BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2013

Members present:
Tim Cunningham……..Chairperson
Perry Kritselas.........Parent
Mia Kumar...............Principal
Alice Magoffin.........P&C President
Leanne McKee………..Community member
Chantelle Manion.........Student Representative
Nick Miller…………….Parent
Gavin Parker…………….Teacher
Patrice Simpson………..Teacher
Christine Trieu ..........Student Representative
Lucy Ward-Gemmell… Student Representative

Apologies:
Janina Longman...........Deputy Principal (LSL)
Karyn O’Brien ............Deputy Principal (LSL)

1. Welcome to all members of Council present.

2. Business arising from meeting held on 6 March was discussed.

   2.1. Tim reported that he had written to Burwood Council regarding the access road and requesting date for completion for removal of access road. No reply received from Michael McMahon. Principal tabled email (23 May) from Joseph Pascuzzo, DEC Property Manager regarding the land swap and provided a diagram indicating the land to be exchanged.

   Certain procedures need to be followed:
   i) DEC prepares brief to Minister recommending the land swap
   ii) Burwood Council engage a surveyor to prepare an easement for drainage
   iii) Burwood Council provide DEC/School a licence to access water harvested from drainage in Wangal Park for the sporting BGHS fields.
   iv) Burwood Council reinstate a soft landscape over the easement in consultation with the school.

   Discussion took place about the need for students to have access to sporting fields at recess and lunch in addition to PDHPE classes/sport. Students were confident that they would have this access next term. Members expressed concern that another access road from Monash Parade had been built but was not being used. Nick raised issue of sporting fields and whether the reduced access was a concern to the students.

   2.2. School Uniform discussion was held over until next meeting when Elaine present.

3. Student Representative Council provided a report when Patrice Simpson arrived.

   3.1. Lucy reported fundraising at Variety Night raised more than $300 for IWDA. Also $1000 raised from ticket sales will go towards performing arts facilities.

   3.2. More than 40 students from Years 7-11 attended the Student Leadership Camp on 2/3 May at Mangrove Mountain. It was a wonderful way to get to know each other, experience challenges and increase opportunities for teamwork.
3.3. Year 11 fundraising to be conducted on 31 May to raise funds for iIndia.
3.4. A group of Year 10 SRC students are attending a leadership conference at Luna Park on Friday.
3.5. SRC leadership structure has changed for 2013. There will be a team of six Year 11 SRC girls who will lead the SRC. This was voted by the SRC.
3.6. Patrice Simpson presented a report on Students Leadership at BGHS (including SRC, House Captains) which will be used for the annual school report for 2013. It was compiled from the discussions from the leadership conference and presented to the executive conference in Bowral.

Patrice reported that students’ perceptions of the qualities of a good leader included:
- intelligence
- uses common sense
- makes good decisions
- flexible and adaptable
- can use technology
- taking risks.

Students participated in a survey with some insightful reflections on opportunities for leadership. Students responded to positive changes, such as:
- three captains
- SRC more representative of student population
- SRC increased in size
- Hands Across the Ocean initiatives
- captains’ report in assemblies
- leadership camp
- new groups (eg TIDDAS, Leos).

What do we do well was discussed.
- Encouraging and spreading the word “equality”.
- Recognising differences.

What can be improved included things like:
- Act more responsibly (especially in the toilets)
- Dyson hand dryers/soap/better facilities

And we need to ensure that members of SRC have:
- better communication
- suggestion boxes
- column in Event
- more year meetings.

Patrice believed members of SRC were focused on making a difference to what could change for the school. Principal reported she valued the ideas and suggestions from students. Student focus groups held in the past were a powerful force to bring about change in a variety of areas such as assessment, learning in classrooms, use of technology etc.

4. The 2012 Annual School Report was tabled and principal thanked members for their contributions. The report was an accurate reflection of activities and successes at Burwood Girls High School. Members approved of the document. The Annual School Report is placed on the school web site.
5. Update on some special events was provided by the principal.

- The staff at the school were spending a lot of time discussing and planning for the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum. English, Mathematics, Science and History will implement new programs for Years 7 and 9 in 2014. Many teachers involved in after school workshops to ensure smooth implementation.

- NAPLAN testing was smoothly implemented with few students missing the tests – P&C applauded the philosophy of using NAPLAN testing as a diagnostic tool for teachers. The only drawback is that results will not be available until September (a long time to wait for test results).

- The school has employed two community liaison officers to assist with students of Korean or Chinese background. The two members of staff are:
  - Maria Hong … Korean (Wednesdays)
  - Lettie Kwong … Chinese (Thursdays)

Salaries of both members of staff are paid for out of International Students money. However both staff also provide support for Korean and Chinese students who are not International students.

- There have been two successful overseas excursions during the last holiday. Twenty students participated in a tour to Italy and thirty dance students were involved in dance workshops in Los Angeles and New York. Next July a trip to Samoa is planned. Also a trip to India in December/January. There is also a trip being planned for Year 10 students to Uluru – early stages of discussions but looks like this will be in November 2013.

6. Vending machines in the canteen have been disconnected. The question was raised as to whether vending machines had a place in the school. The P&C felt that the quality of items to be sold in these vending machines was a concern. Vending machines near the music area were useful for students who remained late for band practice (and needed a snack).

Principal provided a proposal from NatVEND:

1. Drinks annual sales ≈ $15000
   Generated commission ≈ $3000
2. Snacks annual sales ≈ $26000
   Generated commission ≈ $4000
3. Vending machines could be relocated to outside near bottom of library steps and this would reduce vandalism to the school canteen.
4. Profits from the machines could be allocated to school improvement projects (such as Dyson hand dryers).

Student members agreed to discuss the viability of vending machines and would inform principal of decision.

7. Evaluations to be conducted for 2013 Annual School Report, as discussed last meeting include:

- Special Religious Education
- Quality Teaching and Learning
- Technology (DER, laptops etc)
- Parental Involvement

It was also discussed that an audit and evaluation of excursions and field study days would be undertaken in 2013. The number, cost and variety of excursions would be considered.
8. **General Business**

- Alice Magoffin suggested the Environment Committee and Ms Tottenham be invited to the landscaping meeting on Thursday 6 June at 3:30 pm. Principal reported she would be late due to attending a meeting 2-4pm at Canterbury GHS but the deputies would attend. Plan to beautify the path to the hall is seen as an important project.

- Nick reported that the Band Program has been fabulous in so many ways.
  - Variety Night was a spectacular display of talent.
  - Bunnings BBQ raised $1700 for the band program – many parents were involved.
  - Senior Concert Band tour to Forster was an excellent opportunity to play for local primary schools and bond with the new conductor who is doing a wonderful job with the SCB.
  - Students have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the Sydney Eisteddfod – the Brass Ensemble won their section and the Concert Band were outclassed by Knox Grammar but loved the opportunity to perform.

Meeting closed 7:10 pm.

Next meeting: 7 August 2013.