

GRACE Board of Trustees
August 8, 2017
Minutes
6:30 p.m. - GRACE Administrative Offices

Members present: Sue Amtmann, Jessica Beauchamp, Dan Bins, Phil Busch, Gerry Faller, Matthew Gelb, Lisa Jackovich, Ed Kippley, Sheila Kujava, Paul Kunesh, Chet Lamers, Bill Micksch, Amy Pautzke, Chris Steier, Marv Wall, Melissa Wolcanski

Others present: Kim Desotell, Kay Franz, Lisa Niemuth, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Members not present: Mary Burich, John Hanley, Sheila Kujava, John Peterson

Opening Prayer: Bill Micksch

1. All were welcomed to the first Board meeting of the 2017-18 academic year. Matthew Gelb, who joins the group as a member at large, was introduced. Guests, Kay Franz and Lisa Niemuth, were also welcomed and acknowledged.
2. Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by Melissa Wolcanski to approve the June 13, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. The 2017-18 updated meeting schedule and committee assignments were reviewed. Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by Chet Lamers to approve the schedule and assignments with addition of the at-large members to the committees. Motion carried.
4. Kim Desotell provided her President's Report:
 - a. Enrollment status was reviewed. Efforts continue to mitigate prior 10-year decline. Focus continues on recruitment and retention and strategies continue to be addressed by the principal leadership team.
 - b. Staff changes were outlined to include roles and responsibilities. Gerry Faller shared his excitement as new Director of Strategic Operations which will be pivotal in supporting GRACE leadership, growth and development.
 - c. Focus areas system wide for the 2017-18 academic year include math, writing and wellness. The GRACE-wide in-service will be held on August 24, 2017 with a theme of wellness. The draft agenda was distributed and Trustees were invited to participate. The objective is for the schools to embrace wellness with its expansion to families and the GRACE community.
 - d. Through the efforts of GRACE's Food Service Department a grant through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program has been received which will provide St. Thomas More Catholic School students a healthy snack mid-morning twice per week for the 2017-18 school year
 - e. Two exploratory groups are working: Teacher Compensation Study Team and Summer School Taskforce.
 - f. Recent hire of Mrs. Allison Moseng as Holy Family School Principal was reviewed. The composition of the principal leadership team is now complete and work involving both new and veteran talent will be of significant benefit to the group.Discussion followed. Bill Micksch shared progress with the teacher compensation study. In addition, efforts to evaluate other revenue streams continue. Reference was made to a recent successful campaign by St. Agnes Parish in which the flyer "Pave the Way" was cited and distributed. The success with this fundraiser serves as a sample and model for GRACE as best practices are established and shared system-wide.
5. Lisa Niemuth provided a Development update addressing the Jilot Scholarship Fund, Mednikow Educational Trust Grant Award, and the Annual Appeal. The Mednikow grant resulted in an award of \$175,000 to support student financial aid. The 2016-17 Annual

Appeal resulted in gifts totaling over \$140,000. Details of the 2017-18 Annual Appeal were reviewed. The Appeal will be launched September 16 and 17 followed by a direct mailing to parishioners. Leaders are role models and the power of participation is being advocated. Discussion followed involving volunteers for commitment weekend presentations, online contributions, consideration of donor designation, and alumni involvement. Lisa was acknowledged for her continued contributions and efforts.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Human Resources – No report
- b. Finance and Facilities – Marv Wall
 - i. June financials ending close to break even. Complete 2016-17 financial report will be provided to the Board in October.
 - ii. Committee is looking forward to a coming year of challenging opportunities. Discussion followed regarding reserve funds.
- c. Education and Catholic Identity Standards – Sue Amtmann
 - i. Kay Franz was welcomed. Sue and Kay proceeded to present the Father Allouez Catholic School STREAM Project to the Board.
 1. STREAM stands for Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math.
 2. Project is in its fourth year and takes place at Osprey Point, East River Conversation Project, in the Village of Bellevue. Websites were cited:
<https://sites.google.com/a/gracesystem.org/osprey-point/>
<https://sites.google.com/view/browncountyiwla/osprey-point>
 3. Review of the project and the rich, hands-on experiences by students completed.
 4. Key elements include, in part, design, parish engagement, experiencing God through nature, parent and volunteer involvement, connection to the classroom (experiences are brought back to the classroom and integrated in teaching across the curriculum), student partnerships (early childhood experience with other grades), discovery and collaboration, functional and artistic projects, and community support.

Discussion followed. Historical funding and current sponsorship through the Site Advisory Council and donations was outlined. All Trustees were invited to visit the Project in fall 2017 and opportunity to do so will be communicated in the future. Appreciation was extended to Sue and Kay for the presentation in addition to Kay and her staff for the work in providing this significant learning experience for GRACE students.

7. Next Meeting: October 10, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.