

BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Robert Brett	(teacher)
	Elaine Browne	(P&C President)
	Steve Chan	(parent)
	Tim Cunningham	(Chairperson)
	Colin Jones	(community member)
	Mia Kumar	(Principal)
	Frank Levy	(community member)
	Karyn O'Brien	(Deputy Principal)
	Patrice Simpson	(teacher representative)
	Rebecca Tong	(student)
	Arielle Tsoukatos	(student)

APOLOGIES:	Lindy Annakin	(parent)
	Judy Bokor	(parent)
	Janina Longman	(Deputy Principal)
	Christina Nicholas	(student)

1. Tim welcomed everyone and an especially warm welcome back to Colin Jones who has been working in Denmark.

2. **Business Arising from Previous Meeting**

- Cyberbullying workshop to be organised by Head Teacher Welfare and Police Liaison Officer, Burwood Police was postponed until later as a new publication "Click" was distributed to all parents at the end of Term 3.
- Year 10 Options evening was a success with almost 100% Year 10 students with their parents in attendance. The Board of Studies liaison officer, Kim Owens, provided information about requirements for the Higher School Certificate. A wide range of courses have been offered and students have made their selections for 2009. Timetabling is already commencing.
- Murals around the school is a project promoted by students and will be incorporated into our Management Plan. There is considerable interest, and decisions about locations will be made once the building program is completed. Michelle Kals, Head Teacher Creative Arts, is a great supporter of visual arts areas in the school. First project is DD1 and Room 17 exterior wall.

3. **Building Program Update**

Mia prepared a powerpoint presentation and included photos of the building program progress, highlighting the following areas:

- Science laboratories in library block are completed except for one table top in the compute seminar room.
- Library is complete. New roof allows more light into library. It is looking great.
- Perimeter fence is being constructed – the southern side along Queen Street has been erected and the remainder will be completed at the end of the project.
- Walkway is completed from the Music Area to the Hall.
- PDHPE buildings (which replace the gym) are almost at lockup stage. There will be a fitness area as well as a movement studio (with new changerooms with

shower and toilet facilities). It will be an excellent area and will also house the PDHPE Staffroom and storerooms for equipment.

- Carpark along Cheltenham Road was slow as there was a lot of preparation such as removal of waste material, renewing gas and sewerage. There seems to be recent high level activity which is promising to completion on target.
- The Science laboratories in the main building are currently being refurbished and due to be completed at the end of first week in November. They will look as fantastic as those that have already been completed.
- Landscaping is planned for the entire area after removal of roadway access inside school grounds. Principal reminded School Council that \$800 has been given by Year 12, 2007 for trees (jacarandas) and \$600-\$800 by Year 12, 2008 for benches. The P&C area also holding about \$20 000 for seating for students in this area.
- Along Cheltenham Road, brick pit site is being altered to accommodate our multipurpose courts (basketball) and soccer field. These are progressing well despite slow start.

4. Principal introduced the newly elected school leaders for 2009 and looked forward to working with them as well as the SRC and prefect body.



Rebecca Tong, Liana Paolino, Rui Dai

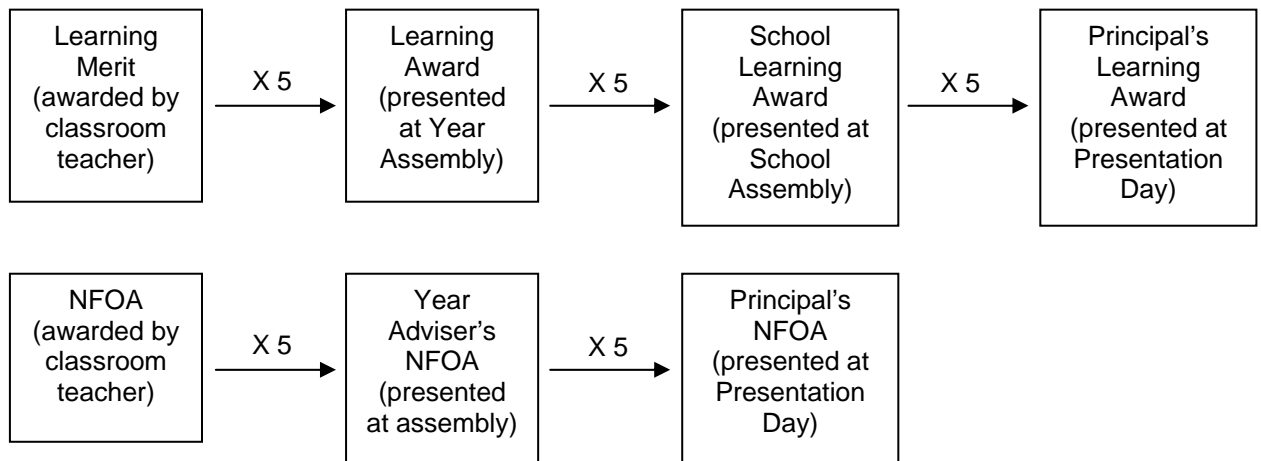
SRC representatives provided their report as follows.

