

Minute of Comhairle nam Pàrant

Annual General Meeting

2 October 2014

Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu

Present: Joanne Bowman (JB), Rona MacDonald (RMacD), Martin MacGregor (MMacG), Fiona MacIntyre (FMacI), Kathleen MacLeod (KMacL), DK MacPhee (DKMacP), Donalda McComb (DMcC), Douglas Morrison (DM), Adhamh O Broin (AOB), Catriona M Scullion (CS), Alina M Simpson (AS), Mo Staggs (MS), Bruce Whyte (BW)

Apologies: Catriona Campbell

1. DM welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. DM informed that he was no longer Treasurer. JB had taken over that role during the year. The minute of the 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was approved.
3. Chairman's report from DM.
 - A new Youth and Community Officer, Alison d'Arcy was appointed in January 2014 with funding support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Glasgow City Council.
 - Applications had been received for the Legacy Fund and these would be assessed at the next Ordinary meeting of Comhairle nam Pàrant (CnamP).
 - A new Glasgow City Council (GCC) Gaelic Medium Education (GME) Primary school will open in Pollokshields in the last quarter of 2015. The post of Headteacher will be advertised very soon.
 - St Patrick's PS temporarily have moved into the third floor of Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (SGG).
 - Some aspects of the school's inspection report from Education Scotland was very disappointing. DM felt it did not reflect the many achievements of staff, parents and pupils over the last five or six years.
 - A Social Group has been formed and had its first meeting on 24 September.
 - A Facebook page for CnamP has been started and will be updated regularly by RMacD. **ACTION:** RMacD
 - DM appealed for more parents from Nursery, Primary and Secondary to become involved in CnamP and the other groups run by parents.

- Maintenance of the 3G pitch has not been acceptable. GCC Land and Environmental Services (LES) has been asked to inspect the pitch, to carry out repairs and provide maintenance as required.
- DM has approached LES about future use of the red blaise park close to the school. They seem open to the possibility of development of that space for community sport use.
- Tackling the shortage of teachers is a key issue for the future development of the school. DM recently met with other GME schools in Edinburgh and a meeting with Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG) and the Scottish Government is planned. There is a clear need to encourage better forward planning between local authorities, BnaG and teaching colleges. **ACTION:** DM
- DM asked for parents' support to promote teaching as a career for young people. The number of Gaelic speaking students entering teacher training colleges needs to increase to satisfy the anticipated demand for GME. Given the scale of growth in GME in Glasgow especially, more teachers will be required sooner than expected. **ACTION:** Committee / Parents
- The music sub-group and the drama sub-group are both progressing and last met in September.
- Spòrs Ghlaschu had its AGM two weeks ago. BW will update the school website with information on the group. **ACTION:** BW
- DM will liaise with the school to update info on the website about CnamP. **ACTION:** DM
- CS asked if a formal partnership/ link could be made between the upper school (S5 and S6) and Glasgow University's Celtic and Gaelic Department. This might encourage some University students to get involved in some of SGG's "out of school hours" activities and encourage more pupils to consider studying Gaelic at University or to use Gaelic in their future careers. **ACTION:** DMcC / CS

4. Treasurer's report from JB.

- CnamP has just over £ 3,182.55 3,000 in the bank account.
- GCC will be providing the annual payment to all Parent Councils, another £400.
- JB asked for suggestions about how to spend CnamP funds. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next Ordinary meeting of CnamP on 6 November. **ACTION:** Committee
- MS stated that the Fundraising Group also has around £3,000 in its bank account. The Fundraising Group has contributed to a number of requests from the school, including support for transport costs.
- The Fundraising Group needs to publicise what it does with funds raised. Most parents do not know about the Group or what it helps pay for. **ACTION:** MS

5. Headteacher's report from DMcC.

- Many of the key points have been raised already by DM and were supported by DMcC.
- The key objective going forward will be to deliver the best education possible for every child. One of the issues underpinning that will be the availability of staff at every level.

