**Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)**

**Dimàirt 21 Màirt 2023**

**19:00f**

**Zoom**

**Geàrr-chunntas Coinneimh / Meeting minutes**

**An làthair**

Helen MacKinnon (HM)

Fiona Stephen (FS)

Gill Steele (GS)

Marsaili Dow (MD)

Isabel Taylor (IT)

Sarah Thomas (ST)

Innes MacQueen (IM) - Comann nam Pàrant

Magaidh Wentworth (MW) - Comann nam Pàrant

Kirsteen Murray (KM) - Comann nam Pàrant

Joanne McHale (JM) - Bòrd na Gàidhlig

1. **Leisgeulan**

**Apologies**

Will Clem

Wilma Laird

Evelyn Coull MacLeod

Claire Wilding

1. Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh 19 Samhain 2022

Minute of Meeting 19 November 2022

Proposed – Fiona Stephen

Seconded – Marsaili Dow

1. Gnothaichean ag èiridh nach eil air a’ Chlàr-chùisean

Matters Arising not on Agenda

No matters arising.

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

Update from Comann nam Pàrant (see report)

Comann nam Pàrant distributed a report beforehand.

MW updated committee that Glasgow City Council had rejected the parental request for GMPE on the grounds that they had carried out a full assessment last year, and that according to Statutory Guidance they are not required to carry out another assessment for 2 years. This was disappointing but not unexpected and parents are appealing this decision.

Helen gave an update regarding the overall situation with oversubscription in Glasgow. The most recent information from Glasgow City Council confirmed that there are still 50 families on the waiting list. There is a further complication with St James school, which is currently run as an annexe in North Kelvinside, with the work on the new school now behind schedule and as a result overbudget. There is now also a question due to costs and budgets about moving the primary school out of Berkley Street. There is frustration and disappointment amongst parents.

Committee agree that the Glasgow situation is a major problem and MW is going to discuss with Bòrd na Gàidhlig & Scottish Government.

MW updated the committee of the situation in Applecross. The authority was unable to appoint a Gaelic teacher last year and are now not going to readvertise due to issues with accommodation in the school. This is a disappointing outcome especially in an area such as Applecross with Gaelic still spoken with the community. Parents are now considering submitting a section 70 complaint to Scottish Government about Highland Council’s handling of the request.

MW updated committee that Argyll & Bute’s Gaelic Language Plan has now been approved by committee. There was no agreement between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Argyll & Bute with their plan and it had been referred to Scottish Government. Scottish Government recommendation was that A&B include a consultation on a Gaelic School in Argyll & Bute within 2 years.

Comann nam Pàrant hosted an online meeting about potential future model of Gaelic secondary education in the Central Belt. The meeting was very well attended, and we now have a list of interested parents who wish to be kept informed with any developments. There was clear enthusiasm and interest from parents regarding future secondary provision and many different models were discussed. Comann nam Pàrant have approached Bòrd na Gàidhlig for funding to carry out a study looking at options.

IM updated committee that plans are well under way for Seachdain Dhùn Èideann which is taking place W/C 24/04/23. WE hope to have more than 400 pupils attending sessions at Our Dynamic Earth, Holyrood house Palace, Edinburgh Castle & National Museum of Scotland.

KM added to her report that she is in communication with parents in Peebles about establishing a Gaelic Early Years group. Parents are also interested and asking the process for establishing Gaelic Medium Education within the area.

1. Fios as ùr bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig

Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Bòrd na Gàidhlig distributed a report beforehand.

JM also updated committee that research has been commission on 0-3 Early years across Scotland is out for tender.

With Comann nam Pàrant, BnaG have been in discussion with Fife Council and Falkirk Council about the establishment of Gaelic Medium Education. We are also looking at opportunities to re-establish early years provision within Fife Council. Falkirk Council are due to carry out a survey among parents of 3- 4-year-olds to establish if there is an interest in Gaelic Medium Education. This was previously done pre-covid and there had been a very positive response.

GS raised the situation in Aberfeldy. 50% of the P4-7 class have left GME since September. They have had an English medium teacher teaching the class who has been actively discouraging Gaelic Medium Education. Although a formal complaint was submitted, the situation remains unchanged. GS has been in contact with Perth & Kinross Council regarding this and asking about which staff have had Gaelic awareness training. JM suggested that they GLP fund is currently opened if they wish to apply for funding to facilitate Gaelic awareness training. Perth & Kinross are currently writing their High Level Aims for their next plan.

MW distributed before meeting paper for parents & carers on the Hayward review. Although there had been good level of representation from the GM sector throughout the consultation there was no reference to Gaelic in the interim report which was disappointing. Parents would like to see pupils get a recognition that they went through Gaelic Medium Education. Further opportunities to learn in context and for pupils to engage in more Gaelic projects etc. Discussion surrounding the importance of the work at Comunn na Gàidhlig and how this could be embedded into the curriculum.

1. Fios as ùr bho na sgìrean ionadail

Update from the local areas

Edinburgh – Update from FS. There is a lot effort to build a community around the new annex in Darroch, which is very positive. School numbers at the primary are currently stabilising. Edinburgh City Council have set up a Gaelic Learning Board to look at curriculum, staffing & planning. Comann nam Pàrant were not initially invited to be part of the group but are now included in the group along with parental representation from the parent council. A private consultant has been employed by Edinburgh City Council to look at potential sites for a Gaelic school within a 3-mile radius of Princes Street, Edinburgh.

Stirling – Update from ST. There seems to be a more positive image of Gaelic within the primary school, which is welcome. There is a fairly new Gaelic teacher in Wallace High School who is teaching Geography, History & Modern Studies to first year through the medium of Gaelic. Concern that this is only for 1st Year and will not continue further on in the curriculum. The teacher seems to be spending a lot of the time translating the course work. JM updated committee how an officer at Education Scotland has been visiting secondary schools advising how to work timetabling for Gaelic Medium. The local CnP group continue to organise extra-curricular activities through the medium of Gaelic. They are offering two days of a cycle course through the medium of Gaelic during the Easter holidays.

Dunoon – Update from IT. The teacher situation has improved. Concern that numbers are dropping in the primary school with the Gaelic classes dropping to 2 from 3 in August. IM offered assistance to do promotional work in the area and will get in touch with IT. Dunoon Grammar school doing very well.

Aberfeldy – GS updated that the croileagan is going well. Confirmation from the local authority that they will continue to fund play leader.

A general discussion about resources, especially reading resources for young Gaelic speakers. Storyworld books are not very engaging or exciting for pupils. There is limited choice for Gaelic books especially for readers 8-14 in Gaelic.

1. Aithisg an Ionmhasair

Treasurer’s Report

MD updated committee with the Treasurer’s report. MD reminded committee that she will be standing down as treasurer at the AGM and is very happy to talk through the work involved to anyone who is interested in taking on the role.

1. GISBE/AOCB

No other business.

1. Ceann-là airson an ath-choinneamh

Date for the next meeting

The next meeting will be at the beginning June and will be the AGM followed by a committee meeting. We expect this to be online. IM will distribute Doodlepoll.