- Year 8 are holding 'crazy hair day' for Leukaemia Foundation on 19 November.
- Year 11 fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research collected \$1205 today and staff were supportive by wearing pink. Pink wigs were a hit.
- SRC elections will occur in Term 4 so as to have a president elected ready for 2009. This will have an added advantage of having the SRC members elected and ready to work together from the beginning of 2009 (far more efficient).
- Year 10 organised fundraising of \$400 for orphanage in Ghana.
- SRC raffle was drawn in assembly with lots of prizes going to students and parents. A great success.
- Patrice Simpson thanked Rebecca, Arielle and Christina for their excellent efforts on School Council. This is their last meeting as they will be focusing on HSC studies in 2009.

5. Karyn O'Brien tabled a draft document on BGHS Awards Review. The document outlined Merit Awards, Blue and Gold, Student Leadership, Academic Excellence, Sport and Special Awards. There has been a lot of discussion on SRC, staff, executive and senior executive regarding streamlining our awards system and publishing this for our students so they have clear understanding of how to aim for specific awards. The introduction of a 'Merit' certificate which can be awarded for learning by classroom teachers and for 'Not For Ourselves Alone' (NFOA) values such as care, cooperation,

courtesy, democracy, excellence, fairness, integrity, participation, respect, responsibility by any staff was seen to be an improvement.

- Five learning merits receive a learning award (Year Assembly).
- Five learning awards receive a school learning award (presented at School Assembly).
- Five school learning awards receive a principal's learning award presented at Presentation Day.
- Five NFOA awards receive a Year Adviser's NFOA Award.
- Five Year Adviser's Awards receive Principal's NFOA award at Presentation Day.



It was also discussed that these awards need not be restricted to a calendar year but could be accumulated over 7-10 and 11-12.

In the award of Blue/Gold certificates, discussion about the requirement of suitable attendance rate took place. Students with unexplained absences or many latenesses should not be considered for an 'effort' award if they were unable to demonstrate 'effort' in attending school.

Special Awards to be nominated in a general way rather than subject specific, e.g. Alan Waddington Prize for social justice; Anne Beams Prize for exceptional skills in writing.

6. Mia outlined that there would be minimal change in staffing for 2009. There would be one retirement, one return from year's leave and a few staff applying for part-time leave without pay (PDHPE, Visual Arts, Languages, English). The school needs a Dance teacher, teacher in Social Sciences, an additional History/Social Sciences teacher, a continuation of Glen Wines in Chinese/IT. The Band Director position has been clarified and Glenn Armitage is keen to continue in 2009.
7. The following areas were targeted for evaluation in 2008:
 - excursions
 - band program
 - awards and recognition system
 - consistency in implementation of procedures for student welfare (attendance, uniform etc)
 - roles of head teachers.

Surveys are being organised by Year 11/12 Community and Family Studies class for excursions and band.

Evaluations for 2009 may include technology and learning, numeracy as well as Gifted and Talented program. There has been a large amount of money spent on these areas 2006-2008 and it is important to evaluate the success of these initiatives.

Council members were invited to offer any other areas for evaluation.

8. General Business

- SRC representatives raised question about designated area for Year 12 for this term as well as for 2009. School is very tight for space. Senior study out of question but an outside area designated for Year 12 students could be decided once landscaping completed.
- SRC representatives wanted to know if International Day is planned for 2009. Principal replied that it is already on next year's calendar (just prior to Harmony Day) – Friday, 20 March.
- Elaine Browne reported that the new blue sports shirts were selling like hot cakes. Great response from the students. Steve also reported that students are keen to wear them and that they are a smart addition to the uniform.
- There will be a special end of year meeting/dinner at Coronation Club to farewell Dawn O'Toole, Presiding Officer for SC/HSC exams for last 24 years. Elaine is organising invitations for this event to all P&C, School Council members and other community members for Thursday, 11 December. Keep date free!

Meeting closed: 7:05 pm

Apologies, I omitted to table Tim's list of items for general business. Here they are with my personal comment.

1. What is being done in the school's security in regards to items recently stolen and also the next school holiday break?
A: New school security system has been installed, 20 October 2008.
2. With the school's renovations expected to be completed prior to 2009 term start, will appropriate signage (both inside the school grounds and street signage) be installed?
A: Needs to be looked at when building works completed. I will refer this to OHS Committee.
3. With P&C funds for table sets, should these be ordered so as to be installed before Term 1?
A: Excellent idea, to be ordered in December.
4. In the movement centre is there a requirement for a PA system to be installed?
A: Not PA. Bell system included in building program.
5. As part of the school's upgrades, is external lighting to be increased?
A: Not that I am aware; but I will endeavour to find out.