

Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

Dimàirt 26 Sultain 2023

7.00pm

Air Zoom

Geàrr-Chunntas na Coinneimh

1. Leisgeulan

Apologies

Athene Richardson

Will Clem

An làthair

Magaidh Wentworth – Comann nam Pàrant

Sarah Thomas - Sruighlea

Innes MacQueen – Comann nam Pàrant

Helen MacKinnon – Cathraiche / Glaschu

Fiona Stephens – Iar-Cathraiche / Dùn Èideann

Claire Samson – Siorrachd Àir an Ear

Zoey NicLeòid – Manaidsear Foghlaim, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Isabel Taylor - Comhghaill

Jon Andrews – Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Wilma Laird - Dùn Èideann

Kirsteen Murray – Comann nam Pàrant

Ali Craig – An t-Òban

2. Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh 06 Ògmhios 2023

Minute of Meeting 06 June 2023

Proposed – Fiona Stephens

Seconded - Magaidh Wentworth

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

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)

Report distributed beforehand gave an overview of the work going on by the team at Comann nam Pàrant. Helen MacKinnon gave a further update to the committee of the meeting that took place between Comann nam Pàrant and the main Gaelic bodies involved in Education. An update on statutory guidance and the language bill was given at the

meeting. The work to update the statutory guidance is still progressing. Jennifer has been consulting with the Scottish Government on what can be changed without needing to change legislation. The updates have taken in the suggestions from the focus groups but still open to suggestions during consultation. It is hoped things that cannot be changed due to legislation that they can be changed through the language bill. The revised guidance will be going before the board at BnaG soon and consultation hopefully taking place before the end of the year.

Scottish Languages Bill – We also heard an update from Scottish Government at the meeting and Helen gave an overview to the committee. SG trying to tread a path that will give us what we want but not frighten people. Concerned if they ask for too much at this stage that it will be pushed back. We hope in the new legislation that there will be some reference to early learning and childcare which would allow parents to push for improved provision.

Discussion from Jon Andrews about Kilwinning and looking at creation of secondary provision and what is statutory. North Ayrshire council are looking to create secondary provision but less certain about the creation of nursery provision. What is considered as GME at secondary – would like to see a clearer picture in the bill.

Discussion at meeting last week also about early years working and ASN course at SMO. Currently only offered to workers in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Highland Council. Still some uncertainty regarding the course. Zoe & Magaidh are going to gain clarity on this.

5. Fios as ùr bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG) (chithear aithisg)

Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig (see report)

Zoey was welcomed to the meeting as Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Education Manager. A change currently in staffing at Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Shan Baldwin has started as teacher development officer to reestablish links with schools. Zoey also hoping to go out and do a bit of outreach work among schools also.

Sarah Thomas asked if Bòrd na Gàidhlig have had further interaction with Wallace HS and Riverside PS. Both have produced improvements plans this year without Gaelic in their plan. In previous year BnaG had worked with the school to ensure Gaelic was included and this worked. Still concerns with Wallace High school's timetabling and treating Gaelic as an extra subject.

Zoey NicLeòid – timetabling an issue across the board. Work was done by someone at Scottish Government but they are no longer in that post. The role has been readvertised and it is hoped that this will be looked at in detail.

Dyslexia Scotland have been in contact with BnaG. It is sometimes felt pupils are not getting as much support in GME as they would be in EME. Zoey stated that there is no/little opportunity for GM teachers to come together to share best practise.

Fiona Stephens stated how CnP were very concern at lack of commitment in the GLP from Edinburgh for secondary and expansion of primary. They are looking for intervention from Bòrd na Gàidhlig on this.

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

Strirling - Sarah Thomas

As per the last meeting, there is still no Gaelic ASN in Riverside PS. This is concerning for children who are needing extra support. There are also no Gaelic clubs running at the school which parents would like to see more opportunities for GM pupils. There is a Gaelic learner who is volunteering in the library and noticed there are no Gaelic books except picture books in the library which is not encouraging GME. Can Storlann provide more books for the school?

Edinburgh – Fiona Stephens

No further forward with secondary and committee are all very disappointed that no commitment in GLP. Without funding for SG it couldn't go ahead. The Green Party have put in a motion to look at old police Station as a possible location.

Wilma (Edinburgh) – There is still an acting head teacher in primary who isn't a Gaelic speaker. This hasn't been readvertised at this stage meaning an uncertainty for parents & staff with non-permanent management. The High School won the Gaelic education award which was a very positive note and good for the councillors to see GME in a positive light. No conclusion as to what would happen if the school becomes oversubscribed.

Cowal - Isabel Taylor

GME doing well although another teacher going on maternity leave. Gaelic toddler group is well attended but no pupils went into the sgoil àraich from Croileagan this year. This could be due to a lack of early years groups in the area and not all parents attending have an interest in GME. This is causing concern with dwindling numbers attending the Gaelic Medium Provision. Innes will get in touch with Isabel.

North Ayrshire - Jon Andrews

Registration for P1 is opening in November which is making it very tight to do promotion. North Ayrshire council have been very supportive regarding promotion, looking at doing video/radio promotion to bring GME to life in North Ayrshire. Croileagan is very healthy but numbers still fairly low going into the school. Approx. 50% drop out after Croileagan because there is nursery provision.

East Ayrshire - Claire Samson

Currently advertised for principle teacher post. Interviews are happening in the next few weeks. The newly reestablished local CnP group have been successful with a funding application. Numbers for nursery remain healthy with the nursery almost full. The nursery is registered to take five under 3s and if parents take this up there could be a struggle for staffing levels and ratios. Discussion also about local Pàrant is Paiste, 20 kids turned up the other week after a push on social media. Really healthy numbers again and they are now looking at a bigger premises.

Oban – Ali Craig

12 pupils left GME primary going into secondary school and 12 pupils started in P1. Low

numbers at sgoil àraich with no children at all registered to attend on a Friday. Oban have recently started a Pàrant is Pàiste group with 25 children in attendance at the first week. Argyll & Bute Council have also given money to the group to assist setting up. There is also a concern about Gaelic provision at Oban High School. S2 going over to Tiree to meet GM pupils there which is positive and CnP are supporting that financially. National Mòd coming to Oban next year which the local CnP hope to be involved with. Council have committed to carrying out a feasibility study for a standalone Gaelic school.

Glasgow - Eilidh MacKinnon

New format for working group with the council having two separate groups, strategic group which CnP are part of but a ... group which will not include CnP. Despite 140 pupils cap only 131 started which is very disappointing as they know of families who didn't chose GME or went to provision out with the city because they were refused a place initially. Issues around children not in their catchment school meaning if they have younger siblings this could be a tricky situation. A P1 class within Glasgow City were missing out on 3 days a week of GM teaching but now only 1 day without GM teacher but still not good enough especially during immersion phase.

Discussion surrounding Bookbug. Scottish book trust are not doing Gaelic training sessions now but CnP will put together a training session for those delivering song and rhyme sessions. Zoe – Wilson MacLeod currently doing research on 0-3 provision. Hopefully this research will have some recommendations on this.

7. Taghadh Ionmhasair

Appointment of Treasurer

No Treasurer appointed.

8. GISBE/AOCB

No other business.

9. Ceann-là airson an ath-choinneamh

Date for the next meeting

Next meeting will be in-person in Glasgow on 25/11/23.