

**GRACE Board of Trustees**  
**February 8, 2022**  
**Minutes**  
**6:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Catholic School**

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

**Others Present:** Kim Desotell, Gerry Faller, Jamie Froh Tyrrell, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

**Not Present:** Amy Pautzke

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

1. Wisconsin Parental Choice Forum: No Choice families presented for this second forum opportunity.
2. St. Thomas More Catholic School: Introductions commenced of Principal Dr. Jamie Froh Tyrrell. Principal Froh Tyrrell provided an overview of the school outlining assets and challenges. Assets were outlined as (a) a beautiful administrative team that services the students and families while always bringing Christ to them; (b) a strong parish relationship with dedication from Fr. Jose Lopez who, in part, is present in the school every day; and (c) the bilingual/bicultural community which is being celebrated as this already present and immersed throughout the student body. Principal Froh Tyrrell summarized the dual language program, currently in place in kindergarten and first grades, which will expand each year grade by grade. Staffing is being projected and positioned accordingly for this growth. Challenges cited included (a) school serving as a resource center for families on a broad spectrum of needs and (b) parent engagement, which is progressing, but the Site Advisory Council activities are largely falling on the school's Home/School Liaison. Discussion followed involving class sizes, student/teacher ratio, bilingual teacher recruitment in a competitive market, partnerships and connections with resources, school reputation and messaging. Suggestions were brought forth for potential activities with other GRACE schools to promote collaboration and exposure to cultural diversity. Appreciation was extended to Principal Froh Tyrrell for her leadership.
3. Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by Sue Amtmann to approve the February 8, 2022, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by Chris Steier 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. Enrollment: A synopsis of 2022-23 enrollment was provided. Activity has been brisk since enrollment launched in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week. Schools are fielding many requests for shadows, visits and tours.
  - b. Parish Verification Form: Experience with the Form was discussed. Trustees shared commentary on communications with parents. Communications will continue with families regarding the new process and its intent to positively promote a meaningful connection among families and parishes and to recognize our parishes for their investment in our schools and Catholic education.
  - c. GRACE in the News: Three recent publications were highlighted that focused on positive aspects of the system.
  - d. Restructure: On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Drew Mulloy will begin his role as Superintendent of GRACE. This appointment will support elevating services in the areas of curriculum, student services, technology integration, communications and focused fundraising in relation to named scholarships. The search for Principal Mulloy's replacement is being launched. Discussion followed.

- e. Bradley Foundation: The grant funding from the Bradley Foundation continues to support the Our Lady of Guadalupe Outreach Program. This year, four workshops are taking place focusing on technology, math, high school readiness and reading. This is a significantly beneficial program to over 50 families involving 4 schools.
  - f. Covid Dashboard: Covid experience has been minimal. Schools remains diligent in monitoring the health of their community.
  - g. Teacher Excellence Awards: A donor supporting initiative is under development to recognize exemplary teachers and support continuing graduate education. Details are being worked out. It is anticipated that all awards (Golden Apple, Fr. Dane Radecki, Future 15, etc.) will be highlighted in fall during the welcome back in-service.
5. Board of Trustees Chair Report: Bill Micksch reported on the following.
- a. Academic Calendar 2022-23: The calendar was presented for action. Discussion ensued regarding start/end dates, instructional minutes, and spring break. Motion made by Sue Amtmann and seconded by Nick Anderson to approve the 2022-23 Academic Calendar as presented. Motion carried.
  - b. Strategic Plan: Consultant, Dean Stewart, and Gerry Faller are addressing planning assignments. More succinct goals are being defined from which details and actions will be developed.
  - c. Committee Membership: Bill Micksch introduced the Board's ongoing goal to identify and secure expertise among its committees. Mary Burich announced two new members to the Human Resources Committee: Julie Engebose and Ann Main. Chris Steier announced that Adam Kersten will be joining the Facilities Committee.
6. Committee Reports:
- a. Human Resources: Mary Burich reported that the Committee is addressing compensation strategies and will collaborate with the Finance Committee. Impact to budget and timeline will be addressed within this ongoing work. The Committee is also addressing succession planning and recruitment strategies. Discussion ensued regarding the value of working at GRACE and the ongoing challenge of securing substitute teachers.
  - b. Finance: Marv Wall reviewed the financials to date. At six months budget is tracking even benefiting from increased enrollment. Gerry Faller continues to work on subsidizing other initiatives (i.e., school nurse, technology) with other revenue sources. Discussion followed concerning parish investment.
  - c. Facilities: Chris Steier reported that the Committee continues to delve into school safety and how it can support compliance and regulations.
  - d. Education: Sue Amtmann reported that the Voice of the Customer Learning Survey closed on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Responses will be tabulated and analyzed from which a final report is anticipated to be available in March. Sue Amtmann also reported that all principals have been equipped with new devices, the Technology Services area is expanding with team member expertise areas being defined and teacher questions are evolving into learning opportunities. In addition, Team Curriculum has outlined the scope and sequence by subject and this information is posted on the GRACE website: [gracesystem.org](http://gracesystem.org) | Academic Life | Curriculum – then select Instructional Topics. This resource will continue to be enhanced.
7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2022