

**BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**  
**P & C Draft Minutes of the Meeting**  
**WEDNESDAY 6 September**

[pandc.bghs@gmail.com](mailto:pandc.bghs@gmail.com)

**Attendance:**, Katherine Lye – **Deputy Principal**, Julia, Alvarado - **Deputy Principal**, Kara Gabbett – **P&C President**, KT Wlodarczyk – **P&C Vice President**, Cat Rodie **P&C Secretary**, Natalie Jennings, **Uniform Liaison Officer**.

**Members per sign-on register:** Jackie Speak, Rachel Hynes, Sarah Coughlin, Bryony Mika, Karen Harper, Magda Cruz, Mark Drury, Luke Buckle, Anna Johnston-Buckle

**Meeting Chair:** Kara Gabbett

**Meeting recorded by:** Cat Rodie

**Apologies:** Mia Kumar – **Principal**, Chiara Cenati **P&C Treasurer**, Marnie M Noor – **P&C Vice President**, Jen Moore, **general member**.

**Format:** In Person

**Start:** 19:00

**Welcome and Introductions – Kara Gabbett**

- Thank you to everyone for rescheduling our meeting from 15th August. It was worth it to see out beloved Matilda's play. Special shout to KT our Vice President whose daughter played against Mary Fowler in the 2018 CHS Football Knockout competition when BGHS played Wollongong HS of the Performing Arts.
- Can I confirm whether BGHS will be a polling station for the Referendum on Voice to Parliament on 14th October. If so, can the P&C run a sausage sizzle. If yes - do we have any volunteers to run such an event? And someone to assist? The usual call out to the community for worker bees and cake donations will come closer to the date.
- Do we still want a speaker on 18th June on the Prefect and leadership system? Quick show of hands? (It was requested by a parent who has left the school)
- Call out for motions to spend the money we have raised this year. Lovely to see dancers in their new outfits last Thursday. Julia? Another sun screen kiosk? We have 2 instruments and some art equipment coming up. If anyone wants to investigate, liaise with the school, we can put a motion forward in October and spend it in November.
- Can we support air conditioning in another room? We are slowly making our way through the school. (Forst the hall, then the performance pace) Possibly the science labs next? (reported to be the hottest) - see below.

- Take a moment to say a thank you for the end of year activities for Year 12. Having worked in schools for 30 years I have witnessed a lot of ways to celebrate this wonderful but anxious time and I can say that the activities here are amazing. While we haven't actually had any graduation activities per se, I would like to thank the staff for 2 things.
  - Firstly, the week of Zen, where teachers volunteer a lunchtime, morning or afternoon to spend with their students doing a calming activity. These included tai chi, meditation and my daughter did puzzles at lunch with the Head of English. A lovely way to manage the excitement of coming down from the stress of Trial exams and relax before the inevitable onslaught of stress of the HSC itself.
  - Secondly, the lip synch battle. It was Monday lunch time. The Year 12s VS the teachers. The teachers were incredible . Special mention to the English and Science Dept. Rhiannon was very excited to take part and Josie very excited to scream. Such an indication of the respect the students have for their teachers.

**See below for ideas of ways to support the school with P&C funds**

### **Principal's report – Mia Kumar**

- Three new permanent teachers have started at BGHS - Alex Richardson, Alex Tohme and Brittany Kalauni
- BGHS farewelled Paula Papas. Paula's replacement starts at the beginning of Term 4
- BGHS has a new plan to deal with graffiti - students who are caught defacing the school will have to clean it off the walls
- There was an SRC Assembly with a focus on First Nations voices. Uncle John attended and did a Q&A. There were also some art workshops with Boomerang making and BGHS BGHS has a new Acknowledgement of Country sign that was designed by the Year 12 Aboriginal Studies class
- BGHS has new signage at the front of the school and new flags for the sports houses
- The sustainable house has been removed from playground to create a bigger sitting area. The new furniture in the playground has been well received by students
- The canteen has had a makeover
- Dr Vanessa Ogden, CEO of the Mulberry Schools, UK visited BGHS
- BGHS officially opened the new STEM building. There was a small function attended by Sally Situ and the architect, Dean Carter
- There were parent/ student/ teacher interviews for year 9 and 10
- Students performed at Spotlight Seymour Centre
- Other sport events included; Athletics, Knockout Netball, wheelchair Basketball and the Jindabyne skiing trip
- BGHS Dance groups have had a lot of success including a stunning showcase and Pulse Alice. Three BGHS dance groups came 1st at the Evolution Dance Festival (Junior Contemporary, Jazz and Musical Theatre.)

- BGHS hosted the Inner West Band Festival
- The BEP Big Night Out was well attended
- Performing Arts has been going from strength to strength
- The Year 12 HSC Major Works for Visual Arts, Textiles and Design and Technology was well attended.
- BGHS hosted two information evenings re choosing electives
- Field Study Day #3 included Y9 Geography students visiting a sustainable farm in Newtown
- BGHS Debaters have been doing very well
- BGHS celebrated Wear it Purple Day
- There is a new mural at BGHS created by Year 8 and 10 Visual Arts students
- BGHS hosted a student/ teacher Lip Synch battle - it was a great event
- There have been lots of wellbeing activities for Y12
- BGHS have drafted a mobile phone policy (see below)

### **Adoption of minutes from previous GM ( 26 June 2023 - on website)**

1st: Karen

2nd: KT

### **Treasurer's Report: Kara on behalf of Chiara**

Our PandC Bank account remains stable, currently holding \$184,522.73, despite significant disbursements made to the school since our last meeting. We've already issued two cheques for square reimbursements as follows:

\$1,191.82 – Dance Show

\$869.39 – Big night out

This will result in a reduced cash availability of \$183,461.52.

