BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2013
6:00 pm – 7:30pm in LIBRARY

MEMBERS: Robert Brett.......................Community Member
Elaine Browne ...................Manager, P&C Uniform Shop
Tim Cunningham ...... Chairperson
Perry Kritselas.............Parent
Mia Kumar..................Principal
Janina Longman.............Deputy Principal
Alice Magoffin.............P&C President
Leanne McKee...............Community member
Nick Miller..................Parent
Karyn O’Brien .............Deputy Principal
Gavin Parker..................Teacher
Patrice Simpson...............Teacher
Chantelle Manion...............Student Representative
Christine Trieu ..................Student Representative
Lucy Ward-Gemmell.........Student Representative

Apologies: Lesley Jolly (Intestate)

1. Welcome to final meeting for 2013 and thanks for refreshments provided.

2. Business Arising

2.1 Road Safety Audit was conducted by Burwood Council (specifically Viyolla Ciofani, Road Safety Officer and Robert Ristevski). It was a thorough review undertaken on 9/10 October. Suggestions involved:

- Replacement fluorescent signs for crossing
- Trimming overhanging branches
- Raising the crossing and painting it red
- Notifying the school to include road rules in the school newsletter

There was also a suggestion to install pedestrian fencing – this is a strategy that the school believes would help near corner of Queen Street and Cheltenham Road.

It was suggested that the school implement a program where senior students supervise the pedestrian crossing in the afternoon during peak time. (This in fact was implemented in 2012/2013 and may need to be reintroduced.)

It was noted by the School Council members that the pedestrian crossings are not in ideal spot on Cheltenham Road – they could coincide with the main entry/exit gates to the school.

It was noted by Burwood Council that there is only 10 minutes of traffic congestion in the afternoon.

School Council members were pleased this report was finally conducted and support the recommendations.
2.2 Vending machines were installed for providing additional funds for the band program and more recently two were installed for providing money for student initiatives for school improvement projects. The vending machines were targets for vandals – theft of money, goods and destruction of machines has resulted in removal of four vending machines and thus no additional income for the band or SRC.

2.3 Canteen Tender was finalised by Karyn, Alice and Bronwyn. A new canteen operator has been approved for 2014. “Healthy Canteens Australia” has new contract. Food looks great and the deputy tabled the tender submission which outlined their services, costs and variety of foods. This group is willing to refurbish the canteen area and provide fundraising opportunities for students.

Thank you to Alice for being on the committee and making good decisions. Renovations to the canteen will certainly be welcomed by students. It was suggested that students monitor quality and price of food next year and report findings to the School Council.

3. SRC representatives reported on the following events:
- Year 12 Graduation successful.
- Year 10 excursion to Uluru for five days was excellent with varied experiences such as walking around Uluru, dot painting, riding camels, visiting Kata Juta, star gazing and camping.
- Craig Laundy, MP for Reid visited school today and would like to be involved in SRC training. He was keen to learn about government schools.
- Year 6 Interviews were conducted from 14-22 November. Prefects took an important role in interviewing Year 6 students as well as answering parents’ questions about Burwood Girls High School and opportunities for their daughters.
- House Captain elections completed with SRC elections occurring before end 2013.
- Dance Auditions for 2014 are taking place already.
- Leadership Convention on Friday for selected students.
- Year 9, Year 11 camps were a success.
- 76 Students nominated to be “Big Sisters” (prefects not permitted to be involved). A need to spread leadership opportunities was a decision taken for this year.

4. SRE evaluation conducted this year. Meeting held on 11 November with Ivan Harris, Mark Powell, Liling Tan, Deputy Principal and Principal where results from surveys with students, staff and parents were tabled. Models were presented by DP and Principal for possible SRE lessons for 2014. Ivan Harris sent a SRE proposal for 2014 which was tabled at the last P&C meeting. The nature of the letter as well as the content was not received well by the P&C and Principal. Concerns were related to Ivan Harris at the last meeting on 25 November. Principal outlined the following issues to the SRE personnel:
- Our school community is not in favour of timetabled SRE classes.
- The school does not disregard legislation or DEC guidelines as there has been a designated time for scripture on Tuesdays.
- Our school community is diverse and Christian SRE is not seen as relevant for more than 23%.
- There is a need to evaluate how SRE can be implemented effectively in the current curriculum.
The outcome of the meeting was that:

- Burwood Girls High School was a test case, and was not successful in the implementation model.
- No scheduled SRE classes planned for 2014.
- SRE personnel to seek advice from DEC personnel re implementation of SRE.
- Liling Tan would not continue working at Burwood Girls High School. This was seen as a concern as Liling Tan was considered a valued member of the school staff.

5. The access road had been removed and grass laid – this is very pleasing and a special thank you goes to Tim for his tenacious action with Burwood Council over the last four years.

Lai Yiu Chiew reported via email that Burwood Council was sent an email on 20 September to amend the land swap plan. They were advised that it was quicker and easier to just do a boundary adjustment. They replied on 23 September they will do so but no action since then. Lai Yiu will follow up with Burwood Council and also will remind AMU of the need for an official handover of the section of the playing fields where access road is situated.

