

## Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

Dimàirt 06 Ògmhios (air Zoom)

Coinneamh Comataidh

Geàrr-Chunntas / Minutes

### An Làthair / In Attendance

Helen MacKinnon (Chair, Glasgow)  
Fiona Stephens (Vice-chair, Edinburgh)  
Marsaili Dow (Treasurer)  
Gill Steele (Secretary, Aberfeldy)  
Dan Mahon (East Ayrshire)  
Sarah Thomas (Stirling)  
Wilma Laird (Edinburgh)  
Will Clem (Nairn)  
Nicola (East Ayrshire)  
Alison Craig (Oban)  
Jon Andrews (North Ayrshire)  
Athene Richardson (Glasgow)

Magaidh Wentworth (Comann nam Pàrant)  
Kirsteen Mhoireach (Comann nam Pàrant)  
Innes MacQueen (Comann nam Pàrant)  
Ann Mhoireasdan (Manager, Bòrd na Gàidhlig)

#### 1. Leisgeulan

*Apologies*

*No Apologies*

#### 2. Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh 21 Màirt 2023

*Minute of Meeting 21 March 2023*

Proposed - Fiona Stephens

Seconded - Marsaili Dow

#### 3. Gnothaichean ag Èirigh nach eil air a' Chlàr-chùisean

*Matters Arising not on agenda*

No matters arising.

#### 4. Fios as ùr bho Comann nam Pàrant

*Update from Comann nam Pàrant*

The annual report had been distributed prior to the meeting and will be published on our website. Points discussed by members were:

- We are pleased that new provision starting in East Renfrewshire in August.
- An in-depth feasibility study has now started on a 3-18 campus within Inverness. We hope to see progress on this now as it is something which has been discussed for some time.
- In collaboration with BnaG we have held online information sessions over the last year. Sometimes feel they haven't been successful compared to in-person events. It is difficult to reach parents online who aren't already involved in GME or Gaelic. Also, not all parents feel comfortable to speak online rather than in-person. In comparison, we ran an in-person family day at Thornliebank Primary School, East Renfrewshire which was well attended. We organised Linda MacLeod from Comhairle nan Leabhraichean to run sessions at the event and this was well received and helped to attract families to the event. One of our online events was for Falkirk and following that, Kirsteen is now delivering Bookbug sessions which will hopefully grow interest within the community. Falkirk also intend to run a survey among early year's parents to assess interest in Gaelic Education. This was previously done before COVID and a large interest was expressed.
- Comann nam Pàrant continue to work with North Lanarkshire. Pleased to report that the council intend to create a standalone 3-12 Gaelic school within North Lanarkshire from August 2024.
- Disappointment in Glasgow that families have again been denied a place in Gaelic medium education. It is felt that the only way to rectify this is with legislation.
- Good news from Aberdeen City that city wide catchment and transport is to be reinstated from August 2023. This has been a long process and very pleased that this has been resolved.
- MW noted Comann nam Pàrant are in a good position with strong team of 6 employees and would hope to expand that in the future.
- Seachdain Dhùn Èideann took place this year at the end of April with over 400 pupils attending throughout the week. Involved partnership with venues in Edinburgh who look forward to participating in Seachdain Dhùn Èideann.

5. Fios as ùr bho Bòrd na Gàidhlig

*Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig*

Ann Morrison, Education Manager at Bòrd na Gàidhlig updated committee.

- [The Early Years grants](#) for groups supporting parent and toddler sessions and early years developments opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and will close on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- We plan to deliver an Information Session to provide advice and guidance in completing the Early Years application forms - information will be sent to all groups who applied last year and will also be shared on our social media channels.

0-3 research

- Wilson McLeod has been awarded the contract for this extremely important research and will be this week commencing interviews with different important people in this sector.

- Information was sent out to groups but if you would like further information please get in touch.
- We hope that the research will be completed by September with a report published thereafter.

Officers from Bòrd na Gàidhlig attend an event at Greenfaulds High school. 150 S1-S3 pupils from secondary schools in Central Scotland came together to focus on the benefits of Gaelic and its use in the workplace. This was a very successful event and it is hoped that it will become part of the annual school calendar.

#### Teacher Recruitment and Retention

- The Development Officer (Teachers) continues to engage with secondary schools to organise visits promoting Gaelic teaching as a career. Recent visits include Perth Academy, Breadalbane Academy, Tobermory High School and Oban High School; with visits to Hazelhead Academy, Kilmarnock Academy, Sgoil Lionacleit and Castlebay Secondary School planned this week and next.
- Four training sessions for probationer teachers took place over the 22/23 session with inputs from Education Scotland, Stòrlann, Anne Thirkell from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and a range of Gaelic organisations (such as CNAG, Astar Media on behalf of FilmG). The aim of the sessions was not only to provide CLPL opportunities for new teachers through Gaelic but also to support new teachers and encourage networking among new teachers.
- The Education Team have met with GTCS to plan to open up the training sessions to a wider range of probationers, namely those who are Gaelic speakers but may not have indicated this to date. Details of the 2023-2024 training sessions will be shared with all probation managers across Scotland, and the Development Officer (Teachers) has so far arranged to participate at a Glasgow City Council Probationer Induction event on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023, speaking to every probationer teacher the city to encourage those with Gaelic to attend the training sessions.

