Introductions, Apologies & Attendance, Prayer
Senka Stemberger, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30pm which was held in the foyer of the Edmund Rice centre. Peter McGovern read out the prayer, “The Creed of Edmund's People.”

Presentation by Guest Speaker – Sophia Masters (Teaching and Learning Coordinator)
Sophia explained how the school helps students with the NAPLAN exams. Students are familiarized with past papers and they have a skills period in year 9. The teachers work hard to ensure that boys are prepared for NAPLAN.

Once a fortnight, boys in Years 7 and 8 work through the basic skills booklet. They repeat skills and self-mark. Literacy skills are being taught more firmly. The school is trying to improve the quality of exams and assessments. The school is trying to address the needs of students, the curriculum and the requirement of skills for the 21st century.

Teachers have put in a lot of thought into assessment tasks. Students need to be challenged and improve from year to year. Feedback from assessments needs to be improved as well. The College is focusing on basic skills and literacy this year.

A question was raised regarding modifying assessment tasks for children with learning difficulties. A parent suggested that these students could not cope with the current assessments and were discouraged by the whole process. Brian Ireland (director of studies) explained that teachers were able to modify assessment tasks for these students. He will further investigate this matter. Brian suggested that the parent should first contact the teacher involved, then the head of the department and then himself (Brian Ireland) with any curriculum issues. Peter assured parents that assessment tasks can be modified.

Presentation by Guest Speaker – Brian Ireland (Director of Studies)
Brian presented a powerpoint on homework.

- Homework debate. Homework is used to develop and refine intellectual skills. To help students to become independent learners. Homework is a balancing act. How much? What type? Different student needs.
- Homework is a balancing act for parents. Supervision v’s son’s responsibility. Son’s/ family’s competing time commitments.
- Boys need a structured learning environment. A place to study, a desk, room to spread out. No TV. Beware of the computer. It can be a distraction. Although computing skills are absolutely essential.
- The biggest problem with homework is ORGANIZATION. Work out a timetable that fits all the needs; sport, work, family, homework etc. Stick it on the fridge. Insist on a balance.
- How much? 2 hours up to 3 hours per day for years 11&12. Years 7&8 about 1 hour per day.
- Homework diaries are very important. What has to be done and when it is due. Check your son’s homework diary regularly.
- Spread assessments out. You son may need assistance in recording deadlines. Question them about assignments. If boys have a plan the assessment task will be easier.
- Don’t just read notes always write something down. Highlight/underline, use point form, use different coloured pens.
• Success is the greatest form of motivation. Praise them often. Fear of failure is the greatest discouragement.

Home study (revision) is a routine that the boys should develop. Some study technique suggestions are:
- Improve ability to read, recall, and write. This sharpens exam skills.
- Learn the language of the subject e.g. science, geography etc.
- Practice problems and questions.

Confirm Previous Minutes
The minutes for meeting 2 – 25 March 2014 were accepted (Anne de-Leuw and Larissa Hoffman)

Principal's Report
• Immersion excursion to the Pilbara region of WA is coming up. This is subsidized by the school but very worthwhile for students.
• Peter met with 42 ER principals in Perth.
• Cultural Audit will be conducted from 23 to 25 July and a panel of 4 external principals will be involved.
• Collating surveys from parents, teachers and students. As at 20 May 25% parents responded, 100% of staff and 52% of boys responded.
• Brian and Peter will be conducting a learning support review to determine if resources are being directed in the right areas.
• This will help inform the development of the new 5 year strategic plan due next year.
• College is working to promote house spirit. Affirmed 150 kids on 20 May to help build spirit, pride and sense of achievement.
• Mass and blessing of the new hall on 30/5/2014 at 11am.
• The old boys function has been postponed to later in the year due to low numbers.
• Blended learning – 17 staff are looking at critical thinking, engaging and motivating boys.
• 272 interviews held for boys applying to begin school next year with 215 accepted.
• NAPLAN was held last week.
• Curriculum planning is taking place.
• Quotations for a walkway from the front of the school to the hall and from the hall to the admin building are underway. Early quotes indicate the cost will be $280,000.

A question was asked about whether the senior boys could have their own common room. Peter said that they will have an area in the Library extension.

Kim asked about the mindfulness presentation tentatively planned for August/September. Kim will talk to Sam about organizing Judy Papasch. Peter Gormly will also provide information to Sam.

