BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday, 22 August 2012, 6:00 pm in LIBRARY

Present:  Robert Brett...............Community Member
          Tim Cunningham ......Chairperson
          Mia Kumar...............Principal
          Alice Magoffin..........P&C President
          Leanne McKee...........Community member
          Nick Miller...............Parent
          Gavin Parker...............Teacher
          Patrice Simpson...........Teacher
          Katerina Frolov ...........Student
          Tara Lau .................Student
          Jenieka Oakes...........Student

Apologies:  Elaine Browne ..........Manager, P&C Uniform Shop
           Colin Jones............Community Member
           Perry Kritselas.........Parent
           Frank Levy............Community Member
           Janina Longman.........Deputy Principal
           Karyn O'Brien ..........Deputy Principal

1. Welcome to everyone. Principal reported that Frank Levy has wound down his business in Burwood and will be resigning from his position on School Council. He extended his best wishes to members of the School Council. Mia to send letter of thanks.

2. Business Arising
   2.1 To date, no survey has been designed to evaluate the SRE program for Year 7. There was concern about the small number of students involved in SRE and this was dictating the Year 7 curriculum. Liling Tan to have input into questionnaire for students and parents about SRE. This to be completed in Term 4, 2012.
   2.2 Principal reported on Wangal Park developments since last meeting and the ongoing issues with Burwood Council (see Item 3). Tim tabled a zoning map indicating that Burwood Council was taking land from school grounds so as to have access from Blair Park to Wangal Park. This is of great concern and will be referred to the Director of Facilities Management, DEC.
   2.3 School Council approved use of soccer field by FAST Football Academy for 2013. This is ongoing use of the soccer field by the community on Monday, Wednesday, Friday as well as weekends and in return they maintain the soccer field and surrounding grounds.

3. The ongoing issues with Burwood Council regarding Wangal Park were outlined by the principal.
   - Recommendation from the Regional Director, Phil Lambert to remove access road in accordance with school’s wishes.
   - Letter received from Burwood Council, dated 18 July, on 19 July, outlining importation of fill and soil to Wangal Park, commencing 23 July (tabled).
   - Contact made by principal to Burwood Council on 19 July and received unsatisfactory response from Paul Staples and Bruce McDonnell. Matter referred to DEC, Lai Yin Chiew for consideration.
- Kerrie Cunningham, library assistant, monitored truck movements from 23 July, took photos and kept excellent records of what was happening. Sport/PE classes continued during this time without incident.
- Meeting with School Education Director, Minister and Lai Yin Chiew to discuss necessary action. No letter received regarding outcome of meeting but outcome looking favourable for school as reported by School Education Director.
- Trucks ceased on 15 August.
The school is hopeful that the access road will be removed as well as the barbed wire fencing so that our own planned development for facilities can commence (finally).

4. Patrice Simpson introduced three members of the Student Representative Council who have been able to attend this meeting and they reported on the following:
   - Year 12 finished major works / Dance as well as trial exams.
   - HSC Orals / Drama very imminent.
   - Nominations for prefects for 2013 have occurred and voting next week.
   - SRC fundraisers:
     o Year 7 cake stalls for school in Thailand
     o Year 9 for Ghana orphanage
     o Year 10 for India
     o Year 11 for Fred Hollows Foundation
   - The Samoa trip supported two schools, Tuasivi College and Loto Laumafai, a school for special needs. Tara Lau reported that she enjoyed participating and meeting members of her family for the first time.
   - Great sporting successes and achievements by our students were reported.
   - “Big Night Out” tonight is going to be a very special event (Elaine Browne is unable to attend this meeting due to preparations for concert in the Hall).

5. The Digital Education Revolution NSW Program rolled out the Lenovo ‘red’ laptops to all Year 9 in 2009. Ownership of the laptops will be formally transferred to students who have completed Year 12 in 2012. Laptops remain the property of NSW DET until this transfer takes place.

6. School Safety and Security
   6.1 Road safety was raised as an issue for our school. Prefects have implemented a road crossing strategy to assist in reducing the number of near misses while students attempting to cross the road near roundabout in Cheltenham Road in the afternoon.

   Executive members are assisting, but there needs to be support from RTA and/or Burwood Council to build a safety fence on the corner of Queen Street and Cheltenham Road. Principal tabled a letter from the Road Safety Officer outlining audits regarding:
   - following parking signs and road rules
   - obeying “No Stopping”, “No Parking” etc signs
   - not double parking or parking across pedestrian crossings.

   Suggested that principal contact the Road Safety Officer, Nancy Decuzzi to enlist support for the construction of a safety fence.

   6.2 School security has improved with the exception of vandalism of vending machines in canteen and near the band room. Our security fence adjacent to Blair Park, is being cut to gain access to the grounds to steal from the vending machines (cash and contents). The students were requested to discuss the value of vending machines at the next SRC meeting. Do we need them on site and if so, where is the best location?

   6.3 Work Cover rules and procedures have changed and the school has addressed issues to comply with new legislation.
7. The update on Special Programs was outlined by the principal.
   7.1 Proud Schools group has made several recommendations:
       o Theme song “True Colours” by Cindi Lauper to be used.
       o Survey for Years 7-10 in Week 6 will be completed online.
       o Assembly launch on 27 August with special guests.
       o Mural for DD1 (northern face) to be done on “Wear It Purple” Day on 7 Sept.
       o Posters (tabled) to be displayed.
   7.2 Transition Initiatives Project is progressing well with Summer Hill PS and Croydon PS. Focus on Literacy: Improving Writing Outcomes for Students 5-8. Karyn O’Brien, and representatives from primary schools with principal, attended “Middle Schooling” Conference on 16/17 August to plan action for our project. Delighted with sharing of expertise among all schools.
   7.3 Burwood GHS is one of 450 schools in Australia that have been selected to participate in OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS). This survey will assist ACER in the development of national policies for:
       o recognising, rewarding and evaluating teachers and their professional development
       o developing effective teaching practices and professional development programs
       o developing school leadership models.

8. Results from parent surveys were tabled. Information on a range of school issues was collected from:
   o Year 7    23 July 2012
   o Year 8    21 June 2012
   o Year 9    23 July 2012
   o Year 10   21 June 2012

These responses are collected at parent/teacher nights and are used for reporting trends, issues in Annual Schools Reports. The surveys are useful in planning school evaluations (such as in the case of careers). Alice asked if there was any planned evaluation for "accelerated mathematics classes". Gavin reported that Year 10 students doing the preliminary course were outperforming some of the older students (in Year 11).

9. School Uniform was discussed as there was a suggestion that uniform standards were deteriorating. Students certainly have more uniform options (skirt, trousers, shorts etc) but there was no option for footwear – black closed-in leather shoes. It was suggested that uniform policy be returned to the website. Deputies to investigate what needs to be placed on website and report at next meeting.

10. General Business
    The Careers Adviser, Hugo Floriani, accepted a transfer to Sydney Secondary College, Balmain Campus. His position was immediately filled by John Hegedus (ex-Turrramurra High School).

    Liz James, Youth Worker, is paid by our School Chaplaincy program which is $20 000 pa over 3 years (total $60 000). She works approximately 10 hours each week and supports students as well as organising special focus groups.

Meeting closed 6:55 pm.

Next meeting 28 November.