

Cross Party Group on Malawi
Wednesday 2nd September 2015
17.30 – 19.00

Scottish Parliament
Committee Room 4
AGENDA

Co-Conveners: Liam McArthur MSP and Michael Russell MSP

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| 1. James Dornan MSP | 15. Jenny Flockhart (The Mary Erskine School) |
| 2. Linda Fabiani MSP | 16. David Hope-Jones (Scotland Malawi Partnership) |
| 3. Liam McArthur MSP | 17. Pat Hiddleston (SMP member) |
| 4. Michael Russell MSP | 18. James Johnstone (JTS) |
| 5. Sarah Aitken (Glennifer High School) | 19. Brian Kerr (The Soko Fund) |
| 6. Tony Begley (Classrooms for Malawi) | 20. Grace Manyika (SMP member) |
| 7. Charlie Bevan (Scotland Malawi Partnership) | 21. Mercy Mgoola |
| 8. Lesley Binning (Glennifer High School) | 22. Emily Mnyayi (Scotland Malawi Partnership) |
| 9. Keith Bohannon (Scotland Malawi Partnership) | 23. Joyce Phiri |
| 10. Stuart Brown (GalvMed) | 24. Georgia Porter (Glennifer High School) |
| 11. Amanda Burton (Stockbridge Primary School) | 25. Seonaid Stevenson (Classrooms for Malawi) |
| 12. Moira Dunworth (Mamie Martin Fund) | 26. Fraser Scott (Glennifer High School) |
| 13. Geoff Earl (SMP member) | 27. James Wilcox (Glennifer High School) |
| 14. Jackie Farr (Scotland Malawi Partnership) | 28. Ben Wilson (University of Glasgow) |

1. Welcoming remarks

Minutes were approved from the previous meeting, and apologies were noted David Stevenson, (SMP member), Peter West (Honorary Consul), Jane Salmonson (CBM UK), Ken Ross (Scotland Malawi Partnership), Mario I Aguilar (St Andrews University), Neil Merrylees (University of Dundee), Siobhan McMohan MSP, Alex Fergusson and Patrick Harvie MSP.

2. AGM: Election / confirmation of Office Bearers

The following were elected for office:

Convener: Liam McArthur MSP and Michael Russell MSP (Proposed: Moira Dunworth, Seconded: Joyce Phiri)

Vice-convener: Alex Ferguson MSP, Siobhan MacMohan MSP, Christina McKelvie MSP and Patrick Harvie MSP (Proposed: Michael Russell MSP, Seconded: Pat Hiddleston).

All of the vice-conveners were elected in absentia. The SMP will approach to confirm they're happy with this appointment before the next meeting.

Secretary: Scotland Malawi Partnership (Proposed: Michael Russell MSP, Seconded: Liam McArthur MSP)

3. Presentation on scale, impact and values of Scotland-Malawi school links

The following organisations made presentations on their work supporting school links between Scotland and Malawi:

Emily Mnyayi – Scotland Malawi Partnership

- 160 schools currently members of the SMP
- Type of support offered is very varied depending on needs/interest of the schools
- Creates a space for schools to share good practice in schools linking through case studies, videos and networking events.

Tony Begley – Classrooms for Malawi

- Work with schools and local communities to build classrooms in Malawi
- Use the project as a context for developing global citizenship understanding
- Schools can get involved if looking for one-off support and if they wish to visit their partner school

Amanda Burton – Stockbridge Primary School

- Stockbridge Primary School has a link with Mpeni School in Malawi
- Their partnership is based around sharing curricular links
- Projects have included music workshops and toy exchanges
- Communications were a challenge but have greatly improved since the partner school got a laptop

Sarah Aitken – Gleniffer High School

- Gleniffer High School has been working with Classrooms for Malawi for a number of years
- They have also been working to embed Malawi in to their curriculum
- The value of the links in terms of student development has included encouraging pupils outside their comfort zones, developing fundraising skills, new friendships and raising awareness of their strengths and weaknesses
- The whole community has been activity involved in their partnership from local businesses to the parents committee, which has increased awareness and support for the links.

4. Discussion and Q and A

Following the presentations discussion was raised highlighting:

- The value of such links in developing the global understanding of Scotland's young people
- The role of broad community engagement to support school links, particularly the role of local businesses to offer financial support
- The importance of finding the right partner, and being willing to admit when it's not working
- Support offered by British Council, SMP, MaSP and others to help develop news links
- How support for school links could further be developed
- Ensuring that school links create space to ask critical questions relating to the root causes of poverty

5. Any other business and closing remarks

Upcoming events:

- SMP AGM- 3rd October, Stewart's Melville College
- SMP Youth Congress- 23rd November, Technology Innovation Centre, Glasgow

Date of next meeting: 4th November, 1.30-3pm, Committee Room 4.