Correspondence
A letter requesting financial assistance from an outside group was received. Senka to reply, request denied in line with the ERC Parent Forum Constitution 8 (b).

Finance Update
See attached P&F account. The new balance for this month of $87,606 includes interest of $536 and part-payment for the Mother’s day function of $825.
Action Item Review

### Action Items from 25 March 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25.07.13</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Talk to school executive about the possibility of organizing social non-competitive sporting games to be played from 2 – 3pm. This will be implemented following the opening of the new hall.</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Has been organised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.07.13</td>
<td>Peter/Brian</td>
<td>Share with parents strategies used by ERC for helping boys keep study notes and increase organizational skills. Long term strategy – maybe include tips on parent portal</td>
<td>7/9/13</td>
<td>progressing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.03.14</td>
<td>Senka</td>
<td>Draft a focus calendar for meetings in 2014</td>
<td>18/02/14</td>
<td>closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.03.14</td>
<td>Senka</td>
<td>Draft policy for providing financial assistance to students</td>
<td>18/02/14</td>
<td>closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.03.14</td>
<td>Senka</td>
<td>Coordinate meeting of parents assisting with mother’s day high tea</td>
<td>20/05/14</td>
<td>closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.03.14</td>
<td>Senka</td>
<td>Coordinate parent awards to be held at school assembly on 6 May</td>
<td>06/05/14</td>
<td>closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.07.13</td>
<td>Senka</td>
<td>Draft message for parents on how to advertise second hand uniforms on ERC website.</td>
<td>20/05/14</td>
<td>open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Business Arising - Second Hand uniforms - Welcome BBQ – Mother’s Day function

**New Business**
- On 4 June there will be a Technology evening at the school. All parents and students welcome.
- Kim Bradbury to contact Sam regarding mindfulness meeting theme speaker for term 3.
- 2014 parent focus calendar. The focus for Parent Forum meeting 7 in term 4 has been changed to careers rather than Naplan or Math?
- It was proposed that the Parent Forum could sponsor an end of year event for the college community in mid November.
- Ros proposed that the PF fund a Teacher/staff award. Nominations to be submitted by students. Ros to draft guidelines and criteria Senka to send Ros criteria and guidelines for Parent Service Awards as an example.
- A question was raised whether the school would adjust the Winter uniform policy in light of the recent warm weather. Peter agreed.
- Anne suggested the PF could fund a coffee machine for the school. It could be used by the students to do Barista courses. All agree and Anne to get quote.
- A request to change future Parent Forum meetings to 7pm. All agreed.

**Peter and Sam took parents on a tour of the new hall.**

Meeting closed at 9.44pm.

### Next Meetings
- **Term 2:** 17 June
- **Term 3:** 29 July
- **Term 4:** 4 November
### Action Items from 20 May 2014

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<td>Share with parents strategies used by ERC for helping boys keep study notes and increase organizational skills. Long term strategy – maybe include tips on parent portal</td>
<td>07.09.13</td>
<td>progressing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>Senka</td>
<td>Revise ERC EVENTS calendar</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>Senka</td>
<td>Revise policy for providing financial assistance to students</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>Kim &amp; Peter</td>
<td>Talk to Sam about organising speaker for mindfulness presentation to occur in Aug/Sept</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>Anne</td>
<td>Obtain quote for coffee machine to be used by hospitality students for barista courses.</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.07.13</td>
<td>Senka</td>
<td>Draft message for parents on how to advertise uniforms on ERC website</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>Ros &amp; Sue</td>
<td>Talk to Brian/Sophia about revising assessment tasks for boys with learning difficulties</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>Senka</td>
<td>Change Parent Forum meeting times from 7.30-9.30pm TO 7-9pm</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Determine date and theme for end of year ERC event to occur in mid November</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>Ros</td>
<td>Draft criteria and guidelines for Staff awards</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>Peter/Sam</td>
<td>Amend winter uniform policy to enable boys to wear summer uniform in Term 2 if weather is mild</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>Sam</td>
<td>Consider revising school diaries to add subjects on each day on the right hand page to enable boys to accurately record homework for each subject for each day.</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.05.14</td>
<td>Senka</td>
<td>Reply to letter received from Royal Far West School Manly and decline</td>
<td>17.06.14</td>
<td>open</td>
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</table>