

Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta Committee Meeting

17 Am Màirt aig 1900

(Air Zoom)

An Làthair

Innes MacQueen (IM)

Fiona Stephens (FS)

Magaidh Wentworth (MW)

Sarah Thomas (ST)

Kirsteen Murray (KM)

Will Clem (WC)

Marsaili Dow (MD)

Claire Wilding (CW)

Isabel Taylor (IT)

Jim Whannel (JW)

1. Apologies

Lewis Laing & Fiona Heatlie

2. Minute of last meeting

Proposed – Magaidh Wentworth

Seconded - Sarah Thomas

3. Matters arising - no matters arising

4. Update from CnP

Report submitted beforehand to the committee from Comann nam Pàrant.

Update from MW on Renfrewshire - the request for GMPE was rejected on 09/03/22 and parents were very disappointed. The reason given was that there were not 5 pupils in one school year. The number for the composite P1/2 class was not considered. Comann nam Pàrant will submit an appeal on behalf of parents. The appeal will be based on the process they used and will go through Renfrewshire Council complaints procedure. We have the support of councillors and hopeful this decision will be overturned.

FS – evidence from Renfrewshire that statutory guidance not strong enough for an appeal procedure. Further evidence that the statutory guidance needs reviewed.

FS - positive reading about the early years especially the new groups being established. Interested in collaboration with National Library of Scotland - encouraging.

FS – Commented on the new website created by the Families Development Officer, neadan.scot very good things in the website. Helpful to have useful tips to consolidate learning in the home and community. Very well done and covered lots of questions.

5. Update from BnaG

Jim Whannel, Director of Education

Working with parents in Renfrewshire and East Ren. Good news with East Ren. Renfrewshire, sought legal advice on the Renfrewshire letter. Lawyers say no other option but to go through current appeal. Useful piece of evidence for review of statutory guidance.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig are working with North Lanarkshire, A&B, Glasgow, Stirling and Fife at the moment looking at establishing or expanding GME provision.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig continue to meet with Glasgow. 23 families over the current cap, meaning they have not been offered a place in GME. BnaG do not agree with the current cap on numbers for entry to P1 in Glasgow. Families now going through appeals process. Glasgow City Council are now advertising the St James site as extra Gaelic provision within the city. Looking at moving Berkely Street to create another primary and have Berkely Street campus as stand-alone High School.

Ongoing work to establish Gaelic Medium Education within the Fife area. Working with Comann nam Pàrant to find the 5 parents needed to put in a request. Fife Council are supporting the work BnaG are doing and have volunteered to come onto the working group looking at language assistants also.

Taking part in Statutory consultations, Plockton catchment area. Feedback from parents that they aren't totally content with the consultation.

Language assistants, progress but would prefer things to be moving quicker. Received some research work from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Ongoing work to discuss the best way forward.

ST asked Jim regarding progress on Stirling. Jim has written to Director of Education and agreed to arrange a meeting. GLP for Stirling is currently being assessed – currently with the panel.

ST updated that they have advertised a permanent post at Riverside which is progress although there are concerns with secondary provision.

WC raised an interested as to what is happening with Language Assistants. Felt that Nairn would benefit from this.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming meeting with key stakeholders and main topics the committee want raised.

6. Issues at local level

FS updated the committee regarding progress in Edinburgh. Edinburgh Committee continue to work to campaign for dedicated secondary school. Earlier in the year Jim & Magaidh attended a semi-informal meeting, which was very useful to have them in attendance. Letter to cabinet secretary and council as to what the options are and what the educational benefits will be for the children once Seumas Gillespie's is no longer available. Lot of communication and dialogue with parents. All information available on the blog if you want further information.

IT – 'transformation consultation' on-going at Argyll & Bute. The current headteacher at Sandbank is leaving. The current Gaelic Principal teacher will now be acting head. There are concerns for Gaelic staffing at Sandbank. Waiting to hear from Louise Lawson at A&B as to what plans they have for Gaelic staff. Hopefully maternity cover & probation teacher. FS points out how important it is to grow the teaching community.

CW – Concerns among parents regarding the transformation consultation. All books gathered out of the skips in Oban, now organising getting them all together and how to distribute. Basic apology from the council.

Transformational Consultation is a significant consultation within Argyll & Bute. Parents concerned that little Gaelic involved or mentioned within the plan. A lot of meetings on-going and work from parent councils. There have been very little guarantees on points raised by parents and inconsistency in their answers as to what the plan will mean for GM pupils. Parents & Community have a say now but after that there will not be many opportunities for input. Major concerns as to how this will affect GME within the area. A&B Council have agreed to hold a meeting next week specifically for GME. BnaG will raise how will this work from a GM perspective. What will this mean for GME – opportunity next week for the council to answer this. Magaidh will follow up regarding meeting invites. Comann nam Pàrant will also respond formally

WC – Nairn, suffering with teacher absences. Both job-shares. Instability when a teacher was off for an extended time. Chasing Highland Council as to what they will be doing regarding supporting, post covid etc. Contacted Fergus Ewing and he has taken it up and contacted HC. HC gave a generic unsatisfying email back. Committee now looking to build things themselves and trying and get funding and create more opportunities to use Gaelic out with the school and in the community.

Gill – Perth has had issues with recruitment. The post being advertised is now a permanent position, which should hopefully be more attractive. On-going communication with Donald MacLeod. Eoghan Stewart working with the local authority to develop secondary provision.

Stirling – positive note. Committee received £4000 from BnaG for more GM activities which is great. Fèis has been postponed due to rising COVID cases.

7. Treasurer's report

MD presented treasurer's report. The Year End balance for 31/01/2021 is £2,202.52

8. GISBE / AOCB

IM will distribute further information regarding date for AGM and next committee meeting