Burwood Girls High School P & C Minutes of 18th July 2012

Present: as per attendance book

Apologies from Alice Magoffin. Nick chaired the meeting in Alice’s place.

Meeting started at 7.25pm

Minutes of meeting of 20 June 2012 were circulated and adopted by Lee and seconded by Lesley.

Principal’s Report

Principal’s Report included past and future school events as well as staff changes and current projects:

Years 8/10 Parent/student/teacher interviews on 21 June went well. More than 50% of parents and students attended. More fathers are attending, which is wonderful to see. Also there is a greater diversity of parents attending. The night ran like clockwork, despite initial booking system issues. Parents reported satisfaction with the organisation of the evening.

Blue & Gold Assembly on 25 June 2012 where awards were presented was well attended by a large number of parents. Wonderful music on the day was enjoyed by all.

Lovely artworks on Aboriginal perspectives have been done by students and are on display in the art foyer.

ICB tour 27-29 June on south coast was well received by local schools and our students had a great experience.

School holiday Samoa excursion was successful. Students had a wonderful time and visited schools supported by BGHS students.

School development day on 16 July focused on improving teaching quality and learning. Teachers will observe and learn from each other within the school. Staff also did CPR training. Another meeting of Inner West teaching and learning community was held with teachers from Croydon Public School and Summer Hill.

Year 8 Starr Day letter and Year 10/11 Options booklet now available on the website.

Prefects are taking on road safety at the Cheltenham Road roundabout after school as our students are very lax with road safety rules.

Focus on India for curriculum planning has been taken up by Jenny Hardwick, Patrice Simpson and principal.
Future events:
- 19 July - year 10/11 options evening
- 20 July cross-country and Yangzi HS visit
- 23 July Naidoc Assembly and year 7/9 parent-teacher night
- 24 July regional athletics
- 26 July HSC drama showcase
- 31 July Body of Works major works exhibition in hall, 6pm
- 6-17 August trial HSC
- 13 Aug HSC practical dance exam
- 13-17 August Jindabyne excursion for year 11

- Education week is 30 July to 3 August and includes an Education Week celebration assembly highlighting achievements of Burwood GHS.

Staff Changes:
- Additional class in year 9 means some changes of teachers
- Welcome back to Janina Longman
- Jeff Stubbs on long service leave and Fiona Diakos relieving
- New TAS staff Cheryl Wetsi replacing Kathleen Scott
- Frank Charalambous replacing Fiona Diakos
- Asher Field replacing Robyn McQuarrie
- Thuy Dinh new science teacher replacing Angela Thorne
- Felicia Jensen replacing Deanna Man, in office support staff (due to medical leave)
- Andrew Pring is a new Learning Support Teacher - 3 days at Burwood and 2 days at Leichhardt but on PLWOP for 2012.
- 2 new year 7 advisors for 2013: Jan Gianotti and Christina Jameson

Projects:
- Blazers
- Middle school initiatives
- Inner West Learning Community
- Professional Learning Teams

- The school received a request from SMH to interview a family regarding single sex schools and this was provided to parents.

**Guest Speaker: Jenny Hardwick, Head Teacher English**

Teaching and Learning in the English Classroom: “The answers you get from literature depend on the questions you ask” Margaret Attwood
Syllabus Key terms:

Responding, texts, composing [-composers and responders (not authors), language modes (listening, speaking, writing, viewing, representing, presenting), Language forms and structures, text structures.

How English teaching has evolved

Modernism, post-modernism, understanding the world of the composer of texts (writer biographies providing the context of the composer)=
Critical receptions: still looked at, but personal responses also examined. Questioning and exploring a text from a personal point of view. Just recently – over the last 2 years - particularly in the HSC courses, the critical receptions have been removed from study of English. Students look at text, composer’s context, composer, responder’s context and personal response. This new approach (removing need to read critics) has improved student’s engagement with texts.

A word on literacy: English teachers lead teaching of literacy, but all teachers at the school also teach literacy. Every teacher has to embed literacy skills into their subjects. In all subjects, 8 aspects of literacy: reading texts, comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, aspects of writing, aspects of speaking, phonics, phonemic awareness and concepts about print (much of this to be taught in primary school).

