

BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2008

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| Members present: | Lindy Annakin | (parent) |
| | Judy Bokor | (parent) |
| | Robert Brett | (teacher) |
| | Elaine Browne | (P&C President) |
| | Tim Cunningham | (Chairperson) |
| | Mia Kumar | (Principal) |
| | Frank Levy | (community member) |
| | Janina Longman | (Deputy Principal) |
| | Karyn O'Brien | (Deputy Principal) |
| | Patrice Simpson | (teacher representative) |
| | Arielle Tsoukatos | (student) |

1. Apologies: David Allen, Christina Nicholas (Year 7 Camp as Big Sister), Rebecca Tong. There is a need to follow up if Steve Chan and Don Moreton wish to continue. Welcome to Janina Longman, new Deputy Principal and Lindy Annakin, new parent. Members of the School Council introduced themselves.

- 2.1 Mia reported on the Learning Survey and results were distributed to all present.
 - 587 responses received from students in Years 7-10 in 2007.
 - Focus areas were engagement, student direction, explicit criteria, high expectations, student self-regulation and social support.
 - The learning survey results were scrutinised by the executive at their recent conference.
 - Some data to note as follows:
 - Only 50% students enjoy the work they do at school
 - 38% said learning is fun
 - 79% said they liked to learn new things
 - 86% reported that they wanted to do their best
 - 73% students said they worked hard in class
 - 69% equated working hard with success
 - 14% said they get to choose their own projects and 21% said they had choice in activities
 - 73% reported that teachers explained what students are going to learn but only 37% said teachers explained why
 - 53% said teachers explained what needs to be done to get good results
 - 82% reported teachers encourage students to do their best
 - 66% students were challenged
 - Only 31% students thought homework was important
 - Respect for fellow students was equivalent to respect to teachers
 - Very few students saw the relevance in getting together in their own time to learn
 - 26% students felt teachers were available outside class time to help them
 - 29% students felt teachers take a personal interest in each student.

- 2.2 Uniform Policy was tabled as well as uniform letters (June, December) sent to parents.
 - Website to be revised to include the types of shoes that are not acceptable footwear.

- Two letters sent home in June and December 2007 regarding uniform standards were well received by parents. Most students have black shoes which comply with OHS standards.
- New system with roll is working well in supporting uniform standards. Only two students in Year 9 on one day were reported out of uniform. Head Teachers are performing an excellent role.
- Ties are a fashion item and Elaine Browne reported that more need to be ordered. Mia will contact Beare and Ley.
- Vests are also a fashion item at the moment. Elaine reported that navy blue vests are available from jumper supplier and she will investigate.
- Sports shoes need to be included on website for correct sports uniform.
- Blue sports shirt is still in production and expected to be available shortly.

Karyn reported that uniform policy and procedures have been well received by students and staff. Our image in the community is important and our expectation is that students take pride in their appearance as well as their learning.

3. Mia reported that there had been a number of staff changes for 2008.
 - 3 new teachers in English
 - 1 new teacher in History
 - 2 new teachers in Social Sciences (one casual and one permanent)
 - 1 new teacher in Science
 - 3 new teachers in Creative Arts

Arielle reported that it was great to have young, energetic and enthusiastic staff. Principal added that old, energetic and enthusiastic staff are equally engaging!

The position of Head Teacher English is being advertised and applications close on 5 March. Janina said there has been enquiries (even outside the system). Currently Kathy Lazos is relieving in this position.

4. Building Program Update was provided by Tim and Mia.
 - Gym demolished
 - Trees cut down for car park along Cheltenham Road
 - Lots of areas cordoned off
 - Science labs gutted
 - Library roof is to be replaced (Library out of action last week Term 2 and first few weeks Term 3).

Some other concerns mentioned:

- Gas pipes corroded and replacement required (without gas for three weeks)
- Too few bubblers (ones outside gym are no more)

Landscaping will be part of the renewal program and school wants to plant a number of trees.

5. Student Representative Council Report will be given next term. Still finalising the SRC membership. Many students will be attending International Women's Day breakfast and holding a special assembly on 10 March. SRC is actively involved in planning for different form of International Day for 2008 (as a result of building works).
6. First draft of Annual School Report for 2007 was tabled. Mia requested a report from School Council (Tim) and P&C (Elaine) by 12 March. A list of responsibilities for ASR was tabled.

7. The School Budget for 2008 was presented and ratified by the School Council. Items of expenditure to note:

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| - Technology upgrades | \$40 000 |
| - Furniture | 20 000 |
| - School improvements | 40 000 |
| - *Capital Programs | 150 000 |

*This includes the Band Room extension which could have started last year if we had known about the delay in Building Program (\$M6.1).

8. **General Business**

8.1 Judy Bokor was interested in the results/data from the Learning Survey and expressed an interest in developing a sense of community in the classroom – how do we develop this for our students (ie build good relationships between students). Teachers need to take responsibility for developing positive class climate and good relationships.

Research on “well-being” provided by Lindy Annakin. Karyn agreed to provide details for staff, council members.

Judy Bokor interested in providing input to “think tank”. Value forum was suggested to be a good opportunity.

8.2 A most successful P&C Meeting was held last week with great attendance from Year 7 parents. Elaine will follow up with invitations to those who attended last meeting, so as to encourage attendance next month. Uniform Shop needs refurbishment of shelves but Elaine agreed that a plan must be the first step towards a solution. Locker distribution is in process. Many girls hog the lockers so that bolt cutters need to be used to make them accessible for other students. There are 202 lockers for hire.

Apology to parents who missed venue change for last meeting, will be provided by Elaine for the next newsletter “Event”. Uniform Shop to open at 8:30 am would be an advantage. Elaine to discuss this with P&C.

8.3 Tim asked if consideration had been given to an evacuation plan in light of the fences and construction in the school. Karyn O’Brien has it on her agenda and will be conducting a review of the evacuation plan as well as practice in Week 7 this term.

Meeting closed 7:15 pm.

NEXT MEETING: 28 **May** (not 28 April)