Burwood Girls High School - P&C Meeting
Minutes of Meeting 21st May 2014

Attendance: Mia Kumar-Principal, Janina Longman-Deputy Principal, Karyn O’Brien-Deputy Principal, Elaine Browne, Alice Magoffin- President, Effie Balomatis - Treasurer, Effie Matsas - Secretary, Christine Williams, Kerry West, Kathy Kritselas, Nick Miller, & attendees as noted on attendance register.
Minutes by: Effie Matsas
Meeting Opened: 7.20pm

1. WELCOME
Meeting opened by Alice Magoffin in the Library.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES
P&C Minutes 19 March were tabled and accepted. Minutes on school web site.

Motion: Minutes accepted – Christine W proposed, Effie B seconded

3. Agenda Item 4 - Asian Literacy + Bali Trip presented by Mr Kent (Head Teacher Languages)

The presentation detailed the future of languages, implementation at BGHS and understanding of global citizenship which is key to 21st learning. Updated Australian curriculum in languages (sourced from ACARA website); however it is lagging behind in its implementation as compared to other subjects. It is expected that the implementation of the new language curriculum will occur in 2015. The Federal Gov. has also announced new budgets set aside for Hindi, Turkish, Auslan, classical Greek and Latin.

BGHS offer 6 languages Chinese, Italian, French, Indonesian and in years 9 – Japanese & Korean. In addition to support for Saturday school community languages – Arabic, Modern Greek etc. BGHS offer activities/events to compliment the languages aspect including International Day, Liaison Officers, assistance to overseas organisations e.g. Jodie O’Shea orphanage, Hands across the Ocean programs, and overseas trips (Bali, Italy, India).

Bali tour video presented. Students from years 10, 11 and 12 visited Bali from April 11 to 24. Major highlight was the visit to Jodie O’Shea Orphanage plus Ubud markets practising bargaining skills, cultural experiences, drinking coffee luaak + eco cycling tour, meeting/visiting Balinese family, dolphin watching at sunrise, snorkelling, and enjoying the wonderful hospitality with one of the student’s resident uncles.

Future direction of languages at BGHS includes student retention within senior years, effective delivery of new curriculum; promoting BGHS successes and using 21st century technology.

Other vehicles include continual support for the Hands across the Ocean programs and Jodie O’Shea Orphanage in Bali, continuing to build on the success of International Day, and overseas study tours including: China (2015) Japan (2015/16), Bali (2016)), New Caledonia (2016/17) Italy (2016/17), Korea (2016/17); continuation of support for Saturday community languages, expansion of languages in stages 4-6 and remaining at the cutting edge of language education.

Mrs Kumar advised that to her knowledge BGHS is the only public school in the state offering six languages.

Alice raised issue that students/parents do not take up or continue with languages in Years 11/12 as it is considered too difficult (as some students have the added advantage of being background/native speakers). It is a case where the classes may therefore be small in the senior years (4 or 5 students) that some periods are without a teacher present in the classroom.

Perhaps promotion is needed to raise awareness that students who continue languages at HSC level do very well. Another parent suggested more information may be useful at the Yr. 8 and
4. **PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

4.1. Annual School Report – was placed on our web site at end March
4.2. International Day – highlighting “Diversity of Culture” was a huge success and it gets bigger each year. A greater number of students adopted a national dress
4.3. Staff CPR Training was conducted
4.4. Year 7/8 Disco was successful and special thanks to the parent, prefect and staff support from Ashfield BHS and Homebush BHS
4.5. SRE seminars were conducted for students in years 7-10 (30% interest)
4.6. ANZAC Day Ceremonies – BHGS participation in school, local council, and city marches was outstanding. BGHS was the only girls school represented in the city Anzac march.
4.7. Bali Trip over April school holidays was a great success
4.8. International Student Morning Tea and Awards significant event
4.9. Year 11/12 Parent Teacher Student Night was well attended
4.10. Band/Strings Ensemble Tour to Mudgee/Gulgong was well received
4.11. Athletics Carnival at Homebush Athletics Arena was fabulous and great weather
4.12. PR – front page of Inner West Courier + article featuring BGHS year 7/8 concern regarding the Nigerian school girls and involvement in social issues. The photo also featured in the #Bring back our girls’ site - BGHS promoted as socially aware citizens.
4.13. Prefects raised $1,300 for Cancer Research – camping at Epping Boys High
4.14. Year 11/12 STARR Day – response to student study needs for senior years including workshop for parents was well received + speaker Rocky Bia was excellent
4.15. Cheltenham Girls captains visited to discuss BHGS approach to diversity/proud school program
4.16. NAPLAN – Year 7 & 9 behaviour was excellent. No nerves or stressful students as emphasis is not placed on these tests at BGHS
4.18. Priorities for Term 2
   - Planning for 2015
   - Finalise assessment policy and procedures
   - BYOD evaluation
   - Promoting BGHS
   - Year 7 placement panel for 2015 underway
   - School Development Day – over two evenings in June + September to replace 19 December
4.19. Future Events
   - PISA testing – BGHS selected at random to represent Australia and random 54 students selected for international test scheduled on 5th June (for worldwide ranking) as well as staff
   - Changes in the P&C Federation – Mrs Kumar to report
   - School Council Meeting to focus on planning for 2015-18
   - Year 7 Starr
   - Year 7 vaccinations
   - Field Study Day 13 June
   - Year 7 Reports
   - P&C meeting 18 June to highlight science teaching
   - Blue and gold Assembly on 23 June

5. **BUSINESS ARISING**

5.1 **Year 10/11/12 Academic Awards** (Agenda item 5) - Concern that awards are given out to students without explanation/understanding why these prizes/awards (e.g. Principal’s Award) are awarded at Assembly. Other students may not have been adequately recognised.
Mrs Kumar advised it is based on ranking and achieving 1st place in most subjects.

