

**GRACE Board of Trustees**  
**February 9, 2021**  
**Minutes**  
**6:30 p.m. – Google Meet**

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

**Others Present:** Kim Desotell, Gerry Faller, Dr. Jamie Froh Tyrrell, Lisa Niemuth, Leah Cohen, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Bill Micksch called the meeting to order with an opening responsorial psalm. Guest, Leah Cohen, was welcomed and introduced. Communications are ongoing concerning the potential of Leah joining the Board as a Trustee.

1. St. Thomas More Catholic School: Principal, Dr. Jamie Froh Tyrrell, was welcomed and introduced. Dr. Froh Tyrrell cited exciting notables involving the school: The new Ss. Peter and Paul pastor, Fr. Jose Lopez Vargas, is very engaged with the school; growing enrollment; recent installation of a PA system and launch of a Caring Closet for families. Dr. Froh Tyrrell reviewed that current strategies of her first year principal position include examining practices with a critical lens, growing parent support including the Site Advisory Council and working on her servant leadership in support of families and staff. Opportunities at the school include enhancements to a structured school environment in addition to facilitation and fostering the culture and bilingual aspects focusing on nurturing of two worlds and one family. Discussion followed. Gratitude was extended to Principal Froh Tyrrell for her contributions.
2. Wisconsin Parental Choice Forum: There was no one present for this second Choice Forum opportunity made available to Choice supported families during this academic year. Discussion took place regarding how the invitation to the Forum is communicated.
3. Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by Ed Kippley to approve the December 8, 2020 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by Sue Amtmann and seconded by Mary Burich to approve the presented Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.
4. President's Report: Kim Desotell presented her report and highlighted the following.
  - a. Our Lady of Guadalupe Outreach Program: President Desotell welcomed Lisa Niemuth, Director of Development, who provided a report concerning the Outreach Program which was made possible through funding from The Bradley Foundation. A Program overview was provided summarizing its objectives, programming, participants, assessment and testimonials. Evaluation is ongoing concerning options for the second year of this outreach initiative.
  - b. Catholic Schools Week: The week involved exciting activities at all schools providing a welcomed reprieve from normal daily schedules especially given the pandemic.
  - c. Enrollment: An overview of 2021-22 enrollment was provided. Returning families are comfortable and experienced with the online enrollment management system. Marketing efforts continue.
  - d. Chesteron Academy: Current enrollment in ninth grade to date is 15; goal is 20 per grade. Year 0 start-up activities continue involving staffing, website design, promotional materials, recruitment and fundraising.
  - e. GRACE 2020-21 Snapshot Report: The report was presented and reviewed. This is the second year of providing snapshot reports which are done for GRACE overall and per school. Reports are published annually in January. Discussion followed. Suggestion made that delineation of K-8 vs PK data may be helpful.
  - f. February 12, 2021 GRACE In-Service: The in-service will include a day-ending State of GRACE virtual meeting. Invitation was extended to all Board members to participate.

- g. COVID: Pandemic challenges continue. As family involvement is integral to GRACE it is difficult not to allow families into the schools. Dialogue continues regarding vaccination and questions and concerns are being addressed as best as possible. Work continues on addressing mental health aspects.
  - h. Child Care Program: A planning update was provided and discussion ensued. Monthly updates will be provided via The Scribe.
5. Board of Trustees Chair Report: Bill Micksch reported on the following.
- a. Athletics: Bill Micksch reviewed the drafted update to the Statement of Support for Sports in GRACE Schools. The initial version of this Statement dated August 25, 2020 was previously approved by the Board. The presented revision was accepted by consensus.
  - b. Academic Calendar 2021-22: The 2021-22 academic calendar was presented for approval. The calendar continues to follow the same format and to a large degree mirrors that of Notre Dame Academy due to shared families. Motion made by Chris Steier and seconded by Marv Wall to approve the 2021-22 academic calendar. Motion carried.
  - c. Strategic Plan: Activity continues involving focus areas and action plans. The Plan is now in its third and final year. Consideration is being given to an extension to a fourth year. A refocus and reset will take place in summer.
6. Committee Reports:
- a. Education Committee: Sue Amtmann presented the Voice of the Customer (VOC) Survey and Process. The December 2020 GRACE Parent Voice of the Customer Survey report was reviewed citing the number of survey responses and results. It was emphasized that all comments were shared with the respective school site principals and this statement is documented on page 5 of the report. It is planned that in the future a VOC Survey will take place annually after Thanksgiving. Discussion followed. Sue Amtmann proceeded to present the Voice of the Customer Process for approval. The Process has been reviewed by Team Curriculum, Education Committee and Strategic Plan Team. Discussion ensued. It will be important to engage actions and demonstrate how GRACE uses the feedback as the process evolves. Motion made by Kelly Williams and seconded by Mary Burich to approve the VOC Process as presented. Motion carried.
  - b. Facilities Committee: Chris Steier reported that the Committee will meet to reset soon. The Committee needs to finish site evaluations, get back into the schools and meet with the new principals. The Committee looks forward to its continued work.
  - c. Finance Committee: Marv Wall provided a status report. Gerry Faller and Melissa Wolcanski continue to analyze financials daily given pandemic-induced challenges. Efforts are taking place to seek other funding and to prepare for coming costs. Status of Paycheck Protection Program was provided. Gerry Faller presented his report on Expanded Funding Source Stewardship.
  - d. Human Resources: Mary Burich reported that the Committee has met and will be addressing opportunities learned through the pandemic. January meeting entailed policy review and revisions will be brought to the April meeting for Board review and action. Committee is also re-engaging with Strategic Plan actions and also looking towards the long-term.
7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 13, 2021