BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:  
Gavin Parker  (teacher)  
Elaine Browne  (P&C Uniform Shop)  
Steve Chan  (parent)  
Tim Cunningham  (Chairperson)  
Janina Longman  (Deputy Principal)  
Colin Jones  (community member)  
Mia Kumar  (Principal)  
Robert Brett  (community member)  
Karyn O'Brien  (Deputy Principal)  
Patrice Simpson  (teacher representative)  
Brigitte Myers  (student)  
Meredith Stapleton  (student)  
Leanne McKee  (P&C President)  
Frank Levy  (community member)  

APOLOGIES:  
Lindy Annakin  (community member)  
Taylah Plataniotis  (student)  

1. Tim welcomed members and reported that special guests from Burwood Council had withdrawn their attendance due to a special meeting that took place on Tuesday 10 May.

2. Business Arising was discussed.
   2.1 Principal tabled the letter, written to Burwood Council, inviting their attendance at School Council meeting on 18 May. The letter of acceptance from Michael McMahon, General Manager was read outlining his willingness to attend the meeting with John Inglese and Paul Staples.
   2.2 A draft "memorandum of understanding" was tabled: "Schedule G – School Rules". This document has never been signed by Burwood Council (Pat Romano did not comply).
   2.3 A similar school group (405) was tabled for School Council. This group included 41 high schools (as well as Burwood GHS). It was noted that there were 10 selective high schools including the Agricultural schools.

3. Wangal Park issues were raised. A Burwood Council plan outlining the use of the access roadway as a joint entry to the park was tabled. Principal reported that a special meeting attended by DET's Roger Millott, Ann McGee and Lai Yin Chiew (Director, Asset Management Directorate) and Burwood Council's Paul Staples, Bruce MacDonnell, Robert Teo and Michael McMahon (General Manager) was held with the principal on 10 May. At this meeting Burwood Council wanted to outline its plan for Wangal Park and talk about continuing development taking at least four more years.

Plans for the park were quite unacceptable and DET was to write to council to terminate the arrangement for access. Discussion took place about community use for soccer field in return for mowing and maintaining the field. There was also discussion about acquiring the additional piece of land (if necessary). A plan of the playing fields
included in the minutes of a meeting held on 12 June 2009, was tabled. The outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

3. 1 Road access terminated and Burwood Council to arrange for the removal of road, barbed wire fencing and restore land.
3. 2 A licence agreement for use of soccer field to be drafted by DET.
3. 3 Land exchange to be negotiated (DET strip on northern boundary to be swapped with triangular section on Burwood Council’s land).
3. 4 No community use of multipurpose courts.

A draft letter from Lai Yin Chiew, Director of Facilities Management was tabled. Council members agreed that this was a positive step forward.

4. SRC reported on the success of several events including:
   4. 1 International Day
   4. 2 Clothes Swap
   4. 3 Japanese Visit

Variety Night tomorrow night and Stage Band Night will be excellent events. Planning for overseas trips to Samoa and New Caledonia is underway. Students are fundraising for various organisations and charities as well as “Hands Across the Ocean” initiative.

5. The 2010 Annual School Report was tabled. This report is on the school website and a small number of copies were printed for special groups. The report contained information about our excellent results in NAPLAN, SC and HSC. It also contained progress on our targets and outcomes of the evaluations on the library as a learning centre, quality teaching in Year 7 mathematics and Year 8/9 geography. Parent, student and teacher satisfaction is high. The targets for 2011 include:
   5. 1 quality teaching and learning
   5. 2 curriculum and careers education
   5. 3 library as a learning centre
   5. 4 student wellbeing and safety
   5. 5 engagement with Asia
   5. 6 managing technology effectively

Principal thanked all those who assisted to ensure an appropriate report for 2010.

6. “My School” website can be googled and results for Burwood GHS observed to be very positive (lots of green, pale green or white). We were not successful in accessing the site at the meeting and it was suggested that members try themselves to look at the My School website for Burwood GHS.

7. The principal outlined some capital programs/projects that are tabled to occur.
   7. 1 New toilet upgrade (as soon as funds available).
   7. 2 Finally a solution to drainage problems near music wing. This has been a huge issue for years and finally it is being addressed.
   7. 3 Vinyl flooring is being extended outside the Science rooms (a continuation of downstairs corridor) for $24 000 (school funded).
   7. 4 Picnic tables for playground seating for students (P&C funded).

Concern expressed about funds required to update commercial kitchen requirements for the Hospitality course. Could amount to $200 000 - $300 000 which the school cannot afford. Principal has suggested to Hospitality teachers to investigate opportunities beyond the school (eg Burwood RSL). Fort Street HS uses facilities at Rick Damelian for their Hospitality course. Burwood GHS needs to explore opportunities in the community.
8. P&C contribution is currently paid to the school which is passed on to the P&C. This could remain at the school as a trust account or be passed on to P&C once they decide on their bank of choice. The P&C are keen to support school initiatives (especially seating in the playground for students).

9. General Business items were outlined.
   9.1 Principal reported on parking infringements imposed by Council. This was to be referred to the office to circulate in Event or on the website.
   9.2 Deputy reported on a new group ‘Tiddas’ to promote Aboriginal perspectives. So far 48 students have volunteered to belong and to support this initiative. Karyn is delighted.
   9.3 Social Media and Technology paper for teachers was tabled – a useful document outlining protocols for Facebook.
   9.4 School photos have been distributed. Very successful. There was some concern about the band photo which was headed “Junior Band”. The heading should be replaced with “Band Program”. Gavin to contact Academy Photos to see if title of photo can be changed for student orders.
   9.5 Principal raised meeting from local religious groups, in particular:
      - James Fong, Burwood Presbyterian
      - Steve Ryman, St James Croydon
      - Rhombus Ning, Salvation Army
      to organise once a term seminars for Years 7-10. They were told about a survey of parents, three years ago, which suggested parents were not keen to support religious instruction in a government school. This group are keen to try and believe that the Tuesday morning time allotted to scripture is not suitable. They are proposing 30 June as the seminar day for Years 7-10 and will provide a letter for parents to opt out of this program should they wish. Council agreed that the Education Act allows for religious instruction in schools and this program should be supported. If it is not well attended by students, then the future of the seminars could be reviewed.

Tim thanked members for their attendance.

Meeting closed 7:00 pm.

Next Meeting: 17 August 2011, 6:00 pm