

GRACE Board of Directors

April 30, 2025

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Diocese of Green Bay, Chancery, St. Francis Xavier Conference Room

Members present: Fr. John Girotti, Nick Anderson, Dr. Becky Walker, Fr. James Baraniak, O.Praem., Fr. Adam Bradley, Fr. Andrew Cribben, Fr. Don Everts, Fr. Michael Ingold, Fr. Robert Kabat, Fr. Ryan Krueger, Fr. James Lucas, Abbot Gary Neville, Fr. Erick Ondieki, Deacon Jeff Prickette, Fr. Tom Reynebeau, Fr. Mathew Simonar, Deacon Paul Umentum, Fr. Juan Zarate

Others present: Kim Desotell, Marv Wall, Melissa Wolcanski, Jeff Young, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Members not present: Bishop David Ricken, Rev. Canon Antoine Boucheron, Fr. Mike Brennan, O.Praem., Fr. Jose Lopez Vargas, Fr. Quinn Mann

- Call to Order and Opening Prayer: Fr. Girotti called the meeting to order with an opening prayer, welcome and opening remarks.
- Agenda Review and Approval: Motion made by Fr. Kabat and seconded by Fr. Bradley to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Fr. Reynebeau and seconded by Fr. Bradley to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.
- Superintendent of Catholic Schools Report: Dr. Becky Walker distributed her report reviewing the Office of Catholic Schools' work in the areas of Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality. A summary of highlights was provided. Discussion followed. Dr. Walker also reviewed the hire of Amy Ott as the new President of Notre Dame Academy.
- Consultors Report: Deacon Jeff Prickette reported that the Consultors met in March receiving information on Gym Facility Fundraising, Feasibility Study, and 2025-26 proposed budget including rent schedule. Discussion followed concerning the parish verification form and process. GRACE's nine schools offer options and school communities are no longer geographically confined, as families are more mobile and choose schools and churches for other reasons rather than simply proximity to their residence.
- System President's Report:
 - Mission Moment: President Desotell introduced a Mission Moment welcoming and introducing Jeff Young, Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. Fr. Baraniak and Principal Young proceeded to review the school's growth in enrollment and vitality citing elements of stellar curriculum, parents "telling the story", and involvement of the school in CatholicLink Leadership Academy (CLA). Fr. Baraniak and Principal Young were acknowledged for their leadership and contributions to the vision of the school from which best practices will be shared.
 - System Update: President Desotell continued to report on 2025-26 enrollment and summarized key challenges and blessings. School staffing, increased benefit costs, facilities and affordability of Catholic education are key challenges. The NFL Draft presented no issues, and school was in session without disruption. Eighth grade graduates continue to progress to Notre Dame Academy at a solid rate with Chesterton Academy of St. John Paul II Classical School offering a noncompetitive, small, distinctive alternative.
 - Gym Facility Fundraising: Fundraising status was presented and review of the webpage with details: sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org/gym-project.

- Board of Trustees Update: Nick Anderson reviewed the Vitality Focus area of the [2024-27 Strategic Plan](#) specifically citing the goal to increase GRACE enrollment. The impact of all as ambassadors to share the story of a GRACE Catholic education is pivotal to this goal. Discussion continued to address the goal to enhance educator compensation and long-term system stability. A report on the consultant's work - Partners in Mission (PIM) – was presented which provided an outline of key findings and recommendations. Discussion followed. The input of the Board on next steps in readiness of a feasibility campaign was requested. The readiness plan and update will be provided at the Board's December meeting.
- Review of Current Financials: Marv Wall presented the financial report ending February 28, 2025. Slight loss is reflected at this time, but actuals are trending close to budget.
- 2025-26 Proposed Budget: Melissa Wolcanski presented the proposed 2025-26 budget and reviewed the snapshot summary reporting key elements of revenue, expenses and parish support. The challenge involving health insurance costs and experiential increases was cited. Discussion followed. Motion made by Fr. Ingold and second by Fr. Baraniak to approve the 2025-26 budget as presented. Motion carried.
- 2025-26 Parish Investment: Melissa Wolcanski reviewed the presented Summary Change GRACE Investment After Transition Plan and Formula for GRACE Parish Investment Allocation. This is year 3 of the transition plan. Statements will be issued. Melissa Wolcanski extended her willingness to meet with anyone on an individual basis to further review this information.
- Other Business:
 - Board Structure: Fr. Girotti and Dr. Walker reviewed that possibilities are being explored to address the large size of the Board to strengthen it. Options being considered include designation of focus areas based on leader expertise. Such a new model would provide for better manageability. Evaluation is ongoing and will take place over summer. Further information will be shared in fall.
 - Recognition: Fr. Reynebeau and Deacon Umentum were acknowledged for their service on the Board, with appreciation expressed for their leadership and for their dedication to the students, families, and employees of the system.
- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. at which time the Board entered Executive Session after which Dr. Walker would facilitate the required Unanimous Written Consents.

Next meeting: December 3, 2025