of, are starting in GME in August. The pupils took part in the Gaelic football and shinty competitions, it was great for them to get the opportunity to use and speak Gaelic in this scenario. However Riverside primary have not taken part in Seachdain Dhùn Èideann for a number of years. Innes will contact Sarah once information is distributed for next year to ensure the information is reaching the school.

### **East Ayrshire**

The school was successful in recruiting a new class teacher but were unable to recruit a third teacher which continues to make things more difficult. Sradagan group going very well with over 40 children attending. The group are looking for an additional Gaelic speaking worker. Suggestion that there may be a student from Glasgow who could be interested in gaining the experience and Eilidh suggested contacting Ògannan. The group struggles with fundraising as there is a very strong PTA which does a lot of successful fundraising. Discussion that Comann nam Pàrant is a community-based group and to take more of the fundraising out with the school into the community.

### **North Ayrshire**

The group struggled to get enough members to hold an AGM but have postponed the AGM to August. The Croileagan sessions that are held in North Ayrshire continue to do very well. There was Mini fèis organised by Croileagan which was a success. 5 pupils are due to start P1 in August. Discussion regarding high school provision as the first GME pupil reaching secondary age in 2026. What are the councils plans for this? Joanne going to investigate what stage the Gaelic Language plan is at as this is expected to go to consultation this year. A local group, Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig, is creating opportunities for people to come together and use and speak Gaelic which is welcomed and creating a stronger Gaelic community.

### **Glasgow**

Numbers of pupils enrolling in P1 in August which has gone down to 129 is disappointing. This is evidence that the Council capping of GME has worked and is putting people off enrolling in GME. Over subscription still exists at Glendale but not at other schools.

Council is proposing to cut teacher numbers which is going to have a big impact on schools. This could result in very little non-teaching time for management staff. There has been little communication from the council on this but there has been serious concern expressed from parent groups across the city. Everyone will be in the same position in terms of the cuts and they will apply to GME as well as EME. There is still an acting headteacher in Glendale. Glasgow have lost their full time Comunn na Gàidhlig officer and will not be replaced due to demand on CnaG's funding. This is very disappointing for Glasgow especially as Eilidh had been having discussions to investigate an additional CnaG officer for the city. Hopefully meeting with DK MacPhee next week to discuss the

matter. Secondary school has 116 pupils in S1 which is great. However, there is very little happening outside of the school for them which demonstrates the need for a Comunn na Gàidhlig officer.

### **Oban**

The local authority are currently running a consultation to gauge demand on a standalone Gaelic school for Argyll & Bute. Comann nam Pàrant have expressed concern regarding the wording and style of questions in the consultation. The consultation has no project proposal just the general topic of a standalone Gaelic school within Argyll despite a feasibility study being carried out within Oban in 2018. Although concerned with the consultation it is still essential that parents respond positively. Comann nam Pàrant will be meeting with parents within Argyll to discuss further. Numbers are low enrolling in P1 within Oban however Pàrant is Pàiste is now re-established within the town and this will hopefully grow the numbers.

### **7. GISBE / AOCB**

Fiona commented that e-sgoil has been a great service that was utilised by her daughter during study leave. They ran webinars in many subjects throughout study leave. Particularly Spanish and maths was excellent from their experience. It was noted though that a lot of those that used in study leave didn't know it was an offer throughout the year.