Burwood Girls High School
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 4 March ~ 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm in Library

Members present: Tim Cunningham ..........Community Member
Lesley Jolly ..................Parent
Ed Kent .......................Teacher
Perry Kritselas .............Chairperson
Mia Kumar .................Principal
Alice Magoffin ............Parent
Leanne McKee .............Community Member
Karyn O’Brien ............Deputy Principal
Patrice Simpson ..........Teacher
Chantelle Manion ........Student Representative
Christine Trieu ...........Student Representative
Lucy Ward-Gemmell .......Student Representative

Apologies: Robert Brett ..........Community Member
Elaine Browne ..........Manager, P&C Uniform Shop
Erin Dib .................Parent (Hawaii)
Gavin Parker ..........Teacher (Basketball)
Janina Longman .......Deputy Principal (Hawaii)
Nick Miller .................P&C President (Hawaii)

1. Welcome to the first meeting for 2015. Welcome to a new staff representative, Ed Kent (to replace Erin Dib). It would be good to see a new parent representative, perhaps a parent of Year 7?

2. Student Representative Council report was provided early as the three student representatives were accompanying Patrice Simpson to the Strathfield Business and Professional Women’s Network dinner at 7pm for International Women’s Day event with guest speaker, Prue MacSween.

Lucy reported on the new prefect Facebook page that had been set up by 26 prefects to improve communication within the school community. As a result of student feedback, Instagram for younger students has been implemented. To date there are 600 ‘likes’ for Facebook and 400 ‘likes’ for Instagram. These social network sites are closely managed and monitored by the prefects and supervising teacher for appropriate comments, messages and content.

Lucy also discussed successful events held at the school:

2.1. Swimming Carnival on 11 February was a great event.
2.2. Valentine’s Day Stall
2.3. Lunar New Year celebrations, where students wore Asian costume or red accessories, was an initiative which was strongly supported by everyone. Staff wore red as well.

![Image of students and staff at events]
Very positive feedback received from the school community and $600 was raised to a charity “China Heart”. Chantelle spoke about SRC focus on organisation of an International Day Food Stall. International Day will be held on Friday 20 March.

Lucy and Eve Crossley participated in a Youth Leadership training day as part of the Safe Schools Coalition and were able to provide information to the student body at assembly last Monday. Discussion at the training day included:

- Developing inclusive environment
- Gender neutral uniform policy
- Use of pronouns etc
- Gender neutral toilets

Burwood GHS has always provided a supportive environment and was the fifth school in NSW to sign up to the Safe Schools Coalition. The Rainbow Assembly on 2 March was well received.

The next important assembly is the International Women’s Day Assembly on 9 March and this will focus on ‘Days for Girls’, a program which provides hygiene products for girls in third world countries to enable them to continue to attend school. The idea for involvement in this program developed as a result of participation in the Strathfield BPW Network last month.

The students discussed a fundraising activity which they hope to win the Guinness Book of Records – ‘wearing the most underpants’.

Chantelle discussed Field Study Day, 13 March:

- Year 7 to Goat Island
- Year 8 to Jamberoo
- Year 9 to the Planetarium
- Year 10 to The Rocks/Darling Harbour
- Year 11 involved in Crossroads, including driver education
- Year 12 will be undertaking English workshops

A STARR Day for Year 12 on 16 March will include Stress Management as well as other ways to improve wellbeing.

Two overseas excursions planned for this semester – Band tour to Hawaii leaves tonight and Japan Tour with Mr Kent, Ms Dib and Mr An leaves during the April holidays.

Lucy tabled a document to support Prefect focus on ‘Girls Education’. The aim of this project is to:

- Educate our student body about issues regarding girls’ access to education around the world.
- Use Year 9 Photography and Digital Media class in designing posters.
- Hold a film/documentary night “Girl Rising” in November to raise funds (target $5000).

The money raised to be donated to the Malala Yousafzai Fund.

3. Business Arising was discussed.

3.1. Patrice reported that participation in Camp Gallipoli would not occur as we thought this was a school event. As this event has been opened to the public, the school executive decided that we could not ensure safety and security of our students, so no involvement.

3.2. Principal tabled the school brochures – main brochure and four A5 size on Student Wellbeing, Learning, Performing Arts, Visual Arts. Photos were professionally taken and this project undertaken last year. There are four more brochures to be developed from Facilities, Extracurricular, Leadership, Sport, Cultural Diversity, Uniform. This will
hopefully be achieved in 2015. Members agreed that the new format for brochure supported the school focus on excellence. These brochures should be placed on the website.

