

## Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

Diciadain 8mh An Dùbhlachd

7.30 pm

Coinneamh Zoom

### Attendees

**Magaidh Wentworth (MW)**

**Innes MacQueen (IM)**

**Kirsteen Murray (Km)**

**Jim Whannel (JW)**

**Eilidh MacKinnon (EM)**

**Sorcha O' Carroll (SC)**

**Lesley Ann Stoddart (LS)**

**Sarah Thomas (ST)**

### 1. Leisgeulan *Apologies*

Lewis Laing

Fiona Stephen

Fiona Heatlie

Isabel Taylor

Claire Wilding

Marsaili Dow

Evelyn Coull

Gill Steele

2. Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh 4 Sùltain 2021  
*Minute of Meeting 4th September 2021*

Proposed - Sorcha O' Carroll

Seconded - Eilidh MacKinnon

3. Gnothaichean ag Èirigh nach eil air a' Chlàr-chùisean  
*Matters Arising not on agenda*

Aberdeen Consultation closed - MW felt that there was strong number of responses.

Comann nam Pàrant have responded to the Scottish Government Gaelic Language Plan

4. Fios as ùr bho Comann nam Pàrant  
*Update from Comann nam Pàrant*

East Renfrewshire - After a request for Gaelic Medium Education through the Education Act, parents received a response East Renfrewshire on 08/12/21 informing them that initial assessment of their request had demonstrated a potential demand for GMPE in the area (5 pupils for 2023) and that it would now go to full assessment. The council have a 10 week period to carry out the full assessment. During this they must contact statutory consultees; Comann nam Pàrant, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Education Scotland and the National Parent Forum.

EM updated the committee on the meeting between representatives from CnP(N) and Professor Ken Muir in relation to the curriculum review. It was a very positive meeting with a supportive and frank discussion. Parents felt that Prof. Muir was listening and taking on-board the points they raised. (CnP(N) response to OECD review is available on CnP website)

MW updated committee that SQA are currently consulting on their Gaelic Language Plan. Committee had discussion about exams and number of pupils doing exams in Gaelic. Concerns with the number of pupils that still answer papers in English. Discussion that there is no additional merit or extra time for pupils who are carrying out the examination in Gaelic. Questions were asked as to what is happening in Wales and Ireland. In Scotland there is currently no requirement to write the answer in Gaelic and there are no incentives. KM suggested that something need to be done at university level also which recognises Gàidhlig as a literacy subject and for other exams sat in Gaelic. JW to have a look into this.

MW updated the committee about Argyll & Bute Council's plans to introduce a new school structure involving Executive Heads and clusters of school. See further information here: [Empowering Our Educators - Argyll and Bute Council](#) Concerns have been expressed by parents as to what this means for Gaelic Medium Education and how they are going to be represented in this proposed structure. MW and IM to meet with local CnPs in Argyll.

Early Years - CnP should be informed by the 09/12/21 as to how the Scottish Government will propose to distribute funding for early year's groups. MW updated the committee that the pilot is going well.

IM gave update. IM has been supporting a number of local groups in their meetings and supporting groups to establish or resume including East and North Ayrshire. In many areas just now parents are very engaged around secondary provision and how that should be developed. IM informed the committee that the refreshed CnP website is now live and that

he is open to suggestions from the committee on content. IM updated committee that there has been a large interest in the Gaelic Schools Edinburgh week with almost 600 pupils interested in attending. The plan is to host schools over two weeks to fit everyone in.

IM gave updated on behalf of Lewis Laing, Families Development Officer. The new website, Neadan, is to be a one-stop-shop for families with children in the early-years and for families looking to make Gaelic a bigger part of their home and family life. Lewis has been running Gaelic classes for families who are new to Gaelic.

Kirsteen gave an update from the Early Years. Groups are starting to meet again indoors around the central belt although there are still issues with some groups struggling to access accommodation. The officers in the Western Isles are running Thig a Chluich sessions in Lewis and Harris. These sessions have been very well received in the communities with parents saying that there has been a great need for the activities. They hope to increase the number of sessions they are offering in the New Year. EM noted the obvious success of the pilot scheme.

#### 5. Fios as ùr bho Bòrd na Gàidhlig *Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig*

Jim Whannel, Director of Education at Bòrd na Gàidhlig attended the meeting to update the committee. Officers at Bòrd na Gàidhlig are currently preparing a draft for the National Language Gaelic plan which will be open for consultation in the new year. Jim encourages CnP to respond to this. Jim updated committee regarding the public meetings that took place with Fife & Renfrewshire councils with a view to establishing Gaelic Medium Education. At both meetings there were about 30 people in attendance. CnP officers are collating names of interested parents. There is still some way to go yet to get 5 for a year group to put in an application.

Jim to attend a meeting between Inverclyde Council and parents to discuss Secondary Provision within the Local Authority.

The next Cross-Party group meeting on Gaelic chaired by MSP Alasdair Allan will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> February @ 6.30. Secondary provision is on the agenda so may be of interest to members of the committee.

Discussions are ongoing around the post of 'language assistant', in particular the grade and responsibilities of the post, how it will differ from a PSA and if a higher grade the need for clear boundaries with the post of class teacher. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar are working on a draft Job Description.

Eoghan Stewart at education Scotland has organised a series of sessions for management in secondary schools that deliver GME. The first one took place on the 8.12.12 titled - 'Building the Secondary Curriculum', there was a lot of interest in the session with all places filled on registration.

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

LS updated committee about Nairn. There have been issues with inconsistent teaching staff with pupils not always having a Gaelic teacher. This has resulted in some pupils leaving

Gaelic Medium Education. Parents have written to Highland Council but not always received responses.

Stirling - ST updated the committee that the committee organised a successful Fèis in November with over 40 in attendance. Funding with received from Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd fund. Sarah raised concerns regarding Secondary Provision with a large drop of pupils continuing doing Gaelic in Secondary School. The CnP groups is made up of parents with children in lower primary therefore difficult to get an accurate representation of situation at Secondary. Sarah going to look further into this and hope to contact school in the new year. Stirling had a consultation on their new Gaelic Language Plan. Parents felt that it was very similar to the to the previous Gaelic Language Plan.

EM updated committee about Glasgow. After initial registration there are 172 registered for GME while cap still at 140. Eilidh raised concerns that the system for appeals is not working for GM. Due to Glendale's small capacity it is felt that the catchment area for that school is far too large resulting in more pupils being rejected a place on the South Side of the City.

#### 7. Duaisean FilmG *FilmG Awards*

IM informed parents that he had been contact by Debbie MacKay looking for a sponsor of £300 for a new category for Primary Schools at the FilmG Awards. The monies will be coming from CnP Nàiseanta funds. Everyone in attendance agreed that they were happy to sponsor the award and that it would be good publicity for CnP. IM to send out an email to members that weren't in attendance asking for opinions.

#### 8. Aithisg an Ionmhasair *Treasurer's Report*

Innes received report from Marsaili who put in her apologies for the meeting. There was an outstanding cheque that had been sent to Bòrd na Gàidhlig, this has now been resolved and will be cashed shortly.

#### 9. GISBE / AOCB

IM will send out a Doodlepoll to decide the date of next meeting which will be in March.

IM