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

Present: Elaine Browne..........Manager, P&C Uniform Shop
         Christina Cleaver ...........Parent
         Tim Cunningham ..........Community member
         Lesley Jolly ..........Community member
         Perry Kritselas ......Chairperson
         Mia Kumar ............Principal
         Janina Longman ......Deputy Principal
         Kathy Lye ................R/Deputy Principal
         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 Kotsakiss ......Student Representative

Apologies: Ed Kent ..........Teacher
           Alice Magoffin ..........Parent
           Marina Pieri ..........Parent
           Kathy Totidis ..........Parent

1. Nick Miller welcomed members and chaired meeting until Perry Kritselas arrived.

2. Business arising was discussed:
   2.1. Principal spoke about an exciting project Secondary Schools Renewal (SSR) for which Burwood GHS has been identified as being a part of the project. This announcement occurred more than three years ago and involves a ‘face-lift’ to the school entry and gardens at main entrance. No budget has been disclosed however it will mean changing the main entrance to the school to a new main entrance in place of the loading bay. The school building is Federation so changes can only be made to the newer structure – the music area. This will involve building out DD2 for administration office, principal’s office, student entry, parent/visitor entry, sick bay, toilet facilities, band office. The principal tabled the plans and reported that tenders would be finalised mid 2017 for building completion at end 2018. Nick Miller has been part of the consultation group and reported that the SSR program is an excellent development for the school although it has implications for the $25 000 grant to refurbish “the foyer”. The expenditure of this money will be reconsidered and Nick will write to Jodi McKay to request additional time for expenditure of funds (previously April 2017). Could this money be spent for refurbishing toilets in the hall?

   2.2. Principal reported that there was no response to the request to Fast Football Academy (who use and maintain our field) to donate money to Stage 2 of shade program. The footings have already been installed and completion is expected before end of the year. This shade extension program is viewed as a very important project for the school and is school funded.

   2.3. Kathy Lye reported on the anticipated enrolment for Year 7 in 2017. Currently 197 students on the list but this includes 10 students who have not responded that they
are definitely coming and five international students will start after term 2. There will be seven year 7 classes in 2017. More offers may be made.

2.4. Perry reported that the bus signage has been finalised – Burwood Girls High School with ‘Not For Ourselves Alone’ as well as the school logo on both sides and the back of the bus. This is to be done next week (any day but Tuesday when bus is used for sport). Principal to coordinate.

2.5. Principal reported that the Uniform Shop would cease operation and close for purchases after 6 December 2016 allowing time for stocktake and packing up. It was recognised that Elaine Browne had managed this shop for the P&C for more than thirty years but the time had come to rethink its value for the school community. Parents want access to purchase uniform items on Saturday, Sundays and online. Elaine reported that orders for Year 7 had been placed in March this year and these would be sold during the interview times and on Orientation Day. The uniform shop would provide the service until then. There are no book packs for 2017. The school will manage the lockers for P&C and this should yield at least $10,000. The president of the P&C and Chair of the School Council recommended that there should be acknowledgement of Elaine’s and Sue’s contribution at Presentation Day. Principal reported that consideration had already been given to this, especially as Elaine had announced her retirement at the last P&C meeting.

2.6. Perry reported there had been considerable progress with Burwood Council regarding the safety issues at Queen Street and Cheltenham Road. Outcomes:

- Fence installed at the corner adjacent to BGHS
- Crossing to be moved further down Cheltenham Road.

It was noted that there will still be a need for traffic lights rather than a roundabout at this intersection, and this will be pursued. Discussion took place about the necessity to review crossings once the new school entry is established in 2018.

3. The student representatives presented a comprehensive report of student activities since the August School Council meeting

