

**GRACE Board of Trustees**  
**February 11, 2020**  
**Minutes**  
**6:30 p.m. - GRACE Administrative Offices**

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

**Others Present:** Kim Desotell, Gerry Faller, Lisa Niemuth, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

**Not present:** Amy Pautzke

Bill Micksch called the meeting to order with an opening prayer.

1. Wisconsin Parental Choice Program: There was no one present for this second Choice forum opportunity made available to Choice supported families during this academic year.
2. Notre Dame School of De Pere Update: Update to be rescheduled; Principal Molly Mares unable to attend.
3. Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by John Peterson to approve the December 10, 2019 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by John Peterson and seconded by Chet Lamers to approve the meeting minutes of the Board committees. Motion carried.
4. President's Report: Kim Desotell provided her report and highlighted the following:
  - a. Catholic Schools Week: The week was a tremendous success. There were many varied activities. Liturgies held contained special meaning. Increased service at the schools involving at all grade levels.
  - b. GRACE-wide In-service: The in-service was held on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The in-service onset with a valuable Teaching Mass celebrated by Fr. Timothy Shillcox. The day continued with presentation of the Abbot Dane Radecki GRACE Leadership and Service Award to James Cullen, Director of Student Services; the Open Wide Your Hearts presentation by Peter Weiss; and afternoon break-out curriculum sessions. Discussion followed.
  - c. Catholic Classical High School Study: The study team met with the Board of Trustees' executive team on February 10<sup>th</sup> during which deep level discussion occurred. The study team is earnestly exploring the Chesterton Academy model for curriculum which is a robust, adaptable and cost-effective tool. The avenue for delivery continues to be researched and a seventh grade parent survey was conducted for which a 100% response rate was obtained. Survey data was presented. Significant discussion ensued involving financials, sustainability, parent feedback, relationship with Notre Dame Academy, uniqueness of classical education, leadership, pathway to higher education, parish support, donor base and resources. Next steps for the study team include further work involving financial projections, resources needed, GRACE impact and CatholicLink involvement. Board members were encouraged to reach out to Headmaster Alex Wolf at SJPII Classical School to arrange a visit and learn more about classical education.
  - d. Enrollment: Enrollment for the 2020-21 year continues and remains dynamic. Activity is being monitored closely.
  - e. Ten-Year Anniversary: Celebratory planning is taking place which will entail threading of special activities throughout the academic year in addition to emphasizing the anniversary within regular academic year events such as Catholic

Schools Week, school auctions, etc. A logo contest with students is ongoing at this time which is initiating student engagement in the creation of the anniversary's image.

5. Board of Trustees Chair Report:

- a. 2020-21 Academic Calendar: The e-vote conducted of the Trustees resulted in approval of the 2020-21 academic calendar: [LINK](#).
- b. Strategic Plan Progress: Efforts and progress continue. The most recent 90-day action plan progress report from January is posted on the website: [LINK](#).
- c. Board Committee Membership: A referral process will be established and shared with Trustees so that they may submit suggestions of one or two people from the community to join a committee. Those suggested will then be contacted to establish dialogue and address interest in serving. Bill Micksch, Kim Desotell and Gerry Faller will be meeting and provide further information on this process.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Catholic Identity: Sue Amtmann reported that the Committee continues its work on inclusion of the ACRE (Assessment of Child/Youth Religious Education) tool along with development and enhancement of the CIT (Catholic Identity Tool) #2.
- b. Education: Sue Amtmann reviewed the Committee's recent meeting where they addressed use of the Social and Emotional Learning Program, Friendly, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School; enhancement to the professional development process through Team Curriculum; ALPHA program; CESA 6 training involving balanced reading; the January 20<sup>th</sup> teacher in-service on expanded use of BYOC and recommendations involving CIT #2 to include steps on keeping Catholic Schools Week Catholic-focused.
- c. Facilities: Chris Steier reported that the team continues with site visits. Upon completion of the site visits, analysis will occur. The team is excited for the opportunity to identify and share best practices.
- d. Finance: Marv Wall reported that the Committee met with parish finance directors in December during which good dialogue and sharing occurred. The Committee plans to conduct this meeting annually to further foster and strengthen relationships with affiliated parishes. Review of financials through December 31<sup>st</sup> was provided. Given six months of experience, GRACE is meeting budget expectations. Lisa Niemuth provided a status report on the 2019-20 Annual Appeal citing there has been 349 new donor entries to date. Preparations for the 2020-21 Annual Appeal are already taking place. Appreciation was extended to the Board for 100% participation in this year's Appeal.
- e. Human Resources: Mary Burich reported that the Committee reviewed feedback from the Teacher Feedback Forum that was held in October and is acting on suggestions made concerning enhancements to onboarding. A teacher recruiting video was created to engage interest in joining the GRACE team. The Committee also continues with its cycle of policy review.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 14, 2020