

GRACE Board of Trustees
February 14, 2023
Minutes
6:30 p.m., GRACE Riverside Office, Faller Training Room

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

Others Present: Alisa Conway, Kim Desotell, Dana Vance, Melissa Wolcanski, Edgar Zaragoza, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Not Present: Amy Pautzke

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

1. Wisconsin Parental Choice Program Forum: Bill Micksch welcomed the GRACE parent present in addition to GRACE Outreach Administrator, Edgar Zaragoza, and Notre Dame Academy Board of Education representative, Alisa Conway. Introductions took place. Mr. Zaragoza reviewed his role and responsibilities. The parent proceeded to provide feedback concerning involvement with GRACE schools enabled by her family's participation in the Choice program. Appreciation and thankfulness were expressed for the opportunity for children to receive education and grow in faith. Discussion ensued regarding "What can we (GRACE) do better" and "What would you tell a new family (about GRACE)". Parent stated s/he would tell the family they had chosen the best school and added that the level of respect and support has been so much better for achievement and growth both academically and in faith. Kim Desotell proceeded to review the outreach team and the Choice application season. Appreciation was extended to Edgar Zaragoza for his faith-filled professional service to families and to the GRACE parent for presenting with feedback. Discussion followed with Alisa Conway concerning outreach.
2. St. John the Baptist School: Bill Micksch welcomed Principal Dana Vance and reviewed the importance of the principal interface opportunity with the Board at meetings. Principal Vance proceeded to review her first year with GRACE and the school citing its strong foundation, enrollment, class capacity, teacher experience levels, promoting teacher observations at other schools, return of family groups conducting service projects. The strength and level of engagement, support, commitment and partnership of the school community is impressive along with the extent of fourth and fifth generation students. Two opportunities include technology integration within the curriculum as it needs to be purposeful and creative and woven throughout in addition to moving towards student-centered classes. Explanation and examples were provided of Makerspaces and STEAM lab. Discussion followed. Principal Vance welcomed all trustees to visit the school. Appreciation was extended to Principal Vance for her enthusiastic dedication and contributions in addition to her current doctoral degree studies to further strengthen her leadership.
3. Minutes: Motion made by Ed Kippley and seconded by Nick Anderson to approve the December 13, 2022 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by John Peterson to approve the presented meeting minutes of the Catholic Identity, Education, Finance and Human Resources Committees. Motion carried.
4. President's Report: Kim Desotell presented her report and highlighted the following.
 - a. Enrollment: The to-date 2023-24 enrollment summary was reviewed.
 - b. Marketing: New marketing material samples highlighting Holy Family and Father Allouez were distributed for review. Marketing initiatives are earnestly being evaluated and updated concerning where and how it is taking place discerning audiences. Facebook posts involving teacher and student spotlights have been well received. Overall,

- intensified messaging continues to take place. Discussion followed regarding recent Wisconsin Parental Choice Program communications.
- c. Teacher In-Service: The recent February 10th in-service involved “Hands On’ Tech Time sessions which was well received by the teachers. The in-service involved core sessions in addition to teachers’ ability to choose two other interactive sessions. The in-service schedule of offerings was distributed for review.
 - d. Catholic Schools Week: Catholic Schools Week was a very successful celebration and launch of the admissions and enrollment season. Schools were again very creative with fun and faith-filled activities.
 - e. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP): An update was provided.
5. Board of Trustees Chair Report:
- a. Chairperson: Transition steps continue. Bill Micksch reported he has sent the Board of Trustees December vote outcome to Fr. John Girotti for presentation to the Board of Directors for their action at their Spring meeting.
 - b. Survey: Each trustee will receive an electronic survey to complete in the near future. The brief survey seeks to gain integral feedback from each trustee about his/her role and GRACE's leadership. Responses will assist in further assessment and planning to further strengthen our already remarkable leadership team!
6. Committee Reports:
- a. Catholic Identity: Sue Amtmann reported the group is working on a Mass guide, the Bishop’s Pastoral Letter and the Catholic Identity Tool. Discussion followed regarding the Bishop’s communication ([LINK HERE](#)).
 - b. Education: Sue Amtmann reported that results from the 2022-23 Voice of the Customer Survey will be brought to the next meeting. The Committee is seeking principal feedback and goals based on school VOC results. Response rate was similar to last year. The survey included a question involving Project Lead the Way (PLTW). In addition, technology integration is going well and reset at the upcoming 90-day strategic plan progress meeting will be done.
 - c. Facilities: Chet Lamers reporting the group is resetting with new members and will meet again on February 28th. The Committee will continue to collect base data from each site after which a deeper assessment will take place. Discussion followed. The Committee plans to assess three schools at a time.
 - d. Finance: Marv Wall reported on six months experience of financials which are tracking as expected for actual to budget. The Committee is working on the 2023-24 budget which will be presented to the trustees at the April meeting followed by the Board of Directors at their May meeting.
 - e. Human Resources: Mary Burich reported that the Committee continues to work on the strategic plan initiatives: compensation study, benefits analysis and “why GRACE”.
7. Other: Leah Cohen inquired about the use of tag marketing strategy which will be brought forward to the Marketing and Communications team.
8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2023