Since the previous meeting, we've made the following payments:

Annual insurance renewal: \$1,479.00

Innerwest Music Festival reimbursement (received via square payment): \$1,891.85

Steam room equipment purchase: \$50,957 (A grant received from Jason Li)

Movement Studio air conditioner grant from the Department of Industry via Sally Situ: \$6,700 (Special thanks to KT for organizing this grant and for coordinating this effort; the studio benefits from various uses, and the dancers greatly appreciated it)

\$150 was allocated for food expenses to the hospitality team, during the Steam opening ceremony.

Big thank you to the school for transferring \$24,711.50, representing P&C parents' contributions paid via school fees (very generous parents).

With today's votes, we will be able to pay for supplies and other expenses requested by each faculty.

### **General Business**

#### **Grants committee: KT**

See grants mentioned above - KT to give cheques to Mia.

### **Actions arising from previous meeting**

Can the school provide a ping pong table for the students? Potential for P&C to contribute funds for lunchtime sporting equipment?

**Action: Julia/Kathy will look into options for more sporting equipment.**

**Result:** PDHPE faculty Have done some research.

Waiting for them to provide a quote.

**Action: Julia/Kathy Bring quote to next meeting**

Will there be a dance/disco soon? Kids have asked to bring this back.

**Action:** Julia/Kathy to talk to Ashfield Boys & Strathfield Boys to organise Y7&Y8 disco.

**Result:** Had trouble finding a date for the dance as the hall has been booked for exams/events.

Looking for a date for Term 4

**Action: Julia to provide update**

### **Any Other Business**

**Motion:** "That the P&C contribute to outdoor furniture to the value of \$50K"

Put forward by: Kara

Second by: Jackie Speak

Result: Passed

**Motion:** "That the P&C provide \$8000 for art supplies - namely tiles, glaze and brushes - to create the first of 4 murals. The murals will acknowledge our new house patrons and will celebrate and engage with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

Proposed: Kara Gabbett

Second: Natalie Jennings

Result: Passed

**Motion:** "That the P&C to provide \$8895 for a new Baritone Sax for the Music Department to cater for the expanding area of the music program"

Proposed: Kara Gabbett

Second: Mark

Result: Passed

**Motion:** "That the P&C to provide \$7049 for a new tuba for the Music Department to replace an ailing tuba"

Proposed: Kara Gabbett

Second: Luke Buckle

Result: Passed

### **Ideas for other ways we can use P&C funds to support the school**

Idea: An extra cello/s so that students can avoid travelling to school with cello.

**Action: Cat to contact Andy for a quote.**

Note: Might be better to wait until next year when instruments are on sale

Idea: New furniture for the Wellbeing room. Julia/Kathy note that it bare deliberately because students eat there/ it's a emergency thoroughfare

**Action: Kathy to ask Vsula if there is anything the wellbeing team need**

Idea: More bike racks - Magda

**Action: KT to follow up West Connex grant**

**Action: Julia/Kathy to do a bike audit**

(Note: current bike racks:

1 at front gate

1 at Blair Park gate

1 at Cheltenham Road entrance)

Idea: New uniforms for netball team

**Action: Julia/Kathy to investigate**

Idea: P&C to fund travel to Y7 camp in 2024

**Action: Mia to provide an estimate so that we can vote on it**

Idea: Air conditioning or awnings (more sustainable option)

Possibility of P&C funding air con in upstairs of STEM building

**Action: Mia to find out if awnings are an option - might be an issue re planning permission**

### **Second Hand Uniform - Kara**

Still working on it

Will have a recommendation for parents at the next meeting

### **Trivia Night Report**

To discuss at next meeting

### **P&C funded parent webinars update - Cat**

The Untagaling Teens from Technology webinar got 136 views

We're looking at sleep as the next topic

Will have more of an update for the next meeting

### **Gardening Bee**

There is still some gardening work to do

To discuss at next meeting

### **Mobile phone ban implementation**

[See attached slides](#)

Policy that has to happen - it's been mandated by the Department of Education

Policy will encourage more positive social interactions/ movement

Phones to be turned off and kept out of sight

Biggest change will be recess and lunch

Not taking a punitive approach

Not expecting any major issues

New program of activities so that there are lots of things to do at lunchtime

Discussion re smart watches - exec to look at wording

It will be hard to police students looking at phones in the toilets

Mia notes the policy will be reviewed after T 4

There are some concerns re students using laptops at lunch/recess instead.

### **Mental Health First Aid**

Student Support Officer, Liz Lathan has offered to facilitate an accredited 'Mental Health First Aid' course for parents.

**Action: Kara to survey parents**

### **Query re out of area applications**

Not much chance

Government rules - capped numbers

Last year no out of area enrollments except siblings

International students are not included in the cap

### **Query re Working Bee**

Some parents keen to help with manual jobs around the school

Mia notes most jobs are done by professional trades people

**Action: Mia to ask Mario if there is anything that needs doing**

**Inner West music festival**

This year the event did not have high volume of people at the sausage sizzle/ cake stall

There were Fewer schools playing/ event clashed with something else

Could P&C supply something in way of prizes?

**Action - KARA Chat to Andy about it**

**Meeting Closed: 9.00**

**Next meeting: 18 October**