

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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23/06/2011

Cleachd sa bhad

BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG A’ SIREADH SOILLEIREACHADH AIR MEUDACHADH CHOSGAISEAN ANN AN DÙN ÈIDEANN

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig, a’ bhuidheann reachdail a tha an urra ri adhartachadh agus leasachadh na Gàidhlig agus comhairleachadh Mhinistearan na h-Alba, air draghan a chur an cèill mun mheudachadh ann an cosgaisean an lùib ath-ùrachadh Sgoil Bonnington ann an Dùn Èideann.

Bha pàrantan an dòchas gum bhòtadh Comhairle Baile Dhùn Èideann airson stèidheachadh sgoil Ghàidhlig ann an Dùn Èideann nuair a choinnicheas a’ Chomhairle air 30^{mh} Ògmhios. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air taic a chur ris an iomairt seo bhon fhìor thoiseach agus air fàilte a chur cheana air co-dhùnadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba gus maoinachadh calpa de £1.4m a sholarachadh airson cosgais na pròiseict a chòmhdach, mar a chaidh a chomharrachadh le Comhairle Baile Dhùn Èideann. Ach o chionn ghoirid, tha tuairmsean ùra de £3.6m air a thighinn am bàrr, agus tha sin a’ togail ceist mu dheidhinn leasachadh na sgoile, agus tha Comhairle Baile Dhùn Èideann air daingneachadh an-diugh fhèin nach bi iad a’ bhòtadh a-nis gun t-Sultain, an dèidh dhaibh suirbhidh mhionaideach eile a choileanadh air an togalach a tha air a mholadh mar sgoil Ghàidhlig.

’S e togalach air an liosta clàraidh a th’ ann an sgoil Bonnington agus tha pàrantan agus buidhnean eile le ùidh air mòr-iongnadh a nochdadh nach eil a’ Chomhairle air a chumail suas.

A’ toirt beachd air an t-suidheachadh làithreach seo, thuirt Art MacCarraig, Cathraiche Bhòrd na Gàidhlig: “Tha e deatamach gun tig luchd-ùidh, a tha air dealas làidir a thaisbeanadh a thaobh na molaidh seo mar-thà, uile còmhla cho luath ’s a ghabhas gus fuasgladh fhaotainn air an t-suidheachadh seo. Tha e soilleir a-nis gu bheil an ìre gu nach robh oifigearan ann an Comhairle Baile Dhùn Èideann comasach air ro-innse cheart a thoirt air cosgaisean an ath-ùrachaidh, aig an ìre as fheàrr air dàil a chur air adhartas agus aig an ìre as miosa air a’ phròiseact iomlan a chur ann an cunnart.”

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San eadar-ama, tha Mgr MacCarraig air sgrìobhadh mar a leanas gu Stiùiriche na Comhairle, Jenny Dawe, a’ cur an cèill fìor iomagain mu shuidheachadh chùisean aig an àm seo: “Tha e a’ coimhead coltach a-nis gun toir an ìre de dh’obair a tha a dhìth aig Bonnington cus nas fhaide na bhathar an dùil, a’ ciallachadh nach fhosgail an sgoil mar a bha san amharc ann an 2012. Mar a bhios sibh fhèin an aire, mura fosgail Sgoil Bonnington san Lùnastal 2012 tha trioblaid a thaobh rùm gu bhith ann an Crois na Cìse, agus mar sin tha e glè chudromach dhuinne nach èirich suidheachadh far a bheilear a’ cur cuibhreachadh air àireamhan sgoilearan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus gum bi clann air an cleith bhon fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, a tha am pàrantan a’ rùnachadh dhaibh.”

“Le nas lugha na seachdain ri dhol mus coinnich a’ Chomhairle, tha e deatamach gum bi Comhairle Baile Dhùn Èidean fosgarra mun seo agus gum faic sinn fiosrachadh mionaideach mu na cosgaisean, còmhla ri mìneachadh air mar a thàinig na tachartasan mì-shealbhach seo gu bith, mar a rinn oifigearan na Comhairle a leithid sin de mhearachd a thaobh nan sùimean agus an ìre gu bheil a’ Chomhairle fo àrachas airson mèirle agus leigeil a-steach uisge, agus am pàigh tagradh airgid airson cuid de na cosgaisean a bharrachd. Gu sònraichte, feumaidh sinn fiosrachadh fhaotainn mun bhuidh a bhios aig an seo air stèidheachadh an togalaich mar sgoil Ghàidhlig.”

Crìoch

Nota: Tha leth-bhric de na litrichean eadar Cathraiche Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus Stiùiriche Comhairle Baile Dhùn Èideann an lùib seo.

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu shusbaint na brath naidheachd seo, cuiribh fios gu Steven MacIomhair, Oifigear Conalraidh & Cùisean Corporra air 07557 481 081.

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For immediate use

BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG SEEKS CLARIFICATION ON ESCALATING COSTS IN EDINBURGH

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the statutory body responsible for the promotion and development of Gaelic and advising Scottish Government Ministers, has expressed serious concerns about the escalating costs of refurbishing Bonnington School in Edinburgh.

It had been hoped by parents that City of Edinburgh Council would vote to establish a Gaelic school in Edinburgh when it meets on 30th June. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has supported this initiative from the outset and has previously welcomed the Scottish Government decision to provide capital funding of £1.4m to cover the cost of the project as identified by the City of Edinburgh Council. Recently however new estimates of £3.6m have emerged, putting a question mark over the development of the school and the City of Edinburgh Council has confirmed today that they will not now be holding a vote until September after they have carried out another in-depth survey of the building proposed as a Gaelic school.

Bonnington School is a listed building, and parents and other interested groups have expressed astonishment that the Council have not maintained it.

Commenting on this current state of affairs, Cathraiche of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Arthur Cormack, said: "It is imperative that all stakeholders who have already shown strong commitment to this proposal get together as soon as possible to resolve the situation. It is now clear that the extent to which officials of the City of Edinburgh Council were unable to accurately predict the costs of renovation has, at best, delayed progress and, at worst, threatened the whole proposal."

In the meantime Mr Cormack has written to Council Leader Jenny Dawe, expressing serious concerns at this turn of events in the following terms: "It now appears that the extent of the work required at Bonnington will take much longer than expected to complete resulting in the school not opening, as expected, in 2012. As you will be aware, if Bonnington School

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does not open in August 2012, there is going to be an accommodation problem at Tollcross and it is obviously very important to us that a situation does not arise whereby Gaelic-medium pupil numbers are capped and children are denied the Gaelic-medium education their parents wish for them.”

“It is vital that the City of Edinburgh Council is transparent about this, and that we see the detail of the costs along with an explanation as to how this extremely unfortunate turn of events occurred, how Council officials got their sums so wrong, to what extent the Council is insured for theft and water ingress and whether a claim will offset some of the extra costs. Most importantly, we need to know the effect all this will have on the establishment of the Gaelic school.”

Ends

Note: Copy of letters between the Cathraiche (Chair) of Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council are attached.

For further information on the contents of this news release, please contact Steven MacIver, Communications & Corporate Affairs Officer on 07557 481 081.