3.3. Principal reported that Burwood GHS was successful in gaining Chaplaincy funding for 2015. Liz James would continue to support disengaged students under the Chaplaincy program. She is trained in Christian beliefs and is supporting students as she has previously. Letters from the presidents of School Council and P&C were instrumental in achieving success with our application for Chaplaincy funding.

3.4. Perry reported that he was still looking for an appropriate school bus with 20/22 seats and disabled access. The budget is about $40 000. Perry specified a bus 5 or 6 years old which had been under government lease would be suitable. Logo for sponsorship at the back of bus with ‘Burwood Girls High School’ on the side of the bus, is envisaged. Perry reported a bus he was negotiating for, went for $52 500 which was a bit over budget. Need to purchase bus by May.

4. Karyn tabled the draft School Plan with the three strategic directions:
   - Maximising Student Outcomes
   - Promoting Leadership for Learning
   - Enhancing Communication and Connections

The School Plan will be put on the website.

Karyn discussed that the planning committee (Principal, DPs, HT T&L) had accessed support from the Professional Officers and there are still some minor changes to be made.

Perry and Lesley offered to assist with final edit. Nick should be included too as he was willing to be involved. The School Plan to be on website by Term 2.

5. Overseas Excursions were tabled. Burwood Girls High School conducts a number of overseas excursions (Japan, China, Indonesia, France, Italy, USA, New Caledonia, Samoa, India) and there have been significant problems in organizing the most recent excursions to Japan and Hawaii.

There seems to be a concern by Executive Directors of the value of these excursions, as well as whether they should occur in school time. Issues with the management of travel costs for teachers and paperwork have presented problems.

The Burwood GHS community values overseas excursions and views them as an important part of the learning program. The opportunity to send daughters overseas is more manageable financially than taking the whole family.

Decision was taken to include questions on overseas excursions in the parent surveys for 2015.

Letter could be drafted to Murat Dizdar / Veronica Kapsimali outlining parents’ attitudes to overseas excursions. Lesley said that parents would expect to cover costs for teachers who were closely supervising their daughters.

6. Contributions for Annual School Report for 2014 were requested. The P&C report was tabled for all (may need to be shortened) and special thanks to Alice.

Perry to prepare School Council report as soon as possible (email to principal).

7. Annual Financial Statement was handed to Chairman of School Council (as requirement) and Statement of Receipts and Payments was handed to all members. The balance carried forward
for 2015, was $663,352.15 which would include monies for unpaid orders, trust payments (eg Hawaii) but certainly sufficient funds for a bus.

8. General Business was discussed.

8.1. Karyn raised interim reports are being prepared for Year 7 and 11 students for 2015. An example of this report was tabled and included:
   - completion of set work
   - active participation
   - progress
   - BYOD
   - class attendance
   - uniform
   as items on which to comment. These interim reports would be sent out in Week 9 for Year 7/11 as Week 10 is the parent/teacher night for Years 11/12.

8.2. International Students presentation was held at the Conservatorium last Friday. Our string quintet played and we had five students receiving awards. The highest academic award was presented to Kirstan Xing (2014 International Student) with ATAR of 99.9. We were proud of all our girls.

8.3. Principal keen to apply for Joint Schools Funding to build new classrooms and music tutorial rooms. Need to alert Assets Management Unit and request support.

8.4. ‘Our Women Leaders’ featured on the front page of ‘Burwood Scene’, 4 March 2015 and an interview with Qisthy, our student school leader on page 5 in same edition. This was a result of the International Women’s Day Event to be held at our school on Sunday 8 March, 3:00 pm-5:30 pm in the Hall. The invitation was tabled to all members.

8.5. Perry raised concerns about the crossing on the corner of Cheltenham Road and Queen Street and would refer the issue again to Burwood Council.

8.6. There has been an announcement that Burwood GHS is on a list of schools to receive funding for front entrance foyer facelift. Nothing official has been received.

8.7. Alice reported that Big Sisters had an excellent time with the Year 7 students at Broken Bay camp and was hoping this program would continue. Karyn said that program would certainly continue but Big Sisters may also be selected from Year 9 students in 2015, so that Big Sisters have three years to provide support (instead of two).

Meeting closed: 7:15 pm

**UPCOMING MEETINGS 2015:** 27 May, 12 August, 4 November