1. Welcome and refreshments served and Chairman acknowledged that this was the final meeting for 2012 and the final meeting for our student representatives. Patrice moved a vote of thanks for the information passed on from the SRC representatives this year. Their report was to be tabled first as “A Little Night Music” was starting in the hall and Tara was involved in the band.

2. Student Representative Report was provided as follows:
   - Jindabyne was a great success for Year 11 students.
   - Year 12 Formal and Graduation also successful.
   - Students exhibited in Robin Anderson film awards.
   - Year 9 Roundtables were successful and Year 9 Camp is underway (early December).
   - Year 8 excited about subject choices for 2013.
   - New prefects and captains already planning events.
   - SRC nominations this week will be conducted for 2013.
   - Students enjoyed the class of 1962 returning to the school assembly and loved hearing their version of school song.
   - Anne Beams Writers Awards last Monday were excellent with many students gaining recognition.
   - “A Little Night Music” happening tonight and will be another major success for the band program.
   Special thank you extended to SRC representatives on School Council who have kept us informed so well during 2012. Patrice Simpson will notify of new representatives for 2013.

3. Business Arising
   3.1 Principal tabled the Special Religious Education survey that was distributed to all Year 7 students last week by DPs, Principal, HT English and HT Social Sciences. A document showing the compiled data of results of this survey was also tabled.
   The main aspects of the results of the survey indicated the following:
   - 74% students said 1 hour per week was just right.
   - 72% reported they did not attend SRE class.
   - 39% students said that they did not want to miss out on regular lessons.
   - 18% reported they did not attend SRE in primary school.
   - 71% said they did not attend SRE seminars.
In answer to the following about whether they would attend SRE in Year 8:
  o 40% said they would definitely NOT attend.
  o 35% unsure.
  o 19% might attend.
  o 6% definitely attend.

The types of activities students appreciated most about SRE were:
  o 20% learning about religion
  o 30% stories

Students reported that SRE could be improved by:
  o 27% - more people involved
  o 27% - variety of religions studied
  o 36% - more games and activities.

Finally, 30% said they were atheist, 24% not interested in religion.

Principal reported that questions about joining SRE classes in 2013, were asked at the Year 6 interviews with the following responses:
  o 21% students agreed to attend fortnightly scripture
  o 22% students agreed to attend SRE seminars
  o 20% students agreed to attend both.
  o 37% students would not attend either.

3.2 Update on Wangal Park was discussed and the following documents tabled:
  • Set of newspaper articles tabled by Tim:
    - Telegraph, Monday 12 November 2012
    - Burwood Scene, 7 November 2012
    - Inner West Courier, 30 October 2012
    - Burwood Scene, 24 October 2012
  • Burwood Council’s website article “Minister denies access to Wetlands Oasis” including pictures of proposed entrance to Wangal Park.
  • Council Project delayed article in Inner West Courier, 27 November 2012.
  • Article in Inner West Courier, 18 August 2011.
  • Minutes of Burwood Council Meeting, 20 November 2012.
  • Letter to Michael McMahon, General Manager, Burwood Council from DEC, dated 15 October 2012.
  • Letter to Charles Casuscelli, MP from Adrian Piccoli, 5 September 2012.
  • Facts of history of development.

Discussion about how to manage the incorrect information presented in newspaper articles and by Burwood Council.

Concern expressed about incorrect press information in Western Suburbs Courier and Inner West Courier. Alice reported James Law, editor of Inner West Courier was keen to publish the school’s position. Geoff Browne provided a history of development of the brick pits which became the School Playing Fields, Wangal Park and SES building. Recommendation by Geoff Browne, Surveyor was tabled. This included information about access to Wangal Park. Concern was also expressed about the position of the ‘School Zone’ signs which do not include the playing fields as part of the school zone. Geoff requested to do a survey of land around SES building for School Council to understand the options Burwood Council have for access to develop Wangal Park.

Alice Magoffin’s letter from P&C Association to Burwood Council was tabled. It was agreed to send a copy to the local resident Paul Kelly in Royce Avenue.
It was agreed that Tim Cunningham frame a response to local papers and Burwood Council including the facts.

- The Department purchased land (part of a former brick pit) from the Department of Planning in 2005 to build sport fields for Burwood Girls HS. The land purchased by the Department fronts Cheltenham Road. Burwood Council acquire the remaining part of the brick pit behind the Department’s land to construct Wangal Park.

- There was a pre-existing licence between Planning and Council for a temporary access road over the land purchased by the Department to allow Council to fill the brick pit as part of the construction of Wangal Park. The licence was to terminate when the pit was filled.

