

GRACE Board of Trustees
April 14, 2020
Minutes
6:30 p.m. – Google Meet

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

Others Present: Kim Desotell, Gerry Faller, John Mortensen, Patrick McKeown, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Not present: Dan Bins (excused), Amy Pautzke

Bill Micksch called the meeting to order with an opening prayer and extended a welcome to guests.

1. Catholic Classical High School Study: Bill Micksch provided an introduction of the study and the representatives of the study team- Patrick McKeown, Peter Murphy, and John Mortensen- proceeded to provide an overview. Study has entailed nine months of comprehensive study with biweekly study team meetings. The authenticity of the Catholic classical education model was emphasized and features were reviewed. An overview of the study, research and the team's findings was completed involving elements including, in part, parent feedback, curriculum, Chesterton model and network, student numbers, resources, support, facilities, fundraising, financial projections, recruitment, marketing and relationship with Notre Dame Academy. Discussion followed. The study team is refining a recommendation involving expansion of St. John Paul II Classical School to include grades 9-12. An additional grade each year would be added. Appreciation was extended to the presenters for their presentation. The Board will address the study team's formal proposal in the future.
2. Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by Chris Steier to approve the February 11, 2020 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by Chris Steier to approve the meeting minutes of the Board committees. Motion carried.
3. President's Report: Kim Desotell provided her report and highlighted the following:
 - a. Continuous Learning: The extensiveness of continuous learning activities at all levels was emphasized. Kim Desotell proceeded to review work involved with the first phase of the continuous learning launch which was very tactical. The second phase is taking place at this time which involves "walking with our families" to listen, support, engage and maintain communication. Surveys of parents and teachers are being conducted to gauge experience in addition to identifying best practices and improvement areas. Assessment, adjustments and refinements are integral and ongoing. Retention is being monitored and the principal leadership team is addressing grading. Planning for eighth grade graduation will be addressed in the future. Trustees who are parents of GRACE students were invited to share their experiences and discussion followed. Suggestions, concerns, ideas and opportunities were raised and are being recorded for future exploration and action.
 - b. 10-Year Anniversary: The timeline and key messages for the celebration were reviewed. The plan is to thread activities throughout the school year. Trustees were invited to review the information and provide feedback.
 - c. Enrollment: Enrollment statistics for 2020-21 were provided. Preschool enrollment is down which is attributed to the uncertainty with COVID-19. Choice numbers are strong.

- d. Virtual Mass: The GRACE-wide virtual Mass held on Holy Wednesday was very successful. Gerry Faller reviewed the planning and implementation. Considerable positive feedback on the Mass was received. A resonating theme to the feedback was that many were happy to meet other families from other GRACE schools.
5. Board of Trustees Chair Report:
 - a. Strategic Plan: Currently actions relate to the Key Focus of Experience given COVID-19 and continuous learning.
 - b. Board of Directors: Spring meeting took place on April 1st via conference call. Updates were provided such as that involving the Catholic Classical High School Study and the Notre Dame School of De Pere facility construction. The Office of Catholic Schools reported receipt of positive feedback on the efforts of Catholic schools, including GRACE, involving continuous learning. It was also reported that there has been a second year of enrollment growth across the Diocese. The Consultors continue to meet and are very supportive. There has been a suggestion that a summit take place to allow a face-to-face focused discussion among the priests about parish investment.
 6. Committee Reports:
 - a. Facilities: Chris Steier reported that site visits have been halted due to the public protection efforts. Focus of the committee is on how we can reopen schools safely. Active discussion is taking place with research on requirements such as that involving cleaning as we must be on board with new responsibilities and processes. Marv Wall provided an update on the Notre Dame School of De Pere construction.
 - b. Finance: Marv Wall reviewed the February financials. At eight months, financials were at break even. Committee is monitoring financials and climate very closely. Committee is meeting every other week. Weekly cash flow analysis is being conducted. Gerry Faller provided a report on the federal paycheck protection program.
 - c. Catholic Identity and Education: Sue Amtmann reported that the Education Committee did not meet in February or March. Update provided regarding the work of Team Curriculum, BYOC, GRACE: Gold, in-service evaluation and Curriculum Newsletter. The Catholic Identity Committee is evaluating Catholic Identity reports for common threads and strengths. Assessment of this information will be foundational to goals for next year. ACRE tests have been waived.
 - d. Human Resources: Mary Burich reported that the Committee continues its cycle of policy review. The recruitment video created by Director of Human Resources, Jami Hintz, was cited.
 7. Closing Remarks: Bill Micksch expressed gratitude to all for their support and flexibility. Prayers and blessings were extended to all for health and safety.
 8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2020