Jon Andrews – Gaelic medium retention a problem. Sometimes Gaelic teachers moving into English medium to progress their career.

Local authorities such as East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Applecross made promoted posts in the hope to attract candidates. Headship leadership recruitment is difficult in English medium also currently.

Athene Richardson – Glasgow is struggling with the recruitment of headteachers. Discussion surrounding the eligibility of schools for depute heads. With less depute head teachers it is harder to progress to role of headteacher. Different issues and approaches in different authorities.

Shona MacLennan, Ceannard, announced her retirement so recruitment for a new Ceannard is currently underway. The deadline for applications is 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Recruitment for Education manager (maternity cover) is in progress.

#### 6. Cuisean aig ìre ionadail *Issues at local level*

Fiona – Edinburgh – At a standstill. Still no headteacher for primary. Secondary, parents have now heard that Edinburgh have no plans for a secondary school due to lack of funding which is very concerning and unexpected. However, parental campaign is ongoing to still try and attain a secondary high school by some means. Early year's sector struggling also with staffing. Local Comann nam Pàrant were not invited by the council to be part of the newly set up Gaelic Learning Board in Edinburgh.

Sarah – Stirling - hoping that the headteacher is looking at doing more advertising and Sarah to meet with her to discuss. No Gaelic learning assistant currently in the school. Learning assistance has been off for an extended period. Gaelic activities may be established at the school – CnP funding two shinty sessions for GM kids. It was suggested that it is worth exploring if parents could assist with doing reading groups.

Dan/Nicola, East Ayrshire – the Comann nam Pàrant group is getting restarted. The school lost principal teacher and the post is still not advertised. P1-3 teacher is acting up in the meantime. Some concern from parents regarding recruitment.

Jon Andrews - North Ayrshire – now have a local CnP group and have had a couple of meetings. An aim of the group is to do more promotion of GME and making sure families are aware of Gaelic medium as an option. It is difficult with not having secondary provision to attract families and to show families what the full offer is. The committee have been active having applied for funding for two after school clubs. People also interested in doing more BookBug. Wrote to the council to try and get conversation going as to what is going to happen with Gaelic provision at Secondary level as the oldest class is now due to go into P5. They have had acknowledgement from the council but still waiting for a reply.

Athene – Glasgow – Oversubscription continues. Cap of 140 for primary entry remains in-place, with currently 167 trying to get places. Continue to engage with council and participate in the Gaelic Medium Working group. Due to resources and other projects running over it is the parent's understanding that plans to move the primary out of the 3-18 campus on Berkley Street have halted. 2/4 of the Gaelic primary schools in Glasgow are without a head teacher.

Will Clem (Nairn) – Comann nam Pàrant have had an active year. There has been a focus on promotion within the town. They now have their own website and advert signs next to the roads in order to encourage more families to enrol in Gaelic medium education. Croileagan had quite low numbers but numbers are growing again. Teacher numbers in primary more stable now. Secondary school teacher has left position in Nairn and parents expressed concern that this wasn't well communicated at the time. There is a meeting due to take place with the academy as to how they are going to deal with that. Parents concerned with the lack of provision available in Nairn academy and some have expressed they would prefer their child to attend IRA. Council will not provide transport for pupils to travel into Inverness. MW reminded committee that previous parents fought to introduce Gaelic Education secondary provision at Nairn Academy rather than in Inverness and it was made clear that Highland Council would not continue to provide transport once Gaelic secondary provision was established in Nairn Academy. Will expressed concern that all named officers are standing down from the local CnP. EGM next week to try and find a way forward for the group and hope that some will come forward. Shinty has been running in the last year mixed with mainstream kids but a lot of

Gaelic being used throughout which has been very positive for both Gaelic & English medium children.

Ali Craig (Oban) attended the meeting but had to leave early. She sent over an update from Oban. "We have 12 children starting in GME P1 in August in Oban. Lots of concerns over Gaelic and subject choices at s3/s4 level at Oban High School. Although numbers are great for this year we only have 6 part time children in sgoil-àraich for next year. Looking at what we can do within the community to expand GME including looking at supporting babies and toddlers group too."

Gill Steele. (Aberfeldy) Members of staff still on maternity leave and no replacement teaches has been having an effect. Parents will welcome their return.

7. Aithisg an Ionmhasair  
*Treasurer's Report*

Marsaili presented her reports. Thanks were given to Marsaili for her work over the years as treasurer of Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta.

8. GISBE /AOCB

No other business

IM to distribute doodlepoll for next meeting