- There is documentary evidence that the pit was filled in 2005. There are also correspondence from Council to advise that filling of the pit would be completed by the end of 2005.

- The Department bought the land acknowledging Council’s right to use the temporary access road to fill the brick pit.

- Wangal Park can be accessed from a number of streets and early plans for the park showed Council’s intention to purchase a bit of land on Cheltenham Road occupied by the SES (building to the north of the games court on map) to construct a car park and provide permanent public access to Wangal Park from Cheltenham Road.

- In 2010 Council indicated that it wants to convert the temporary access road into a permanent public access road to Wangal Park. Despite being advised that the Department will not agree to permanent public access through the school, Council proceeded to exhibit the Wangal Park Draft Master Plan showing the temporary access road as the main public entry road to the Park.

- Since that time up until August 2012, the Department and the school community have had numerous meetings with Council and the Local Member, each time reaffirming that permanent public access through the school will not be permitted.

- Council has continued to use the temporary access road to construct Wangal Park. In July this year Council used the access road for 250 truck movements to stockpile sand and soil on Wangal Park.

- The school wants the temporary access road back so that it can implement educational programs. The school has been extremely patient and accommodating, allowing Council to use the temporary access road seven years after the pit has been filled!

- In September 2012 the Minister wrote to the Local Member to advise that he does not propose to overrule the wishes of the school community.

- On 15 October 2012, the DDG Corporate Services wrote to Council requesting that it remove the temporary access road and turf the area of the road by the end of January 2013. A Notice of Termination of the licence was also issued with the letter.

- In addition the Department also propose to do a land swap with Council which would allow Council to construct a permanent public access from Cheltenham Road.

The letter should also include part of the surveyor’s comments. This letter to be drafted as soon as possible to ensure that new Year 7 parents have a copy on Orientation Day, Wednesday 5 December 2012. It is important to gather a petition from the school community – names and email addresses as quickly as possible. There was further discussion. Tim tabled a draft petition for the residents in Cheltenham Road to support the school’s stance against construction and entry from Cheltenham Road.

School Council members were surprised that Councillor Lesley Furneaux-Cook (ex-BGHS parent) supported John Faker in this matter.
3.3 Principal wrote to the Council (letter tabled) Road Safety Officer, Nancy Decuzzi requesting support for road safety:
- position of pedestrian crossings to be near exit gates
- requirement of fence near roundabout on corner Cheltenham Road and Queen Street
- more space for ‘Kiss and Ride’ zones.
It will also be necessary to write to Council regarding the inappropriate placement of ‘School Zone’ signs. Playing fields need to be included in School Zone.

3.4 School uniform requirements are on the website. This can be found under ‘Our School’, drop down ‘Uniform’. All uniform policies and price lists are there.

4. Karyn O’Brien presented an update on special programs.
4.1 Proud Schools program is working extremely well.
- Wear It Purple Day was well supported by students and staff. Police and ex-student Katherine Hudson attended as well as DEC General Manager, Learning and Development.
- True Colours support group includes 10 students from Years 7-12 and supporting ‘World Aids Day’.
- Flag pole purchased in purple for the rainbow flag will be positioned in playground amphitheatre.

4.2 Transition Initiatives has included a writing task (which was tabled) for Croydon PS, Summer Hill PS and Burwood GHS. Tasks involved descriptive writing, persuasive writing and personal writing. Literary strategies that were performed poorly were in fact writing and that is why the focus on writing tasks. This Inner West Learning Community involves working closely with primary schools. Students and staff have presented at local primary schools successfully.

4.3 OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey has involved teachers from our school. Only three have not responded.

5. Principal tabled the draft budget for 2013 and said that the final form would not be completed until after Rollover, 1 December when unpaid orders, invoices etc could be included. Main areas for development is a covered walkway from main building to library, seating in playground, development of fitness equipment for sporting fields as well as shelter.
A new contract signed for 2013 with the FAST football academy – they will use our grounds and in return maintain our fields. No cost to school.

6. Annual Report for 2012 needs to be completed by early March. Requests for P&C and School Council reports. NAPLAN results will be reported on too. Karyn O’Brien tabled a document showing the NAPLAN results for 2012 for Year 7 and Year 9 at BGHS compared to state results. Less than expected growth in ‘grammar and punctuation’ is a concern in Year 7 and Year 9. The numeracy results showed the greatest growth.

7. Membership for 2013 remains as is with two more new parents and staff co-opted.

**Meetings for next year:** 6 March, 29 May, 7 August, 27 November.

Please note 27 November is changed from 20 November so as not to conflict with P&C Meeting.

Meeting closed 7:10 pm.