BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOOL COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2011  
6:00 pm in School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Judy Bokor (parent)  
Gavin Parker (teacher)  
Steve Chan (parent)  
Tim Cunningham (Chairperson)  
Janina Longman (Deputy Principal)  
Mia Kumar (Principal)  
Robert Brett (community member)  
Karyn O’Brien (Deputy Principal)  
Patrice Simpson (teacher representative)  
Brigitte Myers (student)  
Taylah Plataniotis (student)  
Meredith Stapleton (student)  

1. Apologies. Lindy Annakin, Frank Levy, Elaine Browne. Welcome to new staff member Gavin Parker. Mia apologised that an invitation had not been sent to the new P&C President, Leanne McKee to attend this meeting. This will be rectified. Tim suggested a new member list for 2011 be organised.

2. Business Arising was discussed.

2.1 Signs have been placed in school and now show clearly where to go for office, band, uniform shop as well as library.

2.2 Library hours have been extended from 8am to 4pm as a result of student requests. Students are keen to use the computers and printing facilities and not so focussed on book borrowing first thing in the morning.

2.3 The school is pleased to report a full complement of staff. Two new head teachers: Gavin Parker, HT Mathematics, and Vaughan Morrison, HT Secondary Studies. This position is still evolving. Vaughan is very interested in use of technology in learning as well as middle schooling. His original focus on Senior School may change however he has been interviewing some Year 12 students who were absenting themselves from class.

New members of staff include:  
Jack Brand ............... Teacher Librarian  
Leith Thompson....... Social Sciences  
Jessica Hartanto....... Social Sciences  
Julia Alvarado.......... Social Sciences  
Amy Yongsiri ............ Visual Arts  
Kirsty Tottenham ...... Science  
Jenny Hales.............. Science  
Jodie Coleman .......... English and Year 7 Adviser has returned to us after a year in WA.

2.4 STARR Days: Sisterhood, Trust, Acceptance, Resilience, Respect. Karyn reported that welfare days will now be referred to as STARR days.

3. Students provided a report from the SRC. New members have been voted in Years 8, 9 and 10. Maroon Day raised $900 to go towards flood and cyclone disaster relief in Queensland. The gelato stall implemented by Year 8 was well organised to raise funds.

In Week 6, International Women’s Day will be celebrated on 7 March – wear purple. Inspirational women posters to be made by students and displayed. Discussion took place
about the need to revisit the women’s posters in the hall as well as the flags (to update). The Japanese visit on 7 March will need to be included in the assembly for International Women’s Day.

International Day is being held on 24 March – concert, performances and food from a variety of countries. The whole school is involved and it is a major event on our calendar.

A Youth Event focussing on sustainability will be held on Saturday 2 April from 10 am to 1:30 pm. Special speakers, clothes swap in the hall. Food to be supplied. Burwood Council funding $3000 to organise this event. Flyers have been sent to all households “See the Difference”. Flyer tabled at the meeting. A suggestion that a General Assistant be employed to assist on 2 April was discussed.

4. A draft Annual Budget for 2011 was tabled. The transition money $8000 was specified clearly this year – concern that it was not identified in the 2010 budget was mentioned by principal. Technology upgrades and furniture were identified for 2011 as well as allowing $40 000 for school improvements such as shelter, playground settings and seating.

5. Situation between Burwood GHS and Burwood Council was at a stalemate. No mowing of grounds, no removal of roadway, no discussion. A community meeting had been held but DET and school not invited. Letter to be sent to Council requesting solution to current situation with invitation to attend the next School Council meeting on 18 May. Principal to attend to this. The purpose for our next meeting is to have the Memorandum of Understanding as well as discuss and clarify the role Burwood Council will play in maintaining the soccer field.

6. From Sunday 20-22 February, annual executive conference was held at Bowral. Middle Schooling was the focus. We considered Middle School Years 7-9 and Senior School to be Years 10,11,12. The evaluation of merit certificates was also discussed. The conference program and action items were tabled. Judy Bokor is happy to be part of merit certificate evaluation.

7. Tim raised some safety concerns. Firstly, parking within school grounds is not permitted for students. Burwood GHS does not have a policy on student drivers or student passengers. Janina reported that Mullumbimby HS has a driver policy but School Council members felt that as there were no problems with student drivers at our school, and therefore a policy was not necessary. School security has improved since the installation of a fence. Parents did not seem to drop off their daughters in the school grounds as much as before. Safety had improved.

8. Annual School Report for 2010 is in the process of being written. Reports are required from the executive, SRC, School Council, P&C by 15 March. The School Data Summary Sheet was tabled. HSC, SC and NAPLAN results were examined. Members wanted to be informed about “similar school group” and which schools related to ours. “My School” website: Principal will endeavour to obtain information for the next meeting. Suggestion to delete similar school group column from graphs, keep only for the value-added.

9. Judy Bokor asked if our school was involved in the Summer Hill Chamber of Commerce music performances at weekends. Janina to find out from Diana Springford if BGHS is involved.

10. Future dates for School Council:
    - Wednesday 18 May
    - Wednesday 17 August
    - Wednesday 23 November

Meeting closed 7:00 pm.