

GRACE Board of Trustees
December 10, 2019
Minutes
6:30 p.m. - GRACE Administrative Offices

Present: Sue Amtmann, Jessica Beauchamp, Dan Bins, Mary Burich, Ed Kippley, Sheila Kujava, John Peterson, Chris Steier, Marv Wall, Kelly Williams

Others Present: Kim Desotell, Gerry Faller, Edgar Zaragoza, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Not present: Chet Lamers, Bill Micksch, Amy Pautzke

John Peterson called the meeting to order. Gerry Faller led an opening prayer. Guests were welcomed.

1. Wisconsin Parental Choice Program: Outreach Administrator, Edgar Zaragoza, was welcomed in addition to family member of enrolled students supported through the Choice program. Sharing and discussion ensued.
2. Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by Chris Steier to approve the October 8, 2019 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by Kelly Williams and seconded by Sue Amtmann to approve the Catholic Identity Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by Dan Bins to approve the Education Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by Sue Amtmann and seconded by Chris Steier to approve the meeting minutes of the Facilities, Finance and Human Resources Committees. Motion carried.
3. President's Report: Kim Desotell provided her report and highlighted the following:
 - a. Safety: A communication was recently distributed outlining GRACE's commitment to safety throughout all schools. School safety teams will be meeting before the Christmas break.
 - b. Bradley Foundation Grant: The grant award was reviewed in addition to the specific focus areas of the work that will be conducted including, in part, student success via parent programming. The level of grant funding will also position GRACE positively when applying for future grants.
 - c. Interim Principal: Dr. Steve Kimball is doing well with the transition at St. Thomas More Catholic School. The principal position will be posted after the first of the year.
 - d. GRACE-wide In-service: The February 7, 2020 in-service will involve a teaching Mass and an important presentation concerning diversity with the theme "Open Wide Our Hearts". All Board members are welcome to join for all or portion of the in-service.
 - e. Teacher Bonus: A teacher bonus was issued in November due to enrollment growth, stable finances, generous private donation and commitment to teacher compensation. Appreciation letters from employees were shared. Teacher compensation remains a priority and the entire employee benefit package is being evaluated.
 - f. Snapshot Report: A per school and an aggregate GRACE schools Snapshot Report has been developed with plans to publish in January. An example report was shared. This tool will promote transparency and provide valuable data for all schools in a consistent format. The reports will be showcased in the Winter GRACE Newsletter. These reports will be updated annually. Discussion followed.

1. Committee Reports:
 - a. Catholic Identity: Sue Amtmann reported that the Committee is continuing its work involving both the ACRE (Assessment of Child/Youth Religious Education) and CIT (Catholic Identity Tool) instruments. Linkages and realignment to the standards is taking place with plan to include consideration of parish religious education and the Diocesan strategic plan.
 - b. Education: Sue Amtmann highlighted the Curriculum Newsletter issued by Curriculum Coordinator, Laura Blicharz. Ongoing and expanding use of the BYOC (Build Your Own Curriculum) is taking place. A BYOC cheat sheet is available, and Father Allouez Catholic School is now using BYOC for all subjects. Principal Sharon Gast was the Committee's most recent principal guest who reported on Holy Cross' initiatives. At the Committee's November meeting, Director of Student Services, James Cullen, presented on Title services and funds. Sue Amtmann reported on her recent attendance at the Classical High School parent forum. Discussion followed.
 - c. Facilities: Chris Steier reported that the Committee continues to conduct site visits and are compiling findings. To date, four sites have been visited and it is hoped that all visits will be completed by March after which a comprehensive assessment of findings will be completed. Committee is moving forward with goals. Good discussions and conversations are taking place with principals and clergy. Discussion followed regarding parishes with capital campaigns. The Committee continues to embrace its objective to foster and strengthen relationships.
 - d. Finance: Marv Wall reported that the November e-vote conducted of the September financials resulted in approval and data was then presented to the Board of Directors at its November 20th meeting. Marv Wall proceeded to provide a synopsis of the Board of Directors meeting. Gerry Faller presented the third source fundraising infographics that have been developed to assist with communication and education of financials. The updated revenue and expenses pie charts for 2018-19 were also reviewed. Discussion ensued and feedback provided.
 - e. Human Resources: Committee is building out continued actions towards meeting its goals. The Committee will be doing a review of policies to address those that may require refreshing.
2. Other: Marv Wall provided an update on the Notre Dame School of De Pere facility construction. The site will be enveloped by the end of January weather permitting. Any Board member interested in a walk-through was encouraged to contact Marv to arrange.
3. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2020