Burwood Girls High School - P&C Meeting
Minutes of Meeting 17 July 2013

Attendance: Mia Kumar-Principal, Janina Longman- Deputy Principal, Karyn O’Brien-Deputy Principal, Alice Magoffin- President, Nick Miller-Vice President, Effie Matsas-Secretary, Elaine Browne, Manager, Uniform Shop, Kathy Kritselas, Kerry West and other attendees as noted on attendance register.

Apologies: Effie Balomatis, Helen Drury, Erin Dib

Minutes by: Effie Matsas

Meeting Opened: 7.20pm

1. Welcome
Meeting opened by Alice Magoffin in the Library. The president welcomed Special Guest Mrs Liling Tan and Mrs Maroc, to discuss Special Religious Education (SRE) programs and to answer any questions regarding the programs.

2. SRE programs
2.2. Very insightful presentation/story presented by Mrs Tan.
   2.2.1. 2013 has been a better year in terms of logistics and timetabling of SRE classes.
   2.2.2. Three components of SRE - Program run every Tuesday during the long recess as well as one per fortnight class for year 7 and one per term seminar for the whole school.
   2.2.3. On average a total of 260 students from Yr7 to Yr10 attend the seminars with specially trained guest speakers; topics covered include acceptance/rejection, what is a good life based on the context of the Bible, consequences of choices etc.
   2.2.4. Topics covered in fortnightly classes (only for Year 7’s) are based on Christian world view taken from the Bible. The curriculum used has been developed by the Anglican Archdiocese.

Mrs Tan is at BHGS 3 days per week. In addition to the SRE program, Mrs Tan is also taking part in learning & support activities, especially in the sciences on a volunteer basis – BGHS is very grateful for this support.

3. Previous Minutes
19 June 2013 meeting minutes were tabled and accepted.

Motion: Minutes accepted - Lesley J proposed, Nick M seconded

4. Principal’s Report
4.1. Resignation of Diana Springford (band director) – Great loss to BGHS as Diana is brilliant. We all wish her well at The Emmanuel School.
4.2. Beautification of Walkway – Active work from P&C with special focus on pathways leading to hall (see Business Arising). Subcommittee meeting earlier today.
4.3. Evaluation of SRE programs – Examining the current role of SRE in the school; role of head teachers/staff as well as procedures to offer a whole range of religions within the school; the future of SRE for Year 7 in 2014 and evaluation of the SRE Seminars.
4.4. Wangal Park / BGHS Sports Grounds – Continues to be an issue as the Council has undertaken to dig up / replace water pipes along the access road. These works are due for completion by end of July. However Council has specified a hand-over date in September. Article appeared Inner West Courier. (Refer to previous minutes for background details).
4.5. **Future Year 9 IT devices** – will be addressed at next P&C meeting. The Year 9 DET laptop program will cease in 2014. Therefore, BGHS is reviewing options to provide IT resources to Yr9s – ipad/MacBook/other. It will survey parents to see if they are keen to purchase. Parent surveys will be presented next P&C.

4.6. **Hospitality Facilities** - The Board of Studies requirements for the type of facilities required for the teaching of Hospitality as an HSC subject will not be met unless the school’s kitchens are upgraded (see previous minutes for more details) Quote has been given at $180,000.

4.7. **Korean Competition** – Student, Kelly Kim, won 2nd prize in Korean Writing Competition with 100 Korean books donated to the school library. This ties in nicely with the Korean subject offered at BGHS.

4.8. **Year 7/9 Parent Teacher Night** – was successful.

4.9. **Blue and Gold Ceremony** – Great achievement with 706 awards presented. Important for girls to be recognised for their efforts.

4.10. **Synthetic Drug Seminar** – was instigated as a result of a parents concern about her daughter’s purchase of synthetic drugs (diet/weight loss) over the internet and meeting the seller to pay and pickup. During the same week a boy at Killara High School was killed when he jumped off a balcony under the influence of these drugs. Taking a pro-active stance, the executive organised the Police Liaison Office to discuss the dangers/consequences of these actions to Year 10 & 11, with possibly Year 9 at a later stage.

4.11. **Previous student visits** – During university break, many former BGHS visited school through the week.

4.12. **Visit to Shanghai by Mia** – commented on cleanliness.

4.13. **NAIDOC Assembly** – was well received.

