

GRACE Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

November 28, 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, Sr. Marla Clercx, Deacon Kevin DeCleene, Fr. Joseph Dorner, Fr. Don Everts, Fr. Richard Getchel, Fr. William Hoffman, Fr. Michael Ingold, Fr. Benny Jacob O. Praem, Fr. Robert Kabat, Bill Micksch, Bishop Robert Morneau, Fr. Mark VanderSteeg

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

Members not present: Fr. Andrew Cribben O. Praem, Fr. Dane Radecki, Fr. Daniel Viertel

- Call to Order and Opening Prayer: Bishop David Ricken called the meeting to order with an opening prayer. Bishop Ricken welcomed and introductions commenced of Fr. Michael Ingold, Fr. Benny Jacob, Fr. Dane Radecki (excused), Sr. Marla Clercx, and Gerry Faller.
- Agenda Review and Approval: Motion made by Fr. Kabat seconded by Fr. VanderSteeg to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried.
- Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Fr. Everts and seconded by Fr. Cirignani to approve the March 24 and May 19, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
- Bishop Ricken's Opening Remarks: Bishop Ricken reviewed Dr. Bound's service as Interim President of Silver Lake College and Todd Blahnik's service as Interim Director of the Department of Education. Realignment of the Curia is taking place to correlate to the Mission and support how we can best impact our communities with new evangelization as the centerpiece. Our schools serve as the center of discipleship formation. Knowing that parents are the first educators of our children we must address how we can help and support our families in sharing the Catholic treasure. Reflection is taking place to address the changing paradigms and how we can be an instrument in making connections in the communion of love and hospitality among families, parishes, schools, and the community. The Curia realignment will further support parishes and schools with streamlined processes and an evangelism mission. A review of the initiatives from the recent Conference of Catholic Bishops was provided. The Church provides answers to humanity's greatest struggles; when we change their lives they will invite others.
- Department of Education Report: Todd Blahnik provided a synopsis of the Meitler Study and the initiative's next steps with finalization of the plan in January followed by implementation. Parish mission planning will take place with a pilot to occur in spring. Following the pilot, parishes will then follow in staged waves. Parish planning will involve schools and determination will need to be made on how to best work through the process with GRACE schools that involve multiple parishes. Discussion followed.
- GRACE Board of Trustees Update: Bill Micksch provided a report as follows:
 - Strategic Planning: GRACE is embarking on strategic planning in correlation to the Meitler Study recommendation. Work has started to define and identify objectives and will involve restructure of committees and membership.

- Revenue Growth: Summer school pilot will take place in summer 2018. This offering will not only offer a fun, educational and faith-filled summer experience for children but also provide a revenue stream to support teacher compensation and promote Catholic education. Such revenue growth will also decrease the parish commitment. Discussion followed.
- Teacher Salaries: A plan is place to meet the Diocesan scale by the end of next year. Work will continue, striving to meet public schools compensation.
- School Update: Progress has been made with exploring a move of St. Thomas More Catholic School from St. Mary of the Angels Parish to Saints Peter and Paul Parish is progressing. Fr. Cirignani shared the factors involving the move: enrollment, growth capacity, facilities, community dynamics, location and family service focus. The planning team has been cautious, diligent and comprehensive in its assessment and with appropriate communications. A Proxy to the Bishop would take place in January and if approved, relocation would occur in fall 2018. Discussion followed. Recommendation made to involve the Diocese's Offices of Hispanic Ministry, Communications, and New Evangelization. Board will be kept abreast of developments. Fr. Felton will ascertain any need for Board action at this time.
- Parish Partnership: The Board viewed the YouTube video involving Fr. Mark Vander Steeg's engagement with St. Bernard Catholic School:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=id_IS1bzESk&feature=youtu.be.
- GRACE President's Report: Kim Desotell presented her report.
 - Fall 2017 Dash Card: The GRACE Fall 2017 Dash Card was distributed and reviewed. This card details integral statistics to allow for communication and advocacy of GRACE schools. Future Dash Cards are planned to address Catholic identity and partnerships.
 - Summer School: Faith-embedded summer offering is planned for summer 2018 to serve early childhood through ninth grade. This will be a pilot occurring at one site over four to six weeks beginning after July 4th. Enrollment will occur in spring with a target enrollment of 100 to 125 students.
 - Golden Apple: There was a historic number of GRACE teachers nominated for the Golden Apple Awards demonstrating the extent of quality GRACE educators.
 - Financial Scholarships: GRACE continues to strive to provide financial support. There are now four named GRACE scholarships. Two new memorial endowments have been added: Richard J. and Ann M. Jilot Scholarship Fund and the Paul J. Schierl Scholarship Endowment.
 - GRACE Annual Appeal continues and currently has 1,065 donors with Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff contributing to this important annual campaign.
 - Principal Leadership Team: Principals recently received training from Julianne Stanz, Diocese's Director of New Evangelization. The training was very positive and engaging and further training to strengthen evangelization will be occurring.
 - Catholic Foundation Grant: A grant has been obtained to support a GRACE-wide choir. This will be a performance choir for GRACE and parish partners. Fr. Everts was acknowledged as this was his idea, and GRACE is pleased to make this a reality supported by this grant.Discussion followed regarding the aspects of the summer school program.
- GRACE Financial Report: Marv Wall reviewed the 2016-17 audit report. Discussion ensued regarding Site Advisory Council funds and their determination which does consider each

site's uniqueness. Motion made by Fr. Getchel and seconded by Fr. VanderSteege to approve the 2016-17 audit. Motion carried. Marv Wall proceeded to review the 2018-19 budget citing Choice target, enrollment projection, tuition increase, breakeven hot lunch program, and primarily inflationary increase to expenses. Discussion followed. Current year financials are tracking to budget. Discussion followed. Motion made by Fr. Bergstadt and seconded by Sr. Clercx to approve the 2018-19 budget. Motion carried.

- Other Business: None.
- St. Thomas More Catholic School: Fr. Felton advised that congruent to Article X of the Bylaws action is required. Motion made by Fr. Everts and seconded by Fr. Kabat that the Board of Directors approves to give authority to the Executive Officers to take action on the St. Thomas More Catholic School move. Motion carried.
- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Next meeting: March 21, 2018, 2-4:00 p.m. Chancery, St. Francis Xavier Conference Room