

ATSIKANA PA ULENDU – MALAWI EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held November 20, 2017
Meeting held via Gotomeeting.com (Audio Only)

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ATTENDEES: Lori Messer (Chair); Helene Weir (Director); Christie Johnson (Director & E.D.); Lance Shaver (Director); David Stocks (Director); Tricia Timmermans (Secretary); Pat Killoran (Director); Dean Rohrs (Director); Dariol Haydock (Director); Michele Parkin (Director).

1: Call to Order

Chairperson Lori Messer called the meeting to order at 5:01 PT/ 6:01PM MT. She confirmed that there was a quorum and that secretary, Tricia Timmermans, was taking Minutes. Lori welcomed new director, Michele Parkin.

2: Approval of the Agenda.

M/S Pat/Dean that the Agenda be adopted. CARRIED

3. Confirmation of Membership

Christie added Larry and Donna Johnson's names to the membership list. Michele was confirmed as a member. Christie feels that it is Lynn Lebreque who is a member and not the Rotary Club of St. Albert. Kelly Aldridge also received a Notice of Meeting but could not attend.

MOTION: M/S Helene/ Dariol: That the membership is confirmed as amended. CARRIED.

4: Minutes of the November 22nd, 2016 Annual General Meeting.

M/S Christie/Dean that the Minutes of the November 22nd, 2016 AGM be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Chairman's Report: Lori Messer

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the APU Malawi Education Foundation.

This members' meeting provides an opportunity to reflect on our Foundation's progress toward the achievement of our purpose "to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged young women in rural Malawi through the development and ongoing operation of educational facilities".

In seeking to achieve that purpose, we continue to be inspired by our founders, Christie and Memory; by their uncompromising vision, their unflagging commitment and their unmitigated dedication.

We salute Henry's creation of a modern school campus that features a blending of local building methods with innovative architecture, modern environmental technologies like solar power and composting pit toilets, and a flourishing garden that not only provides students with fresh, organic garden produce but also nurtures hundreds of trees from seed that will provide shade for generations to come.

Together Memory and Henry have worked tirelessly under challenging circumstances to integrate the school with the local village. Their initiation of and participation in local projects and their record as compassionate employers have improved the quality of life for many local families.

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We salute the teachers for their steadfast leadership and loyalty to the school and its unique tenets and for their willingness to forge new pathways of learning and teaching. APU students continue to almost double the national pass rate on the Malawi School Certificate Exams. Almost 500 girls have graduated since the school's inception. Some of the graduates are working at APU as teachers, health and support staff and others have received scholarships to attend post-secondary institutes. Some of them have gone back to their villages as confident young women with more voice and choice in what they do with their lives, when and who they marry and how they raise their children.

None of this would be possible without the unflagging support of our donors. Their generous donations sponsor girls to attend APU and are building the campus brick by brick—without them APU would not exist. Thank you to all the individual and corporate donors, Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact Clubs, and Women Helping Women. You have changed the lives of so many girls who would otherwise never have had this opportunity to improve their lives.

Thank you to the APU Malawi Trust directors for providing local governance support to APU. Your expertise and local knowledge is an important and crucial component of this project's success. This project would not be possible without you.

Thank you to our Board of Directors for giving APU the benefit of their experience and wisdom. Each director contributes a piece to our success. Treasurer Pat juggled not only the finances but also has a significant Rotary Global grant under his belt. Since our inception, Secretary Tricia has kept us organised with our minutes and her corporate knowledge. David monitors adherence to our program definition and is a willing and enthusiastic APU ambassador. Helene adds perspective and structure to our decision-making. Lance hosts our website from the other coast of Canada and Dean opens new doors for us both in Canada and abroad. Dariol tirelessly leads the highly successful, annual, Women Helping Women event. We look forward to discovering our newest director Michele's unique gifts. Thank you Christie for all your hard work as Executive Director and for the privilege of accompanying you on this exciting adventure.

My friends, we are at an exciting and pivotal point in our program plan. APU is on the cusp of self-sufficiency - our unique donor promise since the inception of this project. Very few international community development projects truly achieve self-sustainability. The next four years will be both exciting and challenging for all of us. APU Trust will gradually assume all of the student sponsorships. APU MEF will need to maintain and engage donors as never before to complete the final leg of our capital plan. We will have to work closely with our Malawi partners to ensure that the crucial elements of success are in place. We will all need to employ an even higher level of self-assessment and scrutiny. To succeed will require hard work, unflinching honesty and courage.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." We are two groups of citizens; one here tonight in Canada and the other in Malawi. Together we are changing the world.

6. Executive Director's Report: Christie Johnson

Atsikana Pa Ulendo, Malawi Education Foundation states that we 'give girls a choice', and that we 'give girls a voice'. Now into its 11th year of operation, having graduated over 500 girls, we can say with certainty that there are already measurable and lasting improvements in the quality of their lives and in the lives of the people around them. APU graduates and students are finding their voices and they are beginning to feel that they have the power to make their own choices about their future.

Measurable Success

The standard of academic excellence at APU continues to climb, with our most recent National Exam results an astounding 99% pass rate, compared to the national pass rate of 52%. Our graduates include 40 Primary School Teachers, 2 Nurses and another 18 in Nursing College, 35 Agriculture Extension Workers, 2 Accountants, and 126 currently in Colleges and University programs in Malawi, and most of them, regardless of their post secondary education status, are engaged in small business ventures, adding much needed income in support of their families and younger siblings. Maness Samuel, one of our first APU graduates, is also a Pearson College Alum as well as a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. Maness is back at APU volunteering her time to help Memory, and in particular, encourage the students by supporting their efforts in seeking job placements, and accessing scholarships. Maness is also undertaking a major effort to gather information about APU alumni.