4.16 **Upcoming Events**

- Subject Selections for Year 10 going into Year 11– 18 July
- Korean School Visit
- Year 8/10 Parent Teacher Night – 22 July
- Sister School Visit
- Year 10 Interviews
- National Tree Day – Plant a tree day
- Body of Works HSC Exhibition – 30 July
- Trial HSC – 5-16 August
- Year 11 Jindabyne excursion – 12-16 August
- Dance Showcase
- Big Night Out
- Concert Band Tour to Foster postponed till 18-20 September

5. **Business Arising**

5.1 **School Grounds Beatification Program**

*Addressed by Effie M*: (refer to previous minutes for background information). Over past couple of weeks Colin Brown, volunteer parent from Arena Design Architects and non-parent Riley Field, Landscape Architect have put together a concept master plan incorporating various areas of the school with special focus on the walkways towards the hall. Preliminary designs were produced earlier today, some in 3D. Elements of the design include - removal of picnic tables and
relocation to the left of the grounds on the hard surface, re-use of aluminium benches and cladding with hardwood, structured seating formats, planting areas under the trees creating garden beds, linking pathways using brick paving, breakup of pathway with pots. One major challenge identified is the drainage and rainwater run-off. Any attempt to beautify the grounds will result in the works being washed away. The first challenge will be the rectification of the drainage/rainwater issue.

The concept design still needs plenty of work to finalise and this will be looked at over the next month. We will be relying on parent volunteers and asked the P&C members to look at volunteering and spreading the word. Advertised in the current Event – as well as gardeners, we have also asked for bricklayers, concreters and builders.

Mia advised that demolishing works should start in August as the Year 12 Graduation is scheduled for mid-September. She would be happy if just the seats are pulled out and it is a clean slate.

5.2 P&C Fund Contributions

Refer previous minutes re: issues with lack of P&C Funds which noted that as parents were not aware of the contributions, and it was not the role of the administration staff to invoice voluntary contributions, fewer contributions were being made. Thus leaving the P&C with limited funds to embark on the improvement of the school grounds project.

Letter was sent out with invoices (about 700) encouraging parents to pay the voluntary P&C contribution and outlining: the role of the P&C; the expenditure of contributions towards student resources; changes to the voluntary P&C contribution from flat rate $25 to a variable option of $25, $50, $75, $100 or other; collection of payment in Term 2; options for payment methods including credit card over the phone.

Noted, that the letter was sent out only to those parents who had outstanding invoices.

Action: Alice to speak to Bronwyn Hatzis regarding sending letters to the remainder of parents.

6. Treasurers Report

6.1 As of 17 July, P&C Funds at $20,747

Action: Leslie J adopted, Nick M seconded.

7. Uniform Report

7.1 Presented by Elaine Brown
7.2 $2,000 voucher won from a uniform supplier (Midford) went towards purchase of pants (to be sold) and the rest of the money went towards jackets/parkas for band members.
7.3 Uniform shop will organise a Market Day to sell off surplus stock at discounted prices (e.g. larger size pants at $10?).
7.4 Orders are being organised for Year 7 Orientation Day
7.5 Year 10 students changing to the senior uniform will be offered special discounted package for blazer, skirt, shirt. This will be available in Term 4.
7.6 Review a nicer collared shirt from Midfords – shirt to be reviewed at next P&C (maybe look at slits on side and possible crest on pocket and costs.)
7.7. **Band Program**

7.7.1. $3,000 grant received from Wests Leagues Club /Burwood RSL to purchase a tuba/clarinet.

7.7.2. $1000 received to run Inner West Festival (in November)

7.7.3. Enfield RSL purchased a new bugle for BGHS

7.7.4. Expression of Interest has been sent out for Diana’s replacement. The program will be running with the help of Janina and Elaine over Term 3 & 4. It is envisaged that a Director will be assigned by the end of Term 4.

7.7.5. *Big Night Out* will be Diana’s last official function.

8. **Correspondence**

Nil

9. **General Business**

9.1. Parent still concerned about SRE.

*Action: Rachel Wood and Alice would like to be involved in the SRE evaluation process with Mia.*

9.2. Nick Miller concerned about the gender balance on the P&C.

*Action: Maybe look at adding “dads welcome” to the next SMS text for P&C meeting. Also possible article from Nick Miller in the next Event.*

9.3. Lack of access to Wangal Park to be taken up at next Council Meeting

9.4. Nick Miller pleased to see that students were invited to AFL. Nick is involved with AFL and offered to work with Mia / sports teachers to organise guest speakers.

*Action: Nick Miller (with Mia) can possibly organise Swans/Giants representative to give a talk or possible Tom Harding to talk to Years 11/12 re: leadership.*

*If/when these talks are organised—let’s see if we can perhaps raise publicity for BGHS and get story in local paper.*

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Next Meeting: 21 Aug 2013