BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 2 March 2016

Present: Robert Brett………………. Community Member
Elaine Browne……………… Manager, P&C Uniform Shop
Tim Cunningham ….. Community member
Lesley Jolly………………….Parent
Ed Kent……………Teacher
Perry Kritselas ………… Chairperson
Mia Kumar ……………Principal
Janina Longman…..Deputy Principal
Alice Magoffin…………Parent
Leanne McKee…………Community member
Nick Miller …………………P&C President
Karyn O’Brien………Deputy Principal
Gavin Parker ………….. Teacher
Patrice Simpson……….Teacher
Amal Dib …………………Student Representative
Bonnie Fitzgerald ………Student Representative
Samantha Kotsakis ……..Student Representative

Apologies: Nil

Patrice reminded Council members that she and 3 student representatives would be leaving early to attend a BPW event at Club Burwood at 6.45pm tonight.

1. Perry welcomed members of the School Council to another year of successes and requested that SRC report be tabled first.

2. SRC representatives provided a report. The year is one for “Innovations”.

Samantha reported on the new structure for the SRC as follows:

“This year is the year for innovation and so the 2016 SRC body jumped straight into action this year. Last year, nominations were held for anyone who wanted to be in the SRC. Everyone was then given a place in their year body. This year the SRC has evolved into separate year groups that now meet on alternate Monday lunchtimes. The idea of this was so that everyone could have a voice. Currently our year group comprises of about 20-30 Year 10 members. This is similar for the other year groups as well. Two weeks ago each group anonymously voted for 4 leaders that would run the year group meetings and then on the other Monday (week A) would attend the executive SRC group. This group contains the 4 leaders from each group, the School Council representatives, prefects and representatives from other school clubs and groups such as Environmental Committee, Big Sisters, Band, Dance, TIDDAS and so on. We are currently working on managing our International Day stalls which is a very important role for the SRC. We have all selected a certain stall and have maximum of 5 SRC members working on each. Next week we will hold our first meetings to get the stalls up and running. Year 10 SRC is working on the International Women’s Day Assembly to be held next week. A selected number of us are working on speeches together as well as organising a performance. Tonight 7 members of our Year 10 SRC including the three of us will be attending the BPW International night at Club Burwood for dinner and to hear a speech by a special guest, Subhechya Adhikari, about which we are very thrilled.
This year the Big Sister program which helps Year 7 students with their transition from Primary to High School, has changed also. About 50-60 year 10 students have been placed within Year 7 classes. We run activities and bonding sessions to help build friendships and trust. Last week 20 Big Sisters accompanied Year 7 to camp to assist the teachers and support the girls with any problems or issues they may have had. “We all had a blast and formed close bonds with our little sisters.”

Amal commented on students’ concerns that even though the leadership opportunities had increased for 2016 and more people were included, these leadership positions were no longer seen as ‘exclusive’. It was agreed that greater opportunities for involvement, in a whole range of leadership roles this year, was a good thing. It was seen as an inclusive program. The new structure needs to be evaluated at the end of 2016 and students to provide comments on the structure and programs.

Bonnie outlined that this year for Innovation, had brought about a number of changes:
- New format for Big Sisters
- New SRC format with lots more leadership opportunities and incorporates all ‘groups’ within the school.
- New timetable organisation for SRE (Special Religious Education)
- Swimming Carnival
- Visiting Korean students for 2 weeks
- Dance auditions with Ms Caltabiano
- Lunar New Year celebrations organised by Prefects
- SRC and Prefects common focus
- International Women’s Day event organised by SRC
- Days for Girls organised by Year 10 Textiles in conjunction with Strathfield Women in Business Group – bigger next year.

Big Sisters being in Year 10, has made a significant difference to the operation and connections with Year 7 students.

Students concerned that maybe making SRC too big can be detrimental to making decisions and needs to be monitored carefully.

3. Business arising was discussed.
   3.1. Karyn tabled a report on the provision of SRE so far in 2016. More than 10% students involved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Protestant</th>
<th>Greek Orthodox</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Year Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Total</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will be a review of the structure at end of Semester 1. Nick offered to put SRE on agenda for next P&C meeting.

Karyn reported that the Catholic group had requested to introduce themselves to the school. Two assemblies were organised yesterday (one for middle school and one for senior school), attended also by the relevant Deputy which served a dual purpose.
for SRE as well as a forum for important information from Deputies. There had been two complaints from parents that SRE providers were seen to be ‘drumming up business’.

3.2 Principal reported on staffing and enrolment (1152) for 2016. We welcomed new staff as permanent appointments for 2016 in a range of curriculum areas:

- Fiona Diakos, HT Technology Innovations
- Rosanna Pavlovic, Science
- Christina Ha, Mathematics
- Brett Cheshire, Visual Arts
- Lauren Dwyer, Languages (Indonesian)
- Leith Thompson, HSIE
- Jenny Konstan, HSIE
- Caroline Morris, IST Vision

Also, two members of staff have taken leave:
- Jurate Janavicius
- Angela Urbano
Temporary teachers have replaced these teachers.

Perry requested details about split classes for 2016. Students reported that it seemed to be better this year. Principal reported that while teachers are employed 3-4 days per week it is impossible to avoid some timetabled ‘splits’ but certainly there is a reduced number compared to the number of split classes in 2015.

3.3 Karyn reported that ‘Women in the Hall’ project was well underway. Women to be recognised, have been identified and enlargement photos made and frames purchased. We are hoping to have 20 women up for the International Women’s Day Assembly on Monday 7 March. Three prototypes were shown to Council members who agreed that the finished product was excellent for our hall.