It is hoped that these fields will be available for lunch and maybe recess next year. The school executive will discuss this and how to manage playground duty. Students expressed concern about potential litter problems and how to manage this issue. Students should be told about the necessity of maintaining a clean environment or the privilege of access to playing fields would be withdrawn.

It is also hoped to build a fitness track on the area. Alice reported that a fitness area had been implemented at Canterbury Girls High School and was well received by the students.

6. Update on Special Events was discussed by the Deputies, Janina and Karyn.

6.1 Enrolments for 2014:  
Year 7 ........ 160  
Year 8 ........ 165  
Year 9 ........ 170  
Year 10 ...... 213  
Year 11 ...... 235  
Year 12 ...... 230  
including 90 International Students

6.2 Staffing changes included:

- Appointment of Head Teacher Languages – Edward Kent (Albion Park High School)
- Samantha Grech resigning to Catholic system (awaiting appointment from staffing)
- Zoe Smith appointed to English
- Robert Jones temporary teacher to English
- Kathleen Scott retiring. Seeking a replacement by merit selection.

6.3 Hospitality Facility has been built and is outstanding. There was an official opening on 13 November. Unfortunately Rosemary Patonay was not able to be there (she is delighted with the results) and Hospitality teacher Louise Harper with students managed the catering. Local high school principals, VET team, TAS Faculty, school executive celebrated the completion of the facility. It was essential to upgrade in order to offer Hospitality as a subject in the senior school. The cost was $180,000 from
school funds as we were not successful in gaining any financial support from DEC. The RTO Report completed recently recognised the need for a new facility and the need to update the VET qualifications. The school needs to comply with ASQA (Australian Skills Quality Authority) and now we do.

6.4 New administration system, SENTRAL, has been purchased to link attendance, welfare, calendar, class lists. It is a system that will streamline what needs to happen in our school.

6.5 The Band Program – a slide show has been developed to show Year 6 parents what is available in the Band Program. Special thanks given to Elaine for great organisation and support since Diana Springford left for full-time position at Emmanuel School. Genevieve Campbell is the new director of the band program. IWB festival – community band of 130+ was held last weekend. $1850 taken at the door + $3000 sponsorship from Wests Ashfield and Ashfield RSL. For 2014, a huge band festival is planned. The band program will now be named the “Ensemble Program” and is growing in numbers and in strength. The recent band tour was a valuable experience for all girls and certainly did a great deal to promote the program. Janina has been very supportive and students who previously left have been brought back into the program as a result of recent successes.

7. BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) information has been placed on the school website. Information tabled at meeting. A tablet was suggested for Year 7/8 and a laptop for Year 9/10. Year 6 parents have been very supportive of purchasing a device for their daughters for 2014. As more information is received from DEC, information is placed on our website. The tablet is preferred for Year 7/8 so there can still be a focus on writing in the earlier years – this is a skill that still needs to be retained. Perry reported that there are now devices that can be written on. Technology is changing rapidly and learning in the classroom needs to manage these changes. Perry willing to provide advice.

8. P&C Grounds Improvements has been a successful program – areas to target are near the Music room and square area near walkway. Alice reported that working bees were well coordinated by Effie Matsas and she should be congratulated for her energy and enthusiasm. A small committed parent body has made and is continuing to make a significant difference to the grounds improvement. The next Working Bee is 7/8 December.

Effie Matsas has done an excellent job coordinating parents but more needed.

9. General Business – Issues raised:

9.1 Uniform Shop - $58 000 raised in last two weeks. Concern about the state of the Uniform Shop and need to improve premises. Shelving needs to be improved and Elaine to obtain quotes for shelving. Principal says it would be great to relocate the Uniform Shop but where? Signposting for Uniform Shop needs to improve and it is not clearly signposted.

9.2 “Tell Them From Me” survey indicated that there was a drop-off in involvement in extra-curricular activities. A proposal that “No Homework for Year 7” students, except in mathematics and languages for 2014 to be trialled. This is currently being discussed.

9.3 Protective strips worn off on steps and need to be replaced. GA to be notified.
Protective goggles for Science were to be donated by a parent. Has this happened? Principal to investigate. (Answer: Science Assistant able to order but parent has approached Bunnings.)

Vote of thanks to Tim Cunningham for his leadership of the School Council since 2005. He has been tenacious in dealing with issues like school security, traffic safety issues, playing fields and most recently the ongoing issues with Burwood Council. Tim was presented with Certificate of Service with acclamation from everyone present.

In summarising his time, Tim said:
“I would like to firstly thank Mia Kumar for all the support over the last eight years. Also I thank the executive, staff members, the SRC, the P&C and Parents for their assistance in making the school an outstanding centre of education, and a safe and happy environment for the students.

From the policies developed here, to the numerous school improvements (over 6 million dollars) to the inclusion of technology, the School Council is a very important part of the school.

I have enjoyed being part of the Council and the P&C for approx 17 years and even though I am retiring from the council, I will be available if assistance is needed.”

Nominations for President were called. Perry Kritselas nominated by Patrice Simpson, seconded by Elaine Browne and he accepted, without further nominations.

Photo taken of 2013 School Council.

Meeting closed: 7:30 pm.

Meetings for 2014:
12 March, 28 May, 30 July, 26 November.