

# MY PFP PARTNERSHIP



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During 2020 / 2021 I was honoured to have been given the opportunity of acting as one of the business partners in the Partners for Possibility programme which Multotec contributes to each year.

Partners for Possibility (PFP) engages business leaders and school principals and develops their leadership skills in co-learning and co-action partnerships. The programme is a carefully designed, 12-month leadership development programme in which much of the learning and development takes place while business leaders and school

principals work together in partnership to address challenges in schools.

Both partners attend leadership training courses and facilitated sessions with other principals and business leaders. Through this process, principals are empowered to embed their schools at the centre of their communities and to improve the quality of education being offered to our youth.

While many principals have been outstanding educators and perhaps have inherent leadership potential, most have not been equipped with the skills they need to fulfil a leadership role that is critically important and extremely challenging. Meeting this need for skills development is a mammoth task, but it is not insurmountable if the private sector offers its expertise and support. Without skilled leadership, schools cannot provide the quality of education that gives young South Africans the opportunity to become productive members of society.

My partner this past year has been the fabulous Mr Thomas Mathavha, school principal of Mvelephanda Primary School in Thembisa. Mvelephanda is a section 22 school which has 1200 Venda

speaking pupils from a broad geographic base which includes, Thembisa, Midrand and Germiston.

It's a wonderful school full of colour, energy and love and under Mr Mathavha's leadership has a number of successful projects under their belt. Naturally, the biggest challenge for schools over the past 18 months has been dealing with the covid crisis and this school has certainly had many obstacles to overcome. The school services a very poor community and the reality is that there are just not the devices, resources or tools for online learning so they have had to work around triple shifts and staggered learning programmes. This is massively stressful and a huge work burden for the teachers and administrators alike.

During the past year I have been blessed to have been included in some of the projects that the school is progressing with. They have a wonderful corporate sponsor, Saint-Gobain who have committed to a 5 year investment programme which includes projects such as new classrooms, bathroom upgrades, playground upgrades, veggie gardens etc.

The PFP programme has given both Mr Mathavha and myself the opportunity to attend training on The Thinking Environment, Community Building and Flawless Consulting. These valuable skills improve the basis on which constructive stakeholder relationships are built in a productive and sustainable way. Multotec's contribution to the programme has two arms: the first is the financial contribution to the programme which covers the costs of all the training programmes, the second is the time and service of the business leader partner, which was me for the 2020/2021 programme.

Covid has certainly limited a lot of the interaction that may have taken place between us but I have already given my commitment to continuing the beautiful friendship and mentorship that we have developed between ourselves this year and look forward to maintaining our support of each other into the future.

#BeKind



BY VIVIENNE MURRAY