

**GRACE Board of Trustees**  
**December 8, 2020**  
**Minutes**  
**6:30 p.m. – Google Meet**

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

**Others Present:** Kim Desotell, Gerry Faller, Patrick McKeown, Alex Wolf, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

**Not present:** Amy Pautzke

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

1. Wisconsin Parental Choice Forum: Mr. Astolfo Inciarte was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Inciarte is a GRACE parent with children at two GRACE schools and for which one child's tuition and fees is supported by Choice. Mr. Inciarte introduced himself and provided statements regarding values, education, safety, culture, services, communication and collaboration. Discussion followed. Mr. Inciarte expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share his feedback, and the Board extended gratitude to him for his partnership as a parent, time and feedback.
2. St. John Paul II Classical School Update: Headmasters Alex Wolf and Patrick McKeown were welcomed. Mr. Wolf provided an overview of the preschool through eighth grade school citing a close knit school community, cohesive staff and joyous environment. Headmaster McKeown reviewed ongoing planning for the launch of Chesterton Academy. Sue Amtmann added that the Headmasters met with the Education Committee prior to the Board meeting, and the Committee will be planning to witness the school in action when the pandemic resolves. Discussion ensued. St. John Paul II Classical School is raising Catholicity across GRACE and staff is dedicated and strong. The Chesterton planning priorities were reviewed. Mr. McKeown provided examples of Chesterton's success nationwide. Mr. Wolf provided a review of the classical education model. Gratitude was extended to Headmaster Wolf and McKeown for their contributions.
3. Meeting Minutes: Motion made by John Peterson and seconded by Chris Steier to approve the October 13, 2020 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by John Peterson and seconded by Marv Wall to approve the presented Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.
4. President's Report: Kim Desotell presented her report and highlighted the following.
  - a. Enrollment: Admissions and enrollment increases for Trimester 2 was summarized.
  - b. Staffing: There has been minimal impact to staffing due to COVID-19. All schools continue to update their COVID dashboards online daily.
  - c. Grace Virtual Academy: GVA is going strong. A survey will be conducted to gauge interest in continuing this virtual teaching and learning mode in the future for GRACE.
  - d. MAP Data: The GRACE Fall 2020 MAP Results Report was presented. Variances were reviewed due to the pandemic. Those students not tested in fall will be tested in winter. A COVID learning response team is being established to address data. GRACE Curriculum Coordinator, Laura Blicharz, will lead this team.
  - e. Fundraising: Schools have taken steps to fundraise virtually. These events also provide an important sense of community.
  - f. Annual Appeal: The Annual Appeal is tracking well with 289 new donors to date. Bill Micksch extended gratitude to the Board for which there was 100% participation.
  - g. Tenth Anniversary: A commemorative prayer book is in development to celebrate GRACE's 10-year anniversary.

Discussion ensued concerning enrollment, MAP testing and the learning response team and potential short-term and long-term goals that may be generated from the team's work.

5. Board of Trustees Chair Report: Bill Micksch reported on the following.
  - a. Board of Director's Fall Meeting: The Board of Directors met in December and a task force has been formed to further address parish subsidy.
  - b. Recruitment: Work continues to secure additional representatives to Committees. One new member has been secured for Finance and one for Education. Several others are being vetted.
  - c. Act 43 Safety Drill Evaluations: Bill Micksch introduced the safety business item and Kim Desotell proceeded to explain the required Wisconsin Act 143 Drill Evaluations. The GRACE St. Michael Safety Team provides overall support to all schools in terms of safety and requirements. The drill evaluations from all schools were presented. Motion made by Sue Amtmann to approve the GRACE schools Act 143 Drill Evaluations for school year 2020-21; Marv Wall seconded; motion carried.
  
6. Committee Reports:
  - a. Human Resources: Mary Burich reported that work has been in an advisory capacity given the pandemic. The Committee will be re-establishing itself in spring.
  - b. Education Committee: Sue Amtmann reported that the group is looking at ways to expand work in the focus area of Experience within the Strategic Plan. A general voice of the customer survey will be issued next week to parents to secure feedback. This data will be helpful including to the new learning response team's efforts. The Committee plans on conducting a survey annually.
  - c. Catholic Identity: Sue Amtmann reported that the Committee has summarized information from Catholic Identity Tool #3 and information will be evaluated in January. A Catholic Schools Week template is being addressed. Work continues to providing increased consistency with religion education and collaboration. Discussion followed regarding the Catholic Identity Tool. The tool and process involves a purposeful cross-functional membership team and is an excellent assessment and improvement model.
  - d. Finance: Marv Wall reported that the Board of Directors approved the 2019-20 Wipfli Auditor's Report at its recent meeting. It was a clean audit. Financials were reviewed citing challenges and continued close, daily monitoring being conducted by Gerry Faller and Melissa Wolcanski. G. Faller provided an update concerning the Paycheck Protection Program.
  - e. Facilities: Chris Steier states that the work completed over the summer was very beneficial to the schools' ongoing safe environment. Diligent sanitization continues at all sites. Facilities will be meeting with Finance and parishes next week. Committee continues to work on building and strengthening relationships.
  
7. Other:
  - a. TSF Cost Per Student Infographic Update: Kim Desotell reviewed the updated infographic which is available on the GRACE system website: [LINK](#). This graphic along with its companion graphics at this web page provides for helpful resources and talking points.
  - b. Spring Break 2021: Consideration has been given to holding Spring Break or not. The Principal Leadership Team's consensus is that a Break is needed and feedback from the Board was requested. Board consented that Spring Break should occur as scheduled with a virtual week to follow.
  
8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2021