

**GRACE Board of Trustees**  
**April 8, 2025**  
**Minutes**  
**6:30 p.m., GRACE Riverside Office**

**Present:** Sue Amtmann, Nick Anderson, Dan Bins, Bridget Erwin, Eric Guzowski, Ed Kippley, Chet Lamers, Ty Little, John Peterson, Marv Wall

**Others Present:** Kim Desotell, Jamie Tyrrell, Nate Tackaberry, Melissa Wolcanski, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

**Not Present:** Samantha Wagner, Kelly Williams

Nick Anderson called the meeting to order with an opening prayer and acknowledgement of the lengthy tenure and retirement of the Father Allouez Catholic School librarian.

1. St. Thomas More Catholic School. Principal Jamie Tyrrell reported this is her fifth year as the school principal and highlighted the school's Project Elevate strategic plan, 100% parent participation in fall and spring parent/teacher conferences, staff engagement and contribution to the success of slow and steady enrollment growth, hardworking staff team, and work involving Professional Learning Communities and CESA. Challenges include the array of reading levels among students, but creative solutions are being designed to address; staffing and hiring especially bilingual talent; and absence of a Site Advisory Council (SAC) – parents are engaged but there is lack of parent leadership. Review of the school's bilingual program implementation was conducted which onset in 2021 and will be expanded to fifth grade in academic year 2025-26. Data reflects achievement success with this model. President Desotell reviewed attributes and elevation of success throughout the school community due to intentional focus involving students, families, employees, and parish relations. Discussion followed regarding safety and security, elements attributing to enrollment growth, ideas for a nontraditional school council development, portrait of a school family, and hiring factors. Appreciation and gratitude were extended to Dr. Tyrrell for her leadership. Consideration will be given to holding the June Board meeting at the St. Thomas More campus.
2. Minutes: Motion made by Marv Wall and seconded John Peterson to approve the February 11, 2025 Board meeting minutes and the presented Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. President's Report: Kim Desotell presented her report and highlighted the following.
  - a. Enrollment: To date 2025-26 enrollment was reviewed and discussion followed regarding school-to-school transfers, projections, and school growth campaigns.
  - b. NFL Draft: All schools are prepared with staffing and focused safety plans. Student attendance is difficult to project but will be monitored and reported.
  - c. Star Testing: Summary handout was distributed and review of Fall 2024 and Winter 2025 results was completed. Overview provided of testing, administration, understanding proficiency, data thresholds, teacher feedback, reporting, and Team Curriculum's analysis. Spring data results will be provided at the next meeting.
  - d. Headmaster Search: A consulting firm has been engaged to assist with the search of the open Headmaster position at St. John Paul II Classical School.
  - e. Feasibility Study: Executive Director of Advancement, Nate Tackaberry, will provide a report later in the meeting.
  - f. Before and After Care at St. John the Baptist School: Champions will be contracted to provide before and after care at the school beginning in fall 2025. Staffing challenges was the significant factor leading to this arrangement. School families rely on this care offering. Discussion followed.

4. Board of Trustees Chair Report: Nick Anderson reported on the following:
  - a. Annual Board Self-Evaluation: The evaluation has been distributed, and appreciation was extended for completion.
  - b. Recruitment Matrix: The talent matrix continues to be a useful tool as ongoing Board recruitment takes place. Discussion followed.
  - c. Strategic Plan: Intentional focus continues with action items.
5. Committee Reports:
  - a. Advancement: Nate Tackaberry presented on the GRACE Donor Cycle and enhancements to the donor centric process involving proactive, intentional and relational elements. Further review was conducted of Advancement's outcomes over the past six months and identified growth areas. An overview and status of fundraising for the Gym Facility Project was provided with reference to the project webpage - [LINK](#). The presentation continued reviewing the preliminary Feasibility Study results. Discussion followed.
  - b. Finance: Marv Wall reviewed current financials which are tracking right on budget. Presentation ensued of the 2025-26 proposed budget. Melissa Wolcanski reviewed the budget summary highlighting primary details of revenue, expenses and parish support. Factored enrollment growth is aligned with the strategic plan. Benefits, personnel, Choice reserve, parish investment and rent reviewed. Overall, the system is in a strong and healthy financial position. Discussion followed. Motion made by Bridget Erwin and seconded by Dan Bins to approve the 2025-26 operating budget as presented. Motion carried. Gratitude was extended to Marv Wall, Melissa Wolcanski, and the entire Finance Committee for their hard work.
  - c. Governance: Bridget Erwin reviewed that the finalized Site Advisory Council Bylaws template which has been distributed to each school's SAC with a requested return date of August 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - d. Education: Sue Amtmann reported that Principal Gusloff attended their last meeting and reported on the gifted and talented pilot. The Directors of Curriculum and Technology Services continue to be integral to the committee allowing for cohesive communication, information sharing and next steps. Recommendation made that department presentations to the Board in areas such as these may be beneficial.
  - e. Facilities: Chet Lamers reports that the committee has addressed school safety assessments and has aligned this cycle of facility grants to support strengthening of safety and security areas. The call for grant applications has been sent to the parishes. Committee members are following up.
6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 10, 2025