

GRACE Board of Trustees
December 12, 2023
Minutes
6:30 p.m., Faller Training Room, GRACE Riverside Office

Present: Sue Amtmann, Nick Anderson, Jessica Beauchamp, Dan Bins, Jim Christensen, Leah Cohen, Eric Guzowski, Ed Kippley, Chet Lamers, John Peterson, Marv Wall, Kelly Williams
Others Present: Kim Desotell, Drew Mulloy, Melissa Wolcanski, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Nick Anderson called the meeting to order with an opening prayer.

1. Wisconsin Parental Choice Forum: There were no guests present for this forum opportunity with the Board. The second opportunity for parents will be at the Board's February meeting. Discussion ensued on the timing of the forums which traditionally have been the December and February meetings. Going forward the Board will offer these forums at the October and April meetings.
2. Minutes: Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by Ed Kippley to approve the October 10, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded by John Peterson to approve presented meeting minutes of the Committees. Motion carried.
3. Membership: It was announced that Leah Cohen will be resigning from the Board due to relocation. Sincere gratitude was conveyed to Leah for her commitment, engagement, and strategic vision.
4. Superintendent Report: Drew Mulloy presented his report on Star Testing and Department Updates.
 - a. Star Testing: Superintendent Mulloy reviewed the initial data and implementation of Star Testing. The launch was successful, and GRACE is the first organization to integrate it with Clever. Discussion ensued. The focus at this time is on how to use the data to improve student achievement and examples of approaches were provided.
 - b. Department Updates: Superintendent Mulloy summarized activities, accomplishments, and goals in the areas of Marketing, Food Service, Curriculum, Technology Services and Athletics. An overview of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) was provided. Discussion followed. The upcoming "edCamp" in-service on January 15th was outlined. Mr. Mulloy was acknowledged for his leadership and contributions in this new role. Mr. Mulloy was also recognized for his service as interim Headmaster at St. John Paul II Classical School.
5. President's Report: Kim Desotell highlighted the "Bringing Hope and Water to the Children of Chikanza" which is an initiative by the students of Notre Dame School of De Pere. Jessie Beauchamp elaborated on the project. President Desotell proceeded to review the following:
 - a. Lawsuit involving the Choice Program: Aspects of this activity and GRACE's involvement was summarized.
 - b. Wisconsin Legislation: A review of the "decoupling bill" was provided and discussion ensued.
 - c. Enrollment 2024-25: Chesterton Academy of St. John Paul II Classical School will be opening admissions for its high school grades – 9, 10 and 11 – to new families in November. The priority application period will be November 1- December 21.
 - d. GRACE Athletics & Activities Director: Organization and coordination is the priority and goals for this position were outlined.
 - e. Mass Booklet: The Middle School Mass Booklet developed through GRACE's Catholic Identity Advisory Team is in place at all schools for use with 6, 7, and 8th grade students.

A booklet was provided to each trustee. The booklet was also shared at the recent Board of Directors meeting, and it was well received. A grant application has been made to the Catholic Foundation for funding of this initiative.

- g. GRACE Newsletter: The January edition will highlight the business and financial aspects of the system. Discussion followed.
6. Board of Trustees Chair Report: Nick Anderson reported on the following:
- a. Board of Directors Meeting Update: A review of the Board of Directors' December 6th meeting was provided. Directors are engaged and supportive. In part, the parish subsidy formula recommendation was received and acted on at this meeting.
 - b. School Safety: The school safety plans, safety drill logs and safety written drill evaluations were addressed. Motion made by Sue Amtmann and seconded by Mary Burich to approve the plans, drill logs and written drill evaluations. Motion carried.
 - c. Strategic Plan: A recap of the December 5th meeting was provided. Appreciation was extended for contributions to ongoing visioning in which themes and longer term goals are resulting.
7. Committee Reports:
- a. Governance: Mary Burich highlighted the goals of the committee and proceeded to present revisions to the Constitution of the Board of Trustees. Specific revisions to membership and terms were explained. Discussion followed regarding strategic sourcing of new members, term limits for committees, and expectations. Motion made by Dan Bins and seconded by Ed Kippley to approve the revision to the Constitution of the Board of Trustees as presented. Motion carried. The Board's action will be brought forward to the Board of Directors at its next meeting in April. The Board proceeded to enter Closed Session to address the performance appraisal process for the President.
 - b. Finance: The Board resumed open session and Marv Wall presented the financials ending October 31, 2023. Budget to actual tracking well. Appreciation was extended for the prompt responses to the required e-vote that was conducted in November in which the Wisconsin Parental Choice Reserve Balance proposal was approved. Melissa Wolcanski presented the 2024-25 tuition rates and background on their determination. Rates represent a 2.5% "in-parish" increase. Marv Wall added that the Board of Director approved the audit at the December meeting and there was good feedback from the review.
 - c. Facilities: Chet Lamers provided an update on the FOCUS survey data compilation and site visits.
 - d. Education: Sue Amtmann reported on Principal Jame Tyrrell's presentation on dual language programming at the committee's last meeting along with technology updates involving the Digital Learning Plan and Star Testing. The Voice of the Customer Survey was addressed in relation to response rate and information gathered. Suggestion made and consideration will be given to possibly administering this survey every other year.
 - e. Development: Kelly Williams reported that the committee is developing guiding principles involving faith, merit, gratitude and community. The committee is also evaluating the current state of the donation process. Discussion followed.
8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2024