

**GRACE Board of Trustees**  
**June 13, 2023**  
**Minutes**  
**6:00 p.m., Elm Room, Hotel Northland**

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

**Others Present:** Jim Christensen, Kim Desotell, Drew Mulloy, Madeline Janssen, Melissa Wolcanski, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

**Not Present:** Dan Bins, Chet Lamers

Bill Micksch called the meeting to order with an opening hymn. Guests were welcomed and introductions commenced: Jim Christensen who will join the Board in 2023-24; Drew Mulloy, Superintendent; and Madeline Janssen, Director of Marketing and Communications.

1. Marketing Report: Madeline Janssen, Director of Marketing and Communications, provided a handout, GRACE Marketing Report - 2022-23 School Year, and highlighted the initiatives, challenges, progress, accomplishments, and goals. Review of data-driven marketing decisions, targeting marketing, SEO (search engine optimization) campaigns, and Playbook pilot was provided. Discussion ensued regarding achievements and opportunities to strengthen the GRACE brand to support the system's vibrancy via traditional to emerging means. The broad spectrum of work involved and Director Janssen's contributions and efforts over three years of her tenure with GRACE was acknowledged.
2. Minutes: Motion made by John Peterson and seconded by Nick Anderson to approve the April 11, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by John Peterson and seconded by Ed Kippley to approve the presented meeting minutes of the Education and Finance Committees. Motion carried.
3. President's Report: Kim Desotell presented her report and highlighted the following.
  - a. Enrollment: Status of 2023-24 enrollment was provided. Typical fluctuations are occurring and are anticipated to continue throughout the summer. Recruitment and retention efforts remain steadfast.
  - b. End of Year: The school year ended strong with robust teaching and learning in environments in which all are feeling freedoms post-pandemic. Graduate data was summarized. Graduation ceremonies were again faith-filled and celebratory.
  - c. Staffing: Review of recent changes including two principal positions was provided along with a succession update.
  - d. Summer Programming: The Summer Bridge program for St. Thomas More and St. Bernard students was outlined. This program will occur July 10-28, 2023 at the St. Thomas More School site. Discussion followed.
  - e. GRACE Gold Summer Camp: Camp plans are in place and at this time 130 students are enrolled. The Camp will take place at the St. Agnes Parish/Holy Family Catholic School site beginning July 5, 2023.
  - f. Athletics and Activities Director (AAD): To date the right talent has not been found via the ongoing search.
  - g. Welcome Back Mass: A fall Welcome Back Mass is being planned and will take place in September; Prince of Peace Catholic Community will host this year's event.
  - h. Data Retreat: Superintendent Mulloy will be leading this retreat with the Principal Leadership Team to address faith, academics, fundraising and marketing. This retreat will occur on June 14 and supports the system's ongoing data-driven strategic goals.

4. Board of Trustees Chair Report:

Board of Directors Spring Meeting: Bill Micksch reported on the meeting held on May 3, 2023. The Board was informed of Diocese's one by One campaign results, approved the GRACE budget, approved Nick Anderson as Chair of the Board of Trustees, accepted the roster of Trustees and Committee members, accepted the roster of Consultors, and continued to address progress involving parish investment. Final work is being conducted to define the parish investment formula which will be brought back to the Board of Directors at their next meeting in December. Discussion followed. There will be two new members to the Board of Directors for 2023-24: Fr. Adam Bradley, St. Bernard Parish, and Fr. Don Everts, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

- a. 2023-24 Board of Trustees and Committees Roster: Bill Micksch presented the roster effective July 1, 2023. The roster reflects strong, strategic and visionary expertise, contributions and goals. The committee structure revision involving the Development and Governance Committees was summarized. Discussion followed.
- b. 2023-24 Meeting Schedule: The schedule of meetings to date was provided. Regular meetings of the Board, Education Committee and Finance Committee are set with the cadence of meetings for Development, Facilities and Governance Committees to be announced.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Catholic Identify: Sue Amtmann presented the Catholic Identity Committee's report on the work involving Tool #3: "Catholic Traditions and Practice: Church Teachings and Gospel Values". Exciting work continues on the design and development of the Mass Booklet for which Director of Curriculum, Laura Blicharz, will be collaborating on.
- b. Education: Sue Amtmann reported that the Voice of the Customer (VOC) Principal Reports have been reviewed and summarized by the Committee. Action goals have been established given results. Principals are collaborating. The Committee will continue to explore ways to increase the VOC Survey response rate.
- c. Facilities: Melissa Wolcanski reported that the Committee distributed the GRACE FOCUS – Facilities & Operations Condition Update Survey – to all school parish sites. Superintendent Mulloy added that Food Service recently completed a survey of school site kitchens.
- d. Finance: Marv Wall reported that with two months left in the fiscal year, finances, barring no surprises, will conclude solidly in the black. The Committee is addressing the State budget and its impacts and will be starting the budgeting process.
- e. Human Resources: No report; the final Committee report was provided at the April meeting. The Committee has disbanded.

6. Gratitude: Sincere appreciation was extended to departing Board Chair, Bill Micksch, for his immense and tireless contributions to GRACE through the many years of his faith-filled leadership and service.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 8, 2023