4. Road safety issues were tabled. Principal tabled two documents from Holy Innocents School regarding traffic changes for ‘No Stopping’ and ‘No Parking’ zones on Queen Street and Webb Street. The Webb Street pedestrian crossing was viewed as a worthwhile addition. There was still concern about the roundabout at Queen Street and Cheltenham Road and the need for protective fencing (as near Burwood Railway Station). Perry will take this concern up with Burwood Council.

5. As a result of some parental concern about Burwood GHS performance in 2015 HSC, Janina provided a detailed presentation of 2015 HSC results. Parents had been concerned about the SMH order of merit list (which only reports on Band 6). Janina provided the following statistics:

- 15% students received a merit (Band 6)
- 14% English students achieved a merit (Band 6)
- 12% Mathematics candidature received a merit
- 52% of all exams achieved a band 5/E3 or better.

Janina reported that the school’s percentages in the bands was better than the state average. For example 11.4% BGHS achieved Band 6 compared to 11% statewide and 39.3% BGHS achieved Band 5 compared to 27% statewide. The top ATARs were 99.15.
Students achieved their personal best with 84.4% students from BGHS attaining university placement compared to 81.5% in 2014. Janina outlined comparisons in performances in the various subjects using SMART data package. It was agreed that this could be shown at the next P&C meeting before Jessie Wooten and Gonski.

6. Karyn reported that our school is indeed a strong Gonski supporter and had recently written a statement for the Australian Education Union about Gonski initiatives for Burwood GHS. Jessie Wooten is also invited to next P&C meeting on 16 March. Nick was surprised he could only find ‘Be a Gonski Mum’ sticker – not a ‘Be a Gonski Dad’. All agreed it should be ‘Be a Gonski parent’.

7. Special School Initiatives were tabled by the Principal.
   7.1. Ed reported that the school hosted 16 Korean students from Hannol Middle School for two weeks. They had a wonderful experience here and cried when they farewelled their Burwood buddies. It is suggested our school develops a data base of families willing to do short-term home stays. Ed had great difficulty finding homestays at short notice (5 days) and will attempt to connect with interested parents this semester in order to build up a data base.

   7.2. The Visual Arts faculty is hosting a Mural Opening on 3 March at lunchtime. Jodi McKay will be officially opening the 2015 Mural “I am Woman” (clay rooms). Other murals that have been completed I previous years are:
   - 2014 – ‘Activate Mind, Body and Culture’ – outside Library steps
   - 2013 – ‘Hands Across the Ocean’ – entrance to Hall
   - 2012 – ‘Chinese Dragon’ – Walkway to Music

   All invited to attend.

   7.3 Principal tabled a variation to School Development Days for teachers:
   - Tuesday 3 March 3-7pm
   - Tuesday 17 May 3-7pm
   - Tuesday 9 Aug 3-7pm
   - Tuesday 1 Nov 3-7pm

   These professional learning sessions will be in lieu of the two School Development Days (student free days) at the end of the year (19, 20 December). The School Council members agreed that having a consistent professional learning program throughout the year is preferable for all. Implementing change and discussions can occur throughout the year. Date changes were approved unanimously.

8. Karyn tabled the new Wellbeing Framework that was to be the basis for new Wellbeing Policy for Burwood GHS. There are three areas:

   CONNECT - Our students will be actively connected to their learning have positive and respectful relationships and experience a sense of belonging to their school community.

   SUCCEED - Our students will be respectful, values, encouraged, supported and empowered to succeed.

   THRIVE - Our students will grow and flourish, do well and prosper.

Aspects of the policy under these 3 areas include:

   - CONNECT
     - Anti-bullying
     - School uniforms
• Student participation & leadership
• School attendance
• Anti-racism
• Multicultural education

• SUCCESS
  • Student behaviour & discipline
  • Protecting young people (child protection)
  • Out-of-home care
  • Supporting students with disability
  • Positive behaviour for learning
  • Supporting EAL/D students
  • Supporting refugee students

• THRIVE
  • Nutrition in schools
  • Sun safety for students
  • Student health
  • Drug education
  • Road safety, driver education & training

Karyn reported that a draft Wellbeing Policy would be tabled at the next School Council meeting on 1 June.

9. Items of General Business were discussed.
9.1. Tim Cunningham asked about Foyer refurbishment project. Nick replied that $300,000 was allocated to 20 schools and BGHS received $25,000 even though the application requested $75,000 and $25,000 from P&C. It was hoped that P&C President, Assets Management and Principal could prepare a suitable proposal for improvement. More information to be provided at the next meeting.

9.2. Principal reported that the bus was being well used and tabled the log book showing 22 excursions from the end of last year. It was being serviced regularly and procedures have organised for booking and managing the bus.

Three drivers have been identified:
  • Bill Hilliard
  • Qeefa An
  • A Year 7 parent, who is organising his ‘Working with Children Check’.

Perry offered to organise sign writers for the bus to put ‘Burwood Girls High School and the logo on the sides. Principal to email the logo to Perry for obtaining quote.

9.3. Concern raised about the new uniform for Holy Innocents (across the road) having the identical skirt to “Burwood GHS check”. Principal requested to determine ‘how this happened’?

9.4. International Day to be held on Thursday 17 March and all invited to attend. Concert begins at 10.45am.

Next Meetings: 1 June, 10 August, 2 November.

Meeting closed: 7.25pm