GRACE Board of Trustees
August 12, 2025
Minutes
6:30 p.m., GRACE Riverside Office

Present: Sue Amtmann, Nick Anderson, Bridget Erwin, Dr. Steven Gale, Sarah Green, Eric Guzowski, Ed Kippley, Chet Lamers, Ty Little, Dana Pecho, Samantha Wagner, Kelly Williams
Others Present: Tyler Degeneffe, Kim Desotell, Nick Lubenow, Patty Nennig, Bill Noel, Nate Tackaberry (virtual), Laura Van Sambeek, Melissa Wolcanski, Lori Ashmann-Recorder
Not Present: Bree Boettner, Carrie Gossens, Jean Thillman, Michelle Wagnitz, Erik Aleson, Paul De Leers, Adam Kersten, Amanda DeGreef, James Nooyen, Marv Wall

Nick Anderson called the meeting to order and welcomed guests present from the Committees to the Board. Prayer followed by introductions took place.

1. Advancement/Annual Appeal: Nick Anderson introduced Nate Tackaberry, Executive Director of Advancement who reported on preparations for the 2025-26 Annual Appeal. The Appeal will launch September 20-21, 2025. Comprehensive elements to the Appeal were reviewed including communications. An integral component of the Appeal are the testimonials that take place at Masses at GRACE parishes by parents, students, employees, leadership, etc. The speaker sign up list was provided. Appreciation was extended to the Trustees and Committee members who serve as ambassadors of GRACE.

2. President's Report: Kim Desotell highlighted the following from her provided report:
    a. Enrollment: To date enrollment was reviewed and key data points were addressed.
    b. Staffing: An update involving the open principal position at Holy Family Catholic School was provided. Leadership support is in place, and the school is prepared for the start of the academic year.
    c. Diocese of Green Bay: The Diocese is currently engaged in a comprehensive evaluation process to assess parish structure and resources in efforts to strengthen its mission.
    d. Executive Director of Learning: Dr. Stephanie Shedrow has been hired and has been in the position for two weeks. Director Shedrow, in part, has been assisting with leadership at Holy Family Catholic School. Dr. Shedrow will attend a future Board meeting.
    e. Fall Convocation: Fall Convocation will be held on August 19th, and all were invited to attend as schedules would permit.
    f. Legacy: The poignant story of Mary Lamers was shared reviewing her and her family's faith, dedication and service to Catholic education.

3. Minutes: Motion made by Bridget Erwin and seconded by Dan Bins to approve the June 10, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

4. Committee Reports:
    a. Advancement: Kelly Williams reported that the Gym Facility Fundraising Project is at 69% of goal. The project web page on the St. John Paul II Classical School website continues to be updated with project progress. Kelly Williams proceeded to review the work involving the educator compensation campaign. The Committee's work along with that of the internal tactical team – the St. Vincent Compensation Campaign Team – will continue to address the recommendations and resultant next steps and action items from the consultant, Partners in Mission (PIM). This work is anticipated to prepare the system for a future launch in approximately one year.

b. Education: Sue Amtmann reviewed the mission of the Committee and excitement given the Executive Director of Learning hire and new members to the Committee. An overview of the focus areas that will be addressed by the team was reviewed: reading/math proficiency, language arts, new math program, profile of a GRACE 8th grade graduate, and diverse learning needs.
c. Facilities: Chet Lamers reviewed the list of 2025 Summer Facility Projects throughout GRACE Schools. Chet Lamers also reviewed the yearly grant cycle which has been designed this year to target projects for safety and security. The rationale for and benefits of the targeted approach were outlined. Vitality Goal #3 of the GRACE Strategic Plan - Conduct a Long-Term Strategic Facilities Study - was cited. Aptly this is highly visionary and will require extensive resources and execution.
d. Finance: Sarah Green reported on the fiscal year end audit which is being wrapped up. Auditors were on site the week of August 4th. Kim Desotell shared the auditor's commendation to her at the audit exit meeting, of the work of the Finance Office in collaboration with leadership for its effective financial management.

5. Board of Trustees Chair Report: Nick Anderson reported on the following:
   a. Governance: A review took place of the Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, and Committees to the Board of Trustees. Efforts continue to support healthy turnover of membership.
   b. Expectations of the Board of Trustees and Committees: The guidelines were reviewed and trustees and members were asked to complete.
   c. Officers: The 2025-26 slate of officers were presented for approval: Nick Anderson-Chair, Samantha Wagner-Vice Chair, Treasurer-Melissa Wolcanski, Lori Ashmann-Secretary. Motion made by Chet Lamers to approve the slate of officers for 2025-26 as presented; seconded by Kelly Williams.
   d. Topic Schedule: The 2025-26 topic schedule for the Board and Committees was reviewed. Having a school principal and SAC Chair at meetings has been well received.
   e. Strategic Plan: The Board's ongoing commitment and intense focus on the Strategic Plan remains. Kim Desotell addressed Faith Goal #1 and Vitality Goal #2. Discussion followed.

6. Gratitude: Nick Anderson extended appreciation to all who serve on the Board and its Committees for their dedication and service to the mission GRACE schools.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 14, 2025