

**GRACE Board of Trustees**  
**August 13, 2019**  
**Minutes**  
**6:30 p.m. - GRACE Administrative Offices**

**Present:** Sue Amtmann, Jessica Beauchamp, Crystal Blahnik, Laura Blicharz, Mary Burich, Alyssa Canales, Kim Desotell, Gerry Faller, Jami Hintz, Eric Johanski, Ed Kippley, Sheila Kujava, Chet Lamers, Frank Nicely, Lisa Niemuth, Katie McAllister, Bill Micksch, Bill Noel, John Peterson, Mary Schaupp (CatholicLink), Chris Steier, Jean Thillman, Marv Wall, Sara Wulf, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

**Not present:** Dan Bins, Kay Franz, Matt Gelb, Sarah Green, Fr. Greg Parent, Amy Pautzke, Kelly Williams, Melissa Wolcanski

Bill Micksch welcomed all to a special meeting of members of the Board of Trustees and its Committees. An opening prayer was shared.

1. Introductions: Each Committee Chair introduced their Committee members: Mary Burich for Human Resources; Chris Steier for Facilities, Sue Amtmann for Education, Marv Wall for Finance and Crystal Blahnik for Catholic Identity. Bill Micksch outlined the composition of the Board's Executive Committee.
2. CatholicLink: Mary Schaupp, Director of CatholicLink, was introduced. Mary provided a [presentation](#) providing an informative overview of CatholicLink's history, development, leadership, mission, goals and objectives, progress, promotion, outcomes, research and future plans. Special attention was given to the 2019 pilot cohort of the CatholicLeader Academy and efforts in place to establish sustainability and explore expansion. Discussion followed. It was clarified that the three partner institutions work collectively but contributions are currently led as follows: GRACE provides fiscal management support, St. Norbert College provides facility resources, and Notre Dame Academy provides event planning and marketing. Appreciation was extended to Mary for her presentation and contributions.
3. Catholic Identity Committee: Crystal Blahnik provided an overview of the Committee. It is anticipated that the Committee will evolve over time. Discussion followed. Crystal was acknowledged for her strengths and willingness to Chair this newly formed Committee.
4. Education Committee: Sue Amtmann provided a synopsis of the Education Committee and its transition from the former Education and Catholic Identity Standards Committee. The Committee works closely with the GRACE Curriculum Team. Review was provided of team's mission and goals. In addition, correlation to the Action Plans contained within the Strategic Plan were cited. Discussion followed. Bill Micksch referred all to the [Strategic Plan webpage](#) and provided a brief review of the information available at that site.
5. Human Resources Committee: Mary Burich provided a summary of the Human Resources Committee citing its ongoing work, mission and goals. Human Resources for the system has evolved very positively and continues in earnest to support this dynamic area involving recruitment, retention, compensation, benefits, compliance and development.

6. President's Report: Kim Desotell referred to her report and provided an enrollment update. Enrollment fluctuations were cited including the contribution of the expansion of St. John Paul II Classical School through the seventh grade. Schools are strong, healthy and vibrant.
7. Facilities Committee: Chris Steier provided an overview of this newly formed Committee which is an offshoot of the former Finance/Facilities Committee. The team met in July and is determining its focus and next steps. A mission statement is in draft. The team looks forward to fostering and growing parish/school partnerships.
8. Finance Committee: Marv Wall reported on a positive outcome of the 2018-19 fiscal year. The audit will be conducted. Stability is providing for more opportunities, in part, to maintain affordable tuition rates and support the goal of increasing teacher compensation. Bill Micksch commended the group for its diligent work and success with the budgeting process.
9. Development Report: Lisa Niemuth provided an update on giving and information on the launch of the 2019-20 Annual Appeal. The impact of providing testimonials at Masses during Annual Appeal weekend is significant and the Mass schedule sign-up was distributed. GRACE continues to be sensitive to parish campaigns now and into the future.
10. Chair Report: Bill Micksch provided closing remarks reviewing the supportive and engaged Board of Directors, restructure of the Board of Trustees and leadership's role in supporting faith in our schools and evangelization throughout the community. Strengths were reviewed including, in part, principal team, budgeting, commitment to teacher compensation, compassionate parish investment, donors, CatholicLink, collaboration across schools, system-wide accreditation and expanding revenue streams (i.e. GRACE: Gold Summer Camp). Discussion followed.
11. Other: Challenge was posed for participation in the August 17<sup>th</sup> inaugural GRACE 5K Wellness Fun Run/Walk. Invitation was extended for all to participate in the August 22<sup>nd</sup> opening school year liturgy to be held at 8:30 a.m. at St. Bernard Parish.
12. Minutes: Minutes of the June 11, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting were addressed. Motion made by John Peterson and seconded by Chris Steier to approve. Motion carried. Minutes of the June 27, 2019 Finance/Facilities Committee meeting were addressed. Motion made by John Peterson and seconded by Ed Kippley to approve. Motion carried.
13. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 8, 2019