- Trial HSC, major works and actual HSC completed by year 12 students.
- Year 11 had wonderful experience at Jindabyne. Those who did not go to Jindabyne did work experience.
- Indonesian students visited for 6 weeks and buddies were provided which involved wonderful experiences for all. Students viewed this as an excellent and most memorable program. The taste-testing of Australian delicacies such as lamingtons, vegemite, etc was a great deal of fun!
- Field Study Day #3 involved year 7 at Luna Park, Year 8 doing Creative Activities, year 9 involved in Aboriginal perspectives in learning and year 10 history looked at the 60’s.
- SRC fundraisers have included: Pizza stall for India (year 11) BBQ for Cambodia (year 10)
- The Dance Showcase “Around the World” was an excellent event.
- Pacific Islander group performed with Granville BHS and Homebush BHS at Pacifica.
- Staff versus Students Lipsync Battle, was great fun but teachers won!
- Great farewell assembly and concert for year 12, followed by their graduation.
- New prefects and new captains elected:
  - Hannah Leahy Gatfield
  - Nadia Homem
  - Victoria Lekkas, who are taking up responsibilities.
• PASS students have been involved in mentoring and coaching primary students.
• Year 10 students involved in Hackathon at the Powerhouse with great interest.
• Year 8 students involved in a special camp for Islamic students at Stanwell Tops.
• Moon Festival celebrations were held in the library with Chinese lanterns and sponsored by a local business man who owns the Burwood restaurant ‘Mr Stonebowl’. Students loved the moon cakes and the opportunity to celebrate the Moon Festival for the first time at BGHS.
• SRC supported a Footy Colours Day organised by sport leaders to fundraise for cancer.
• Jump Rope for heart was supported by year 7 students.
• There has been an increased number of year meetings to encourage students to discuss needs and concerns with their SRC representatives.
• Students were representatives at the Global Goals Youth Forum.
• Bandanna Day organised by International and ESL students for Canteen, raised $1300.
• An initiative “Seasons for Growth” which helps students to deal with grief was started again this term.
• Theatresports gains momentum with other years and is enjoyed by many students.
• Diwali is being acknowledged for the first time next Thursday with Indian food and coloured lights.

Amal, Bonnie and Samantha impressed the members of Council with the variety and number of events that SRC has supported in the last couple of months. Student involvement and student activity is very strong at Burwood GHS.

4. Janina reported on the success of the Year 12 Graduation held on the last Wednesday in term 3. There was significant change in the organisation for this event, as refreshments were served before the ceremony and photographers were available at the same time with the graduation starting at 7pm. This year there were three photographers to assist in the management of speeding up process. The early catering arrangements assisted in allowing time for staff to clean up and therefore not be doing so until midnight as in previous years. Janina reported that these new arrangements worked well and Graduation started on time 7pm and finished before 9.30pm. An evaluation of the graduation was emailed to parents with 119 responses received (approx. 50%). Results indicated:
   • 66% parents preferred start time 7pm
   • 49% parents preferred a start time of 6pm if the ceremony took 2½ hours.
   • 85% parents were happy with the finger food prior to the ceremony but some parents suggested the need to have gluten free options.
   • 70% parents arrived early to access photographers.

Perry and Nick reported that the Graduation Ceremony was a perfect conclusion for year 12 students and the parents. The graduation ‘pen’ was a lovely idea instead of the cake, and well received by students. Janina reported that the ceremony time could be reduced with fewer musical items. Need to review program for 2017.

5. The principal reported that the school was involved in a process of External Validation. This is a new DoE process to ensure schools are implementing school plans, meeting their priorities and validating on three areas: learning, teaching and leading. The principal tabled the Burwood Girls High School Validation Report 2016 which included the executive summary, outline of evidence sets, five areas to showcase progress as well the external validation panel report. Principal reported that the five focus areas (decided by the school) which are also important in our school plan were:
• Learning outcomes for students
• Catering for EALD students
• Professional learning
• Student leadership

The panel report indicated that in the area of learning, the school was excelling in four of the five elements; in the area of teaching, three of the five areas; and excelling in all areas of leading. For 2017, the school needs for focus on areas for improvement in:
  • Assessment and reporting of student learning
  • Data skills and use in teaching
  • Professional standards in teaching

6. School Council membership for 2017 was discussed. The principal tabled two documents:
  • School Council attendance 2106
  • Constitution for Burwood Girls High School Council (2003)

It was agreed that the following changes to the constitution be made in terms of membership composition of School Council for 2017
  • Parent members increased from 4 to 5
  • Teacher representatives from 4 to 5
  • Community representatives from 2 to 3
  • Student representatives from 2 to 3

All members were keen to continue but Alice’s and Robert’s position in doubt for 2017. Principal agreed to write to both. There will be a need to reduce community representation to those representing business or local interest.

7. General Business was tabled.
  7.1. Painting murals and putting motivational posters in rooms was seen to be positive initiative and needs to continue.
  7.2. Women in hall project needs to be completed.
  7.3. Corridors need to be improved with photos and pictures. Students need to take ownership.
  7.4. Dated for meetings in 2017 are
       March 1
       May 31
       August 9
       November 1

Perry thanked everyone for their attendance and support for the school.

Meeting closed: 7.15pm.