English teachers are teachers of literacy, language acquisition, text types, work place and community texts, ICT texts, culturally significant texts, texts that explicitly contain gender, multicultural and difference and diversity concepts and ESL (English as a second language) And text genres, viewing and representing, thinking in imaginative, personal and critical ways, composing in imaginative, personal and critical ways, reflection, power of language (manipulation, influence), aesthetics of language as it relates to text. The

Mandated elements of the curriculum: The syllabus tells us how many texts to cover: 2 texts, poetry, 2 film works, 2 non-fiction works, 2 drama works. Shakespeare is compulsory in Stage 5. Spoken, visual, print and multimedia every year. Have to include Australian literature, including Aboriginal perspectives, literature from other countries and times, cultural heritages, pop and youth cultures, picture books, everyday texts and a range of perspectives.

BGHSD 7-10 scope and sequence

Examples: Term 1: Year 7: young heroes and villains: Neil Gaiman The Graveyard Book; Year 8 Constructed world of text: Adeline Yen Mah; Year 9: Convince Me: Speeches through history; Year 10 Humours: cartoons on social comments, a novel study Year 8 are introduced to Shakespeare in preparation for Year 9 Shakespeare. English is sequenced and knowledge built up over the years.
Assessment: Year 11 the Standard English course does not include Shakespeare, but the Advanced course does. In Year 12, the standard course does have a Shakespeare option, but BGHS does not take this option for the standard course, but Shakespeare continues to be included in the Advanced English course.

Example of Building Skills: Extended critical responses (Essays): The first thing year 7 students are asked to do is write paragraphs, structure their writing (intro, body, conclusion), and start to critically analyse texts. In Year 8, students learn to change structure of writing according to text types. Year 9 students learn to develop thesis statements (statements of understanding + response to proposition + personal response). Year 10 students learn to pepper responses with evidence. Year 11 and 12 learning is course and student specific within the curriculum options.

New Assessment policies: years 7-9 every term each of the language modes is assessed by the class teacher at least once; as well a common task every term for example: Year 7: extended critical writing: Paragraph responses to core text in class for 40 minutes; Term 2: poetry writing, analysis and reflection in class; Term 3: research and presentation task in class; Term 4: creative writing task (this year an Indigenous speaking task) – drafting in class but submitted. The in-class work is to prevent too much parental involvement and ensure teachers are really seeing what Year 7 students are capable of. The students are given the marking guidelines in class. Common tasks in middle school are corporately marked using explicit quality criteria. School assessment criteria are followed. Students are given a ROSA grading in year 10 as well as a mark. Feedback is given to students after a task.

Assessment booklets are on the school’s website.

New Text samples: Year 7: The Three Loves of Persimmon (recommended by a student); Year 8: Halo; Year 9: by the river; Year 10: Jasper Jones (Australian murder mystery); Year 11: Extremely loud and incredibly close (great book, bad movie); Year 12: The Story of Tom Brennan. Alice Pong ed.

Year 11 and 12 Standard English course include contemporary texts which are more approachable for most students. Grammar and spelling is embedded in all teaching across the curriculum, but English teaching is to encourage composition, not assess spelling. English teaching will assist students with grammar and spelling but assessment does not mark spelling or grammar. If there is still an issue with grammar and spelling at year 10 level, further assistance will be given to students in the classroom. Many students find creative writing in the HSC difficult.

P & C asked for the presentation to be put on the website with the minutes of this meeting (and this has been done).
**Business Arising**

School blazers pricing: Priced at $145 till the end of term. 2 blazers sold so far. Elaine Browne, Manager, Uniform Shop, suggested sending a notice to year 10 parents and students to try the blazers on and make orders. Elaine suggests increasing the price to $165. P & C suggested seeing how many blazers sell before considering increasing the price.

P & C Membership – confirmation of entitlement to vote etc. Elaine had a printed a list of P & C members with voting rights.

**Correspondence received:** From Music Dept: 2 students went on the band tour but couldn’t afford to pay, and are worthy of help. P & C has helped students in the past in similar circumstances, up to $250 each. Motion: That the P & C supply $300 for both students to assist the band program with costs of the tour for these 2 students. Nick proposed; seconded by Lesley, passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:**


**Uniform shop report and bank statement tabled.** The online banking system is working really well. Report adopted: Proposed by Nick; Effie seconded. Unanimously adopted. The Samoan excursion took 41 t-shirts and polo tops, which were surplus to requirements to give away at the Samoan school.

**P & C funding for the school:** Mia will find out for the next meeting, options for what the P & C can fund for the school.

**Presentations for future P & C meeting:** Constable Thompson to speak on cyber-bullying on 15 August P & C meeting.

Request that P & C meeting notification SMS to be sent on the Monday or Friday before, rather than on the Tuesday before the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm