



WE ARE:  
**GRACE:**

**GRACE**  
**Board of Directors**  
**December 1, 2016 Minutes**  
**St. Francis Xavier Conference Room**

Members Present: Bsp Ricken, Fr. Felton, Dr. Joseph Bound, Fr. Weber, O. Praem., Fr. Harper, Fr. Shillcox, O. Praem, Fr. Viertel, Fr. Everts, Bishop Morneau, Fr. Cirignani, OFM, Fr. Beno, Fr. VanderSteeg, Fr. Demuth, Fr. Getchel, Fr. Bergstadt, Fr. Dorner, Fr. Kabat, Fr. Hoffman, Fr. Cribben, O. Praem.

Others Present: K. Desotell, Bill Micksch, Marv Wall, Heidi Janowski, Candy Nelson

Not Present: Fr. Neilson, O. Praem. (excused), Fr. Everts, Fr. Harper (excused)

- I. Approval of the Minutes; Motion made by Bishop Ricken to approve the April 8, 2016 meeting minutes; motion by Fr. Bob K, second by Fr. Mark, approved.
- II. Opening remarks - Bishop Ricken
  - A. The Meitler Study will be valuable we will use it. We all need to be committed to this effort. Our schools are schools of discipleship and this study will assist in that work. Catholic schools are important.
  - B. We need to make a better connection with our school parents and our praises as well as Sunday mass attendance.
  - C. Please assist to better collaborate between catechesis and Catholic schools.
- III. Department of Education/Meitler Project - Dr. Joe Bound & Todd Blahnik
  - A. Dr. Joe Bound presented and explained the following items
    - i. Flow chart of the Department of Education
    - ii. Department of Education Projects and Services
    - iii. Professional Development Opportunities for 2016-2017
    - iv. Diocese of Green Bay, Department of Education Department Contact sheet
  - B. Todd Blahnik presented Meitler Study Information
    - i. As of next week all 57 sites will have received a site visit from Meitler
    - ii. Strong themes coming through
      - a. Need for additional financial support and oversight (more need in rurals).
      - b. Parishes strained with the investment being made in the schools.
      - c. Better relationships with department of education: Accountability.
        - i. What does the Department of Education handle/own?
        - ii. What does the school(s) handle/own?
      - d. Training for our advisory and governing boards.
      - e. Building our enrollment and marketing our schools
      - f. Succession and leadership development - getting more difficult to find principals, system presidents, and even recruiting teachers
      - g. Curriculum development and innovative teaching practices and to keep quality
      - h. World Languages (Spanish, Mandarin, etc.) need to be improved
    - iii. Opportunity: Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. It does require resources.
    - iv. Additional partnership between schools (example: NDA and GRACE)

- v. In January we will have a chance to see all of the data Meitler is collecting
- IV. President's report - Kim Desotell
  - A. Student Enrollment
    - i. GRACE schools have an enrollment of 2089 as of this date. Very stable enrollment.
    - ii. Enrollment for 2017-18 will start 1/20/17 on Catholic Schools Week- Jan 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - B. CHOICE Enrollment
    - i. There are 176 students this year. We hit the 1% capacity.
    - ii. Current GRACE students will only be allowed to enter CHOICE in K or 1st Grade
    - iii. Assistant for Choice - Karen Konop, Outreach Administrator/shared w/ NDA.
  - C. St. John Paul II Classical School Status
    - i. 34 students to date + 2.5 teachers FTE
    - ii. Facility sharing with Holy Family School going smoothly and curriculum has been built
  - D. Reorganization of St. Matthew and Resurrection schools into Father Allouez
    - i. Strong Momentum. Kay Franz to be given praise for her efforts
    - ii. Bishop Ricken asked about cost savings - prior year in going down to one principal
    - iii. Fr. Getchel asked if there have been any Freedom of Religion problems - no problems
  - E. New Staff at GRACE
    - i. Outreach Administrator - Karen Konop - shared w/ Notre Dame Academy
    - ii. St. John the Baptist Principal - Andrew Mulloy
    - iii. Director of Development
      - i. Research Officer (position funded through private donation)
  - F. Catholic Identity
    - i. Boards of Trustees have adopted a tool to assess each school's Catholic Identity.
    - ii. This year's Academic Goals: Math, World Language and Curriculum Differentiation (teaching to varied learning styles)
      - i. Parish Affiliation Lists – distributed to each pastor. Please return any names that are not registered to GRACE via email and we will send letter to families inquiring. This can also be an opportunity to bring them into the parish
        - a. Change St. Norbert College Old St. Joseph Parish on the Parish Affiliation List
- V. GRACE Financial Reports - Marv Wall
  - A. Review and approval of GRACE 2015-16 Audit
    - i. GRACE Management Letter dated 10/10/16 noted no material weaknesses
  - B. Approval of the 2015-16 Audit; Motion by Fr. Felton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fr. Weber. Approved.
- VI. 2017-18 Fiscal Year Budget - Marv Wall
  - A. Appeal fundraising goal to be increased to \$150,000
  - B. Elementary school tuition will go up \$100 and middle school will go up \$200 (6th, 7th, 8th)
  - C. 176 choice students --> 232 budget for next year (56 up for next year)
  - D. Expenses
    - i. Increase teacher salaries based on plan implemented by Fr. Dane Radecki
    - ii. Health insurance 80% single and 60% family (up from 74% and 55% for last year)
    - iii. Tuition assistance - 250k (moved up about 100k from last year)
    - iv. Budget for a zero net income
  - E. Motion by Fr. Getchel to approve the 2017-18 Budget; seconded Fr. Dorner; approved.
- VII. Other Business
  - A. Future topics: Catholic Link and Teacher Compensation study data.
  - B. The next BOD meeting - Friday, March 24, 2017 ~ 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. @ Chancery.**
- VIII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer/Blessing

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.