- There are more challenges at Secondary than at Nursery or Primary. Currently there are vacancies in Gàidhlig , History and Religious and Moral Education. Those posts have been advertised and readvertised but no suitable candidates found.
- DMcC stressed the point made by DM that better forward planning is needed between BnaG, GCC and teacher colleges to fill current and expected staff shortages. DMacP agreed and further stated that every parent should become more aware of the issues and that they can help deliver solutions. Parents could contact the Education Minister, their MSP, MP and local councillors to highlight the shortage of GME teachers and ask for them to intervene with a package of incentives for new entrants to the Gaelic teaching labour market. Also, through a social media campaign jointly with BnaG, Skills Development Scotland and other GME Parent Councils target school leavers and students to promote the opportunities and options available for a career in Gaelic.

ACTION: Committee

- There will be Open Days at the school on 23rd and 30th October.
- The annual Placing Request advert for parents wishing to register their child in GME has been published.
- St Patrick's will be moving into the school over the holiday weekend. A large amount of planning has taken place to accommodate the school on the 3rd floor including later start and finish times to the school day as well as different meal and play times. There will be a separate phone number at entrance for St Patrick's. Parents expressed concerns about the diminution of Gàidhlig within the school but this was felt to be unlikely and indeed could be an opportunity for parents in the local area to appreciate the benefits of GME. DMcC said that all teachers, parents and children from St Patrick's would be made very welcome throughout their stay at SGG.
- Children and young people across the school will be involved in various competitions in the annual Mòd to be held next week in Inverness but the school choir would not be competing.
- Comunn nam Pàrant has donated £5,000 towards ICT equipment from the school uniform fund.
- DMcC was disappointed that the representatives from the Pupil Council who were scheduled to attend the AGM were not present.

6. As there were no new nominations to the Parents Council, it was agreed that all existing members would continue as the representatives of the Parent Body.

7. There is scope and flexibility within the current constitution to co-opt additional members on to the committee. Co-opted members normally would have specific skills and knowledge, for example in sport, business, Gaelic language.

8. The meeting agreed that the 2013-14 office-bearers would continue in post - DM as Chairman, JB as Treasurer and DMacP as Secretary.

9. Any other business:

- BW informed that a flyer would be sent out on behalf of Spòrs Ghlaschu asking for more sport volunteers from the Parent Body. The flyer would also

aim to identify the level of interest in specific sports and identify new activities that parents would be willing to be engaged in.

- BW made a request for funding for football strips for Primary age players. 33 football strips and shorts were required by three teams in total - socks would be supplied by players' parents. The Fundraising Group also has funding available and could share costs. It was agreed that the request be discussed at the next committee meeting. It was also agreed that all sport teams representing the school should have a common set of colours, currently yellow and red stripes. **ACTION:** Committee
- DMacP requested that Secondary pupils should have more opportunities to represent the school in sport. At the moment the emphasis, during school time and outside school hours, is largely on Primary age players (football and shinty), with S1 and S2 occasionally attending for football sessions at Toryglen. The other occasion is when some young people attend the Glasgow schools cross-country event. However there has been no representative football by any age group at Secondary level for at least three years. **ACTION:** Committee / Teachers
- DMacP informed that a new Gaelic café (Coffee & Craic) was scheduled to open at the end of October/beginning of November in Elderslie Street close to the school. The business will operate as a social enterprise run by a parent at SGG.
- Rona MacD stated that, following the success of the pop-up Gaelic café in the Saltmarket during the Commonwealth Games, a similar venture would operate in the Merchant City in June 2015.
- DM had been advised of an idea for a pop-up radio station and would provide the Committee with more information at a future meeting. **ACTION:** DM
- CS enquired how parents had been informed of the AGM. The low attendance may have been because most did not know about it. DM agreed that communication with parents would have to improve and would be a priority to be addressed as quickly as possible. A social event, such as a cheese and wine or similar, would become part of the activity of the new Social Group. Also, the new Facebook page would be used to promote future meetings, and to encourage parents to raise issues or volunteer to support the work of the Parent Body. **ACTION:** Committee

10. Comhairle nam Pàrant meetings will be held in the school on the first Thursday of every month during school term between 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

Those dates are likely to be:

6 November, 11 December, 8 January, 5 February, 5 March, 31 March, 14 May, 4 June

DM closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.