

Schools Forum

Northern Region Regional Meeting

7th December, 2018

Participants

- Thom Mhango (St Peters Primary School) – Head Teacher (New)
- Lucia Nkunika (Area 1 B Primary School) – Headteacher
- Dickson C. Munthali (Katawa CCAP Primary School) - Chairperson for partnership)
- Dyna E. Ingainga (Lunyangwa Girls Primary School) Headteacher
- Sam Nyirenda, Katoto Secondary School (partnership lead)
- Olive Chingota, Manyozo Katoto Secondary School (partnership lead)
- Bandera Lihoma kalima, Katoto Secondary School (partnership lead)

St Patricks Secondary School

- Presented by Father Sam Ng'oma
- Partnership with St. Benedict High Schools
- Partnership been in existence for over 10 years
- Exchange visits, during which there is exchange of gifts and skills
- Sharing of school materials including balls, pens etc
- Partner is supporting a Construction of a brick fence
- Partnership also involves host family. When St patricks visited Scotland, students were hosted by families.

St Peters Primary School

- Thom Mhango – Head Teacher (New)
- St Peters Primary School has partners with St Marys and St Mathews in Scotland
- In the past they used to come and with different items
- They even funded a desk project.
- Last communication was done last year. The new head teacher is not aware why communication ceased.

Area 1 B Primary school

- Lucia Nkunika – Headteacher
- New partnership, their partner school St Geraldine Primary School
- Communication is on course, still on introduction.
- With support from MASP, advised to create a group through

Njakwa Primary School

- Wiseman N.S., Headteacher
- Partner with Scoraig Primary in Scotland
- Partnership is currently passive as their contact lead moved out of the schools and did not do the necessary handovers.
- Recently received letters from their partners in Scotland through post office, yet to respond.
- School is looking forward to continue the partnership and implement more sustainable methods of communication for sustainability and avoid current situation in future

Katoto Secondary School

- Represented by Sam Nyirenda, Olive Chingota Manyozo and Bandera Likoma kalima (partnership leads)
- A partnership was born with Hutcheson Grammar School in Glasgow early this year
- First project, is a research project, where they were supposed to find out why there is mass drop out from school by children in different locations within Mzuzu. Students worked in pairs and research was done in different locations, they talked with teachers, parents, peers, religious leaders. Students that participated were awarded.
- 5 students will be sponsored from now up to when they will finish their secondary education
- So far partnership is going on well.
- Another project is being designed, where the partner school would like to know Mzuzu better.. It will be done in January

Benefits/Positives and what is going on well

- Communication amongst some partner schools
- Mutual respect, despite differences in culture
- Spirit of Scottish people, they are generous and welcoming
- They are able to support projects this side.
- Their support is for the benefit of whole school
- Sharing of skills and knowledge

What is not going on well

- In some school, communication is centered on individuals i.e. headteachers or individuals that facilitated the partnership
- No proper handovers, when one responsible for partnership moves
- Spirit of jealousy in schools, for instance other teachers feeling jealousy of partnership leads.
- Feeling that those handling partnership are getting more than what we can see
- Tendency of being on the receiving end and responding when they have received.

What can we do

- Malawian schools to improve on communication including initiating communication be it letters, cards, whatsapp, email etc
- Establish partnership leads in schools to include a number of teachers, students, and some community members
- Participation in schools forum to share experiences.
- Request for big and frequent schools forums so that schools can share experiences.
- Request for selected strand leads