

GRACE Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2017

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Diocese of Green Bay Chancery, St. Francis Xavier Conference Room

Members present: Bishop David Ricken, Fr. Dan Felton, Dr. Joe Bound, Fr. Patrick Beno, Fr. John Bergstadt, Fr. Anthony Cirignani OFM, Fr. Andrew Cribben O. Praem, Deacon Kevin DeCleene, Fr. Paul Demuth, Fr. Joseph Dorner, Fr. Don Everts, Fr. Richard Getchel, Fr. William Hoffman, Fr. Robert Kabat, Bill Micksch, Bishop Robert Morneau, Fr. Timothy Shillcox O. Praem, Fr. Mark VanderSteeg, Fr. Daniel Viertel, Fr. Michael Weber O. Praem

Others present: Todd Blahnik, Kim Desotell, Heidi Janowski, Marv Wall, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Members not present: Fr. John Harper

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer: Fr. Felton called the meeting to order with an opening prayer. Fr. Felton welcomed Deacon Kevin DeCleene and Fr. Scott Valentyn. Deacon DeCleene joins the Board representing St. Norbert College Parish. Fr. Valentyn presents as a guest; he was ordained on June 25, 2016 and is working with Fr. Bergstadt.
- II. Agenda Review and Approval: Motion made by Fr. Getchel and seconded by Fr. Hoffman to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried.
- III. Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Fr. Weber and seconded by Fr. Hoffman to approve the December 1, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
- IV. Department of Education Report: Dr. Bound reported that new President of Lourdes Academy is John Dinegan. Todd Blahnik proceeded to present the Meitler Strategic Plan Update highlighting key trends and major themes from the project's key findings. Next steps of the planning process were outlined. It is anticipated that three task forces will be developed to address focus areas. The project timeline is on track with the draft of work to be presented to stakeholders at the Catholic Schools Summit on September 22, 2017 which will be held at the Bemis Conference Center at St. Norbert College. Final adoption of recommendations anticipated to occur in January 2018. Discussion followed.
- V. Bishop Ricken's Opening Remarks: Bishop Ricken provided his opening remarks acknowledging GRACE and addressing his ongoing visioning for the future. Bishop Ricken reviewed visioning to develop and cultivate vibrant parishes and strong Catholic schools with enhancement of religious education, vocations for priesthood of religious life, connections and repositioning to promote discipleship and evangelism, winning souls for Christ, realizing the commitment involved and the many great opportunities.
- VI. GRACE Board of Trustees Update: Bill Micksch acknowledged the Meitler Study and the strategic thinking of leadership now moving beyond day-to-day operations to increased visioning. The structure of the Board of Trustees will be evaluated as part of this process and trustees are being sought who have gifts and talents integral to contribute to effective leadership, growth, and initiatives. Discussion followed concerning strategies and governance recommendations that will be emerging from the Meitler Study.

- VIII. GRACE President's Report: Kim Desotell presented her report.
- A. Enrollment: Ongoing enrollment was reviewed citing dynamics and retention efforts. Parish affiliation verification is essential to the enrollment process. Initial parish affiliation reports will be generated and distributed in April with follow-up reports in fall. Discussion followed.
 - B. Teacher Compensation Study: Highlights from the 2017 GRACE Teacher Compensation Study were presented. Evaluation is being conducted and next steps outlined in addition to consideration of additional revenue sources. Discussion followed.
 - C. CatholicLink Update: The momentum involving the partnership continues and the linkage is working to strengthen and stabilize Catholic education. The Center for Innovative Catholic Leadership is a task force being formed and Fr. Dane Radecki has been asked to participate. Discussion followed.
 - D. Parish Staff Tuition Waiver Questionnaire: The CatholicLink Parish Employee Survey was distributed and reviewed. Parish responses will provide helpful data for the consideration taking place to extend the CatholicLink tuition discount program to benefit eligible parish employees.
 - E. Pulse Survey: Results and analysis of the GRACE Pulse Survey (employee engagement survey) were provided with highlights reviewed.
 - F. Other: The responsibility for GRACE marketing and recruitment was questioned and K. Desotell reviewed the GRACE marketing plan in place for each school led by the principal. The involvement of parish Site Advisory Committees (SAC), parish partnership, along with needed resources and tools for marketing and promotion discussed.
 - G. Other: Concern regarding to-date leadership meeting minutes on the GRACE website was addressed.
- IX. GRACE Financial Report: Marv Wall reviewed the provided financial report. Tracking is close to budget and it is anticipated a break-even at year end. Discussion followed regarding investment line items. It was also acknowledged that receivables for doubtful accounts have had significant improvement.
- X. Other Business: None.
- XI. Bishop Ricken's Closing Remarks: Bishop Ricken acknowledged the good progress being made and requested that all continue to prayerfully think about strategic planning, next steps and positioning for the future embracing the journey with discipleship modeling and working with the Holy Spirit.
- XII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Next meeting: November 28, 2017, 2-4:00 p.m. Chancery, St. Francis Xavier Conference Room