

Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

Disathairne 26 Samhain 2022

10:00m

Taigh-Osta Maldron, Glaschu

Clàr-cùisean

An làthair / Attendance

Helen MacKinnon (HM) – Chairperson, Glasgow
Fiona Stephen (FS) – Vice Chair, Edinburgh
Gill Steele (GS) – Secretary, Aberfeldy
Marsaili Dow (MD) – Treasurer, Ayrshire
Wilma Laird (WL) – Edinburgh
Claire Wilding (CW) - Oban
Sarah Thomas (ST) - Stirling
Will Clem (WC) - Nairn

Jim Whannel (JW) – Director of Education, Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Magaidh Wentworth (MW) – Manager, Comann nam Pàrant
Innes MacQueen (IM) – Development Officer, Comann nam Pàrant
Kirsteen Murray (KM) – Early Years Manager, Comann nam Pàrant

1. Leisgeulan

Apologies

Evelyn Coull MacLeod – Western Isles
Athene Richford – Glasgow
Isabel Taylor - Cowal

2. Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh 12 Sultain 2022

Minute of Meeting 12 September 2022

Proposed by Fiona Stephen

Seconded by Marsaili Dow

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 (report attached)

Report from Comann nam Pàrant circulated prior to meeting.

HM commented on the success of the online information session. IM commented that there were parents in attendance from areas throughout Scotland, which was encouraging to see. IM thanked BnaG for their participation in delivering the session. There is potential to run another online information session, if we feel there is interest for another one in the new year.

Qualification & Assessments Review: Consultation (Hayward Review). There was an online meeting on Wednesday 23 November with CONNECT. A session dedicated to GME was a significant development for Gaelic education. IM to send link to the CONNECT Padlet where parents can post comments to all members, and Marie at BnaG.

National discussion on education. JW encouraged youngsters to also respond. There are GME materials available for early years, primary, secondary to ensure that youngsters take part.

Discussion on how information from CNP is getting to parents & schools. Lewis classes are a great resource but concern if this is reaching all parents. IM & LL to look at this.

Discussion regarding more recognition of local Comann nam Pàrant especially for those smaller GM provisions in larger schools.

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

Paper from Bòrd na Gàidhlig circulated prior to meeting.

There was discussion surrounding National Statistics for GME & GLE. BnaG have been working with Scottish Government to ensure that, for the first time, nationally verifiable statistics are available for GME. This will include 'profiles' of local authorities looking at the whole GME picture including pupils and teacher numbers.

The ongoing difficulties with teacher recruitment in some areas was discussed at length.

Suggestion from GS to look at why teachers have stepped away from working in Gaelic Medium education. JW gave an overview of teacher's requirement to be GTCS registered to teach Gaelic. However, teachers do not need to be formally registered to teach Gaelic when teaching a subject through the medium of Gaelic.

Discussion regarding appropriate qualification for pupils to receive appropriate crediting for Gaelic Education when they reach secondary, for example evidencing participation in Gaelic activities such as the national debate & Film G. HM suggested more emphasis on activities provided by Comunn na Gàidhlig who should be better resourced to ensure they are able to deliver more of these opportunities for pupils.

Discussion continued regarding GME at secondary and ensuring that pupils are supported and encouraged to continue with Gaelic. It is essential that parents understand the importance of encouraging pupils to continue their Gaelic learning in secondary. WC suggested parents are key. Encouragement for them to use more Gaelic in the home and to be engaged in the language. If parents are disengaged it is more difficult to keep the pupils motivated to continue their Gaelic learning.

Members thanked Jim, who is due to retire at the end of the year, for his support for Comann nam Pàrant during his time as Director of Education at the Bòrd. He will be missed, but we hope that he will continue his involvement in Gaelic education developments, and that this will not be the end of his relationship with CnP.

Members look forward to meeting and working with the new Director of Education at BnaG, Jennifer McHarrie.

6. Dreachd freagairt do Cho-chomhairleachaidh air Bile nan Cànan Albannach
Draft response to consultation on Scottish Language Bill

A lot of work going into the response. Suggestion from EM to incorporate Gaelic as a core subject to the response. It was agreed that we will publicise our response. Discussion regarding the Gàidhealtachd and what that would mean for Gaelic Medium across the country. Suggestion to insert statement supporting Scots language. EM thanked MW for her hard work in preparing the response.

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

Stirling

Issues with some pupils refusing to speak Gaelic in one the GM classes which is influencing the whole class. School trying to find solutions for them to speak Gaelic. Committee had suggestions to create opportunities for pupils to use their Gaelic in a relatable environment, for example playing football. EM to investigate if there is anyone available at BBC that could assist. IM to look into options with FC Sonas.

Aberfeldy

One of the primary teachers are on maternity leave. Their position has not been filled and the upper primary has an English medium teacher the majority of time. Concerns that some teachers in the school are not delivering a positive Gaelic ethos to pupils. JW discussed Gaelic Awareness training opportunities for those in management where GME is delivered. BnaG currently in discussion with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig regarding delivery of this. Hopeful that this will move quicky and Jim/Jennifer will keep us informed of progress.

Oban

CW reported to the group that she is no longer chairperson of CnP an Òbain. CW updated committee that biggest ever group of Gaelic learners in S2 are learning Gaelic in Oban High School. Gaelic Medium pupils are now having French classes which previously wasn't available to them. Thanks to a supportive facility head for implementing this. Discussion how this is still down to constant pressure from parents to implement this.

East Ayrshire

MD updated committee that Kilmarnock have now re-established a CnP group. MD has been encouraging a representative to join the National Committee.

Edinburgh

WL gave the committee an update regarding GM in Edinbrugh. Darroch annexe has now opened, which is a welcomed development. Numbers entering primary school are staying consistent and there is a need for a second primary. This would also help to boost secondary numbers.

Nairn

WC reported what the local committee are doing to promote GME. Using funding from BnaG, a video and website with further information about GME has been produced. The local CnP group are funding Gaelic drama sessions in the primary school for Gaelic where they are preparing a Gaelic drama. A concern however that this is not part of the Christmas show. Local CnP also organising a ceilidh for Seachdain na Gàidhlig. Secondary School now offers Gaelic for learners too. There are other Gaelic speaking teachers in the school and hopefully pupils will be able to do some subjects through the medium of Gaelic. JW asked WC about the school improvement plan and in particular what have they got about Gaelic. WC to look into this.

8. Aithisg an Ionmhasair Treasurer's Report

Marsaili spoke through the report to the committee. No questions raised.

9. GISBE/AOCB

No other business.

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

Next meeting to be held in February. IM to send a Doodlepoll to determine a date. This will be an online meeting.