Fundraising and Donor Relations

Our fundraising efforts this past year included the yearly garden party hosted by the Victoria Women Helping Women, coordinated and inspired by Director Dariol Haydock. We also received extraordinary support from the Grande Prairie Sunrise Club as they took on the full scholarship of 9 of our students as well as a large donation towards Hostel #6. The Rotary Club of St. Albert focused their efforts from their yearly silent auction and came through with a major donation from their members towards scholarships for 16 of our students. Our greatest source of capital funding for the year was a substantial donation from the McCallan's, which was put towards the completion of Hostel #6 and the Legacy Building.

Construction and Capital Projects

Our focus this year was on three projects, including constructing Primary Class Block #3, Hostel #6 and Phase 2 of the Legacy Building. An exciting prospect for the coming year is an initiative headed by MEF Director Pat Killoran to apply, on behalf of his Rotary Club, the RC of Lethbridge, for a Global Grant. If successful, this grant could result in \$200,000 of funding. Pat's three-week stay at APU a year ago was extremely successful in strengthening ties between local Rotary Clubs and APU. If successful, this grant will have a major impact on APU's capacity to deliver high quality education to our students as it involves a large solar power component, upgrades to our computer lab, and professional development for our teachers.

Highlight APU Primary School

The APU Primary School, recently named the Victoria Gardens Academy, has entered its fourth year of operation, and has quickly gained attention for offering badly needed high quality primary education to its students. Growing from its opening enrollment of 12 students in Sept 2014, to over 140 students currently enrolled, the ripple effects of this fledgling school have already been felt throughout Malawi and even into neighboring Mozambique.

Challenges

We are now entering new and uncharted waters with regards to our final push towards achieving our walk away plan. This year marks the last year that APU MEF will take on new sponsorships of Form 1 girls, leaving us with four years to complete our commitment to our current 68 MEF scholarship students.

The most important thing we can do over the next few years is to fund the completion of the construction of the Legacy Building and the final student hostels. This will allow APU to grow in numbers, bringing in the necessary private student tuition required to cover the scholarships that are being taken on by the Malawi Trust. Fundraising for our capital projects needs to become our major focus over the next few years.

Concluding Remarks

This year, each and every one of our APU MEF Directors has sunk their energy, time and skills into moving APU forward. From promoting APU within their Rotary Clubs and personal spheres of influence, to personal sponsorship of APU students, the building the APU website, and providing professional development opportunities for APU teachers, MEF is a strong, active, influential and completely dedicated group of people committed to the mission, vision and principles of the Foundation. It continues to be a privilege to work alongside this team and I want to thank each one of you for your integrity, your courage, and for giving your time, energy and expertise.

Finally, I continue to be humbled by the courage, single minded dedication and unflagging energy of Memory and Henry with regards to their commitment to changing the lives of the extraordinary young women in their care. I have no words to express the depth of my admiration for the work that they are doing. I am proud to be travelling this path alongside them, their students, the APU teachers, the APU Trustees, and our own MEF Directors.

David: mentioning the McCallan's name? How about taking out the amount donated?

How come the primary school is "fledgling"? What was the scope of the school intended to be? Just for the teachers? Update the project definition. Lance asked for authorization to publish the two reports (Lori and Christie's) on the website. Will ask the McCallan's if it is OK to put their names in there.

7. Treasurer's Report: Pat Killoran.

Pat drew attention to the previously disseminated Financial Statements, which have been checked for accuracy, but are unaudited. Assets are primarily cash (\$53,000); the bulk of this (\$34,000) is being held for construction. Surplus is down significantly. Income was up from last year, but major expenses

(construction) are greater than income. School operations amount to \$122,000. This figure is also up. Remaining expenses are relatively normal. David expressed gratitude to Pat for all the work done.

M/S: Pat/Helene: That the Financial Statements as prepared by Mr. Ken Macrae C.A. be approved as presented. CARRIED

7. Nominating Committee Report: Lori Messer/Tricia Timmermans

Christie Johnson, Pat Killoran, Dariol Haydock, Lori Messer, Lance Shaver and Dean Rohrs were elected as directors to the board of APU-MEF for a three-year term, ending December 31st, 2017.

David Stocks was elected as a director to the board of APU-MEF for a three-year term ending December 31st 2018.

At the November 22, 2016 AGM, Helene Weir and Tricia Timmermans were elected as directors to the board of APU MEF for a three-year term, ending December 31st, 2019.

At the October 30, 2017 Board of Directors' Meeting, Michele Parkin was appointed to the Board.

There were no further nominations. This being so, Tricia Timmermans and Lori Messer have nominated the following slate for appointment as directors to the board of APU-MEF for a three-year term ending December 31st 2020: Christie Johnson; Pat Killoran; Dariol Haydock; Lori Messer; Lance Shaver; Dean Rohrs; Michele Parkin.

M/Tricia S/David that the above members be appointed to the board for a three-year term ending Dec 31 2020.

9. Other Business

Lori emphasized that, because Christie is working full-time now, we, as working board members, will have to support her fully this coming year. Lori will be calling on many of us to contribute; the payback will be that we will be able to say that we have supported this project to a place of sustainability within four years, which will be a feather in the cap of Memory and Christie. David and Lori will work on updating the Project Definition; we will have to give more thought to the fundraising plan. Helene and Tricia offered to help in this regard. The website and other communication tools will be critical over the next four years. Pat will be filing the CRA returns in the next little while.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PT / 6:40 MT.

Minutes prepared by: Tricia Timmermans

Approved at the APU directors meeting on