BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 17 AUGUST 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Gavin Parker (teacher representative)
                    Elaine Browne (P&C Uniform Shop)
                    Tim Cunningham (Chairperson)
                    Robert Brett (community member)
                    Karyn O’Brien (Deputy Principal)
                    Patrice Simpson (teacher representative)
                    Leanne McKee (P&C President)
                    Lindy Annakin (community member)
                    Judy Bokor  (community member)

APOLOGIES:          Mia Kumar (Principal)
                    Janina Longman (Deputy Principal)
                    Steve Chan  (parent)
                    Colin Jones (community member)
                    Taylah Plataniotis (student)
                    Brigitte Myers (student)
                    Meredith Stapleton (student)

1. Tim welcomed members and reported that apologies had been received by Mia Kumar (attending a Korean Consulate function), Janina Longman (judging at Wakakiri), Colin Jones, Steve Chan and the three SRC students (Jindabyne excursion).

2. Business Arising was discussed.
   2.1 Wangal Park developments discussed as item 3 on the agenda.
   2.2 Vinyl flooring was installed in the bottom Science corridor during the last holiday period and cost $24000 and this improvement to the school environment has been well received.
   2.3 Ten picnic table sets have been ordered for the playground at a cost of $15000. The P&C will arrange payment for these items once the treasurer has received an invoice from the school. Students will be consulted about location in the playground.

3. Wangal Park issues were again discussed.

   A letter from the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) to Michael McMahon, General Manager, Burwood Council was tabled (DOC 11/133748). The letter from Lai Yin Chiew, Director, Facilities Management and Advisory Service (DEC) provided advice from the School regarding the impact of the access road on both the efficient operation and management of the school and on the delivery of education to students.

   The school council then discussed an email received from Lai Yin Chiew, referring to a letter from Burwood Council requesting a license agreement to allow them to use the access road for a period of 12-18 months, for the purpose of constructing Wangal Park. The letter also sought agreement for access to be made available for pedestrian and cycle access to Wangal Park.

   The school council strongly and unanimously stated its opposition to these requests.
The request to maintain the access road, limits Burwood Girls full use of their grounds. Our aim once the access road is removed is to construct a fitness track, plant trees and install seating for our students. The school population of 1100+ students requires a larger playground area which is safe and secure. If the access road were to remain we feel this would be a significant safety and security concern and that Burwood Council would not want to take on responsibility for any accidents, should they occur.

Planning for a fitness track has been significantly delayed as Burwood Council has failed to remove the access road, barbed wire fences and storage facilities by the end of 2010. To delay the planning and installation of our fitness track, seating and trees will disadvantage our students.

It seems clear to the School Council that there are alternative access points to Wangal Park and the school should not be disadvantaged any longer.

We seek prompt resolution of this matter so that we can utilise our school grounds effectively for the appropriate use by the students of Burwood Girls High School.

4. No SRC report as Year 11 students are attending the Jindabyne Field Trip.

5. Overseas visits by the school were discussed:
   - Samoa visit in the July holidays involved 17 students and 8 members of staff. This trip was highly successful and believed to be the “best ever” as students settled well into the purpose of the trip, that is, a cross cultural experience of family and village life.
   - New Caledonia was also held in the July holidays and had more students attending than previous years. This created some difficulties in terms of organisation of certain activities, but was nonetheless a very valuable learning experience for the students who attended.
   - We are considering sending a dance group to perform in an international dance competition in Macau in 2012.

6. Religious seminars at Burwood GHS have been relatively successful, with 1/3 of each cohort Year 7-10 attending the one period workshop on Thursday 30 June and Friday 29 July 2011. Following the third seminar day scheduled for later this year we will undertake an evaluation of the success of this program.

7. Tim raised the issue of students parking on school grounds and parents entering staff carparks to drop children off, creating dangerous situation for staff entering the carparks.

   Students are frequently reminded that it is school policy that students do not park in school grounds and that their parents are to drop them elsewhere. The Deputy Principals will however, remind the school community of our expectations and follow-up on students who are doing the wrong thing.

   The school council would like to request from Burwood Council a “kiss and ride” zone outside the school gates on Cheltenham Road, so that parents and students have a safe place to arrive at school if travelling by car.

8. General Business items were outlined.
   - Email from Colin Jones requesting information if the school is involved in the science in schools program and engineering programs at various universities. This will be investigated for the next meeting. Colin’s suggestion that BGHS is better off pursuing a social worker or parenting workshops rather than a
chaplaincy or religious education was well supported by the school council. The P 
& C President is planning parenting workshops for the parent community in Term 
4 this year.

- The costs for mowing the soccer field was $360 and the school may need to 
  consider the purchase of a ride-on lawn mower.
- School council members were encouraged to support the Band program and 
  attend the ’Big Night Out’ on Wednesday 24 August and were provided with 
  details for the evening.
- Elaine Brown raised some issues with the school uniform policy:
  - Sought clarification about the wearing of shorts as part of the uniform and 
    whether new stock should be ordered. Teachers are endeavouring to 
    guide students in the appropriate wearing of school shorts ie: not too short 
    shorts. Shorts will remain as part of the uniform and so new stock should 
    be ordered as soon as possible.
  - Socks can be either black or white and should be either short or long, but 
    not anklet socks.
  - The school community was surveyed about the design of the school tie 
    and an order has been placed with our supplier.
- Lindy Annakin raised a concern that the school’s website was not up-to-date and 
  the Trail HSC exam schedule was not available, as promised on documentation 
  that went home to students. Karyn apologised that the exam schedule had been 
  overlooked and therefore was not uploaded. The new website is nearing 
  completion and will be accessible in the near future.
- Judy Bokor raised the issue of excessive noise around the school hall during 
  exam periods and the distraction this can cause students. Teachers have been 
  directed to supervise playground areas surrounding the hall to ensure a minimum 
  of student noise during exam periods. A suggestion that deputy principals have a 
  greater presence during this time was also agreed to. A plan needs to be put in 
  place for the upcoming HSC exams in Term 4.

Tim thanked members for their attendance.

Meeting closed 6:50 pm.

Next Meeting: 23 November 2011, 6:00 pm