

GRACE Board of Trustees
June 10, 2025
Minutes
6:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Catholic School

Present: Sue Amtmann, Nick Anderson, Bridget Erwin, Dr. Steven Gale, Sarah Green, Eric Guzowski, Ed Kippely, Chet Lamers, Ty Little, Dana Pecho, John Peterson, Samantha Wagner, Marv Wall, Kelly Williams

Others Present: Kim Desotell, Molly Mares, Kari Peterson, Nate Tackaberry, Melissa Wolcanski, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Not Present: Dan Bins

Nick Anderson called the meeting to order and welcomed candidates to the Board of Trustees: Dr. Steven Gale, Sarah Green, and Dana Pecho. Introductions commenced.

1. Holy Cross Catholic School: Principal Kari Peterson was welcomed to the meeting. Principal Peterson reviewed school notables including the following: fundraising success exceeding goal for one key event, literacy initiative, Abundant Blessings Preschool, structure upgrades, green space, vestibule upgrades and restructured floor plan, safety, student achievement, positive teacher retention, Star assessment demonstrated growth in reading and math. Examples of students living out their faith were provided. School connection with Prince of Peace Parish has strengthened. Enrollment remains a focus and strategies in place to promote, recruit, and retain were reviewed. Engagement and visibility throughout the greater community is key along with structure enhancements. Discussion followed. Appreciation and gratitude were extended to Principal Peterson for her leadership. Holy Cross is strong in tradition and reputation. Visioning initiatives through the Strategic Plan will continue to strengthen vitality of the school.
2. Minutes: Motion made by John Peterson and seconded by Marv Wall to approve the April 8, 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. St. Thomas More Catholic School Renovation: Review was conducted of the renovated third floor learning space in which the Board was meeting within. This renovation was enabled through the generosity of Glenn and Barb Timmerman. The Dr. Steve Kimball Memorial reading space was also highlighted.
 - b. Act 20 Third Grade Policy: President Desotell introduced the subject and Principal Molly Mares of the GRACE Curriculum Team. Principal Mares proceeded to review the GRACE 3rd to 4th Grade Promotion Policy providing background and evaluation process with approvals from the Team, President Desotell, Principal Leadership Team, Diocese Office of Catholic Schools, and the Education Committee of the Board. Discussion ensued and examples provided. Motion made by Nick Anderson and seconded by Chet Lamers to approve the GRACE 3rd to 4th Grade Promotion Policy as presented. Motion carried.
 - c. Student Achievement Data Snapshot 2024-25: Principal Mares presented the 2024-25 Reading and Math student proficiencies and reviewed key highlights and action steps in place for both reading and math initiatives. Discussion followed. Appreciation was extended to Principal Mares for her presentation and integral work involving system-wide curriculum initiatives.
 - d. Gym Facility Fundraising: Current status of fundraising was provided with strong momentum continuing. Information remains captured on the [Gym Project webpage](#).
 - e. Annual Outcomes: President Desotell reported 2024-25 outcomes highlighting accomplishments and challenges. Discussion followed. President Desotell was recognized for her leadership lending to the system's strong and healthy position.

4. Board of Trustees Chair Report: Nick Anderson reported on the following:
 - a. Board of Directors: A report of the April 30, 2025 Board of Directors meeting was provided.
 - b. Strategic Plan: The Focus Areas and Action Plans continue to be embedded not only in leadership efforts but in daily operations, remaining a living framework for ongoing priorities and actions.
 - c. 2025-26 Meeting and Topic Schedule: The schedule of meetings and topics was presented.
5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Facilities: Chet Lamers reported on the cycle of Facility Grant applications which are focused this year on security enhancement to align with findings from school safety assessments. Aligning each grant application cycle to a focus area will improve clarity for the parishes (applicants), enhance impact measurement, and increase strategic alignment. Discussion followed.
 - b. Finance: Marv Wall reported that finances are on the path to zero budget. Review of Choice Reserve was conducted, and actions have assisted in managing the Reserve. Discussion followed.
 - c. Education: Sue Amtmann emphasized the tremendous work and support of the Curriculum Team and ongoing commitment and focus on student achievement. Information regarding PLCs – Professional Learning Communities – was shared in addition to the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP) and gifted and talented pilot. The Committee will be embarking on an initiative in 2025-26 to develop a “profile of a GRACE graduate”. The first profile will focus on the profile of an eighth-grade graduate. This will be a collaborative effort, and principals have already been contacted on a preliminary basis to introduce the concept and plant the seed for future discussions.
 - d. Advancement: The Executive Summary of the Campaign for Educator Compensation Feasibility Study completed by Partners in Mission (PIM) was presented by Kelly Williams, Nate Tackaberry and President Desotell. Elements of goals, internal readiness, climate and timing, key findings, and PIM’s recommendations were reviewed. Discussion ensued. Targeted next steps and action items were presented and discussed. The Advancement Committee will continue to serve in its visionary role and tactical team has been established to drive the project forward and ensure steady progress.
6. Trustee Candidates: Nick Anderson presented Dr. Steven Gale, Dana Pecho, and Sarah Green as candidates to the Board of Trustees. Motion made by Sue Amtmann and seconded by John Peterson to elect Dr. Steven Gale, Dana Pecho, and Sarah Green to the GRACE Board of Trustees. Motion carried.
7. Recognition: Nick Anderson and the entire Board extended to Marv Wall and John Peterson deepest appreciation for their many years of dedicated and outstanding service to the Board; their expertise, dedication and faith-filled leadership has been instrumental to the success of GRACE.
8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 12, 2025