Needs to be more consistent and ensure transparency. Perhaps the criteria needs to be more explicit and explained more in detail at the Award Ceremony.

5.2 **ROSA** - (Record Of School Achievement) – Parent concern regarding ROSA process in particular what criteria will be used by teachers and will it be a consistent process?

Suggestion that it may be addressed at a future meeting as it does warrant a more detailed explanation. Janina Longman has been developing staff for managing ROSA e.g. What constitutes an ‘A’ grade student? Teachers need to justify why particular marks are given to particular students.

5.3 **EXAMS** – Parents concerned that not enough exam practice, especially in Year 10 and as there is only one exam in yr. 11 and trials before HSC in yr. 12 students do not have much practice for formal examinations. Year 10 students are also not prepared for year 11 and particularly English studies as the differential between stage 5 and 6 curriculum is significant.

Ms Kumar suggested perhaps they introduce exams in Year 10. This needs to be discussed with the school executive.

Ms O’Brien advised that discussions are planned to review incorporation of Yr. 10 as a senior year. May involve greater focus in senior studies, wearing senior uniform, planning for English etc.

Majority of parents agreed that more Year 10 exams would be a great advantage.

5.4 **Prefect /school captain selection** – Parent concern that selections are based on popularity as 100% of votes are student based.

Ms Longman advised that selection this year will be changed – votes will be 50% students and 50% teachers for both prefects and school captains. For school captains – selection via merit rather than just on the student’s speeches will be considered.

5.5 **Grants** – Tamra Palmer has kindly produced submission for the Coles Junior Land Grand. If successful, $1000 will be granted to build a free standing vegetable garden.

Meeting held earlier today to review requirements for the Cancer Council Shade Grant. Tamra will prepare and submit documents. If successful, $25,000 will be awarded to the school for a removable shade structure over the green court and 2 portable marquees (with school logos)

5.6 **Canteen Furniture** – Agreement on aluminium chairs for canteen area. Joint venture between P&C and Captains Project.

*Action: Alice to source price for aluminium chairs*

6. **Treasurer Report**

6.1 As of 21 May 2014 P&C Funds at $18,781.

*Treasury report adopted by Kerry W and seconded by Nick M*

- Expenditure for Year 7/8 Disco BBQ was included
- More funds anticipated to be forwarded from the P&C contributions collected by the school and Uniform Shop. P&C contributions are improving with greater communication in parent handouts and Event.
- $20K earmarked for Grounds Project

*Action: Alice to speak to Bronwyn Hatzis re: P&C voluntary funds paid.*

*Next P&C agenda item – allocation of funds for 2014 projects.*
6.2 **Uniform Shop Report**
- No report since November 2013.
- Balance as of 21 May 2014 is $29,298.30
- Cheque for $12,000 which includes $7,500 from lockers & $4,500 uniform shop handed to P&C – this will leave a balance of $17,293.00.

*Adopted by Nick M and seconded by Christine W*

- Only 5 blazers sold. Students are encouraged to wear blazers all the time but they are reluctant. Feedback is that students do not want to start wearing blazers if other students are not wearing blazers. Parents would like to see girls wearing blazers but no one wants to start the trend!! Students are saying “they are embarrassed to wear the blazers as no one else is”

Suggested that school should encourage girls to wear blazers especially on special event days. – to break down the blazer barrier.

6.3 **ATO/charity documents** – Mrs Browne advised that all charities need to submit a statement outlining the purpose of the charity. BGHS Uniform Shop is registered as a charity.

Action: Elaine B to submit ATO report.

6.4 **Changes to P&C Federation affiliations** – Mrs Brown advised that the information is recorded on the Insurance paperwork.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**
- Parent Line 1300 – free professional support for NSW Parents

8. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

8.1 **Year 7 Placement Panel** - Alice Magoffin representing P&C on the 2015 Year 7 panel

8.2 **Canteen Food** – Parents stated that students have been complaining about the food served at the school canteen. Students are buying lunch from Westfield.

Action: Karyn O to ask SRC to organise an anonymous student survey

8.3 **Tagged front gate** - Parent concerned that front of school gate columns has been tagged and not been removed for over 6 months

Action: The school to look at removing the graffiti.

8.4 **Beautification of Grounds** – Working bee to be organised beginning of next term. It was agreed to replace the crushed granite and picnic table concept in the large island area with artificial grass and a small planter box in the corner. This will allow for more groups of students to sit in this area as well as making the area looks less congested without tables.

It was also bought up that the plants are not looking very healthy – may need more watering/irrigation.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm - Next Meeting: 18th June 2014.