

GRACE Board of Trustees
October 14, 2025
Minutes
6:30 p.m., GRACE Riverside Office

Present: Sue Amtmann, Nick Anderson, Bridget Erwin, Eric Guzowski, Ed Kippley, Chet Lamers, Ty Little, Dana Pecho, Samantha Wagner, Kelly Williams

Others Present: Kim Desotell, Dr. Stephanie Shedrow, Nate Tackaberry, Edgar Zaragoza, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Not Present: Dan Bins, Dr. Steven Gale, Sarah Green, Melissa Wolcanski

Nick Anderson called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

1. Wisconsin Parental Choice Program Forum: There were no parents present for the forum opportunity. President Desotell introduced Edgar Zaragoza as GRACE's Outreach Administrator and Home/School Liaison for St. Bernard Catholic School. He has 100% contact with Choice families throughout the system. Edgar Zaragoza introduced himself, his roles, and experience with GRACE and the Choice program. He has been with GRACE for eight years. His responsibilities allow him to connect with a large audience within the system. An overview of challenges was provided citing the need to elevate admissions and enrollment through an identified lead administrator with strengthened organization and communications. Discussion ensued involving customer service; meeting families where they are; current communications; Choice entry points, criteria and application window; and support involving other tuition-reducing opportunities. Kim Desotell reviewed how the Choice program allows GRACE to balance schools socioeconomically and to reflect the school's community. The aspect of confidentiality with all aspects of the Choice program was further reviewed. Chet Lamers shared his witness to the growth of the Choice program and the professional growth of Edgar Zaragoza over the eight years of service. Appreciation was extended to Edgar Zaragoza for his contributions.
2. Minutes: Motion made by Sue Amtmann and seconded by Ed Kippley approve the August 12, 2025 Board meeting minutes and presented Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. President's Report: Kim Desotell highlighted the following from her provided report:
 - a. Enrollment: Third Friday 2025 statistics were summarized noting the differences between preschool vs. K-12. Analysis continues involving recruitment and retention by school. Data involving student transfers within the system was presented and discussed. Guidelines have been established, and parent/principal communications continue to be strengthened in this area. Transfers require involvement of both origin and (the requested) destination school principals from which a recommendation is then submitted for review by approval by President Desotell. Discussion followed. Future meetings will entail specific reports on enrollment-related areas.
 - b. Opportunity: Kim Desotell confidentially informed the Board of an opportunity that has presented itself to potentially relocate Holy Cross Catholic School. The school's relocation opportunity has stemmed from a donation offer of a generous, anonymous benefactor. Confidential, focused study has been taking place involving representatives of Holy Cross Parish, GRACE, and the Diocese. The potential new school site was identified as the former Wequiock Elementary School of the Green Bay Area Public School District which closed after the 2024-25 academic year. The Board was also informed that the sale of the former Wequiock Elementary School to the now owner/donor included a clause that the building cannot be used as a school which will be challenged by the owner/donor if relocation were to be approved the Diocese, Holy Cross

Parish and governance of GRACE School System. Currently, the opportunity continues in study phase. The donor has requested an answer. The impact of upcoming 2026-27 enrollment season is also consideration factor. Discussion ensued involving the Wequiock school closure, current evaluation findings of the Wequiock building, and status of the current Holy Cross school. Enrollment and financial analysis has been conducted including Wequiock building site inspections. The benefits and challenges of the school at either site were further discussed. Confidentiality was emphasized. Trustees were invited to tour the site and welcomed to be involved in the continued in-depth conversations and study. The Board will be kept informed of further developments and was alerted that a future special Board meeting and/or electronic vote will likely need to take place in November. [Note: The e-vote was conducted by the Board of Trustees during the week of October 27, 2025. All Trustees approve via e-vote by October 31, 2025.]

4. Executive Director of Learning: Kim Desotell introduced Dr. Stephanie Shedrow, Executive Director of Learning, who joined GRACE on August 4, 2025. Dr. Shedrow's extensive background in education was summarized, and her immense support involving the interim school leadership for Holy Family Catholic School since her hire was acknowledged. As the Executive Director of Learning, she will oversee the principals and strengthen instructional practices and support leadership at the school level. In addition, she will also oversee the ongoing development and alignment of the GRACE curriculum team, lead efforts focused on improving and expanding teacher development and enhancing student achievement. Discussion followed. Dr. Shedrow's hire and focus will enable President Desotell to devote increased efforts outwardly on strategic initiatives. Dr. Shedrow reviewed her experience to date and the benefits of having been involved in the interim leadership plan given the Holy Family Catholic School principal vacancy.
5. Board of Trustees Chair Report: Nick Anderson reported on the following:
 - a. Strategic Plan: An overview of ongoing efforts involving action items of the strategic plan was provided.
 - b. Membership of Board Committees: Nick Anderson presented two candidates for membership: Molly Charles to the Education Committee and Nathan Grossenbach to the Finance Committee. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Chet Lamers and seconded by Bridget Erwin to approve the committee appointments of Molly Charles and Nathan Grossenbach as presented. Motion carried. Their appointment requests will be taken to the Board of Directors in December.
6. Committee Reports:
 - a. Education: Sue Amtmann referred to the Committee's September meeting minutes and the curriculum article contained in the Fall GRACE newsletter. Sue Amtmann reported on the fully staffed Technology Integration Specialists team along with an update on the work to develop a Portrait of an Eighth Grade Graduate. Trustees were alerted to a forthcoming survey that will be issued later in the month to collect input for analysis on eighth grade graduate attributes.
 - b. Facilities: Chet Lamers reported that the Committee is conducting a Forced Ranking Exercise from which results are anticipated to be ready for presentation at the December Board meeting. This exercise is a complementary follow-up to the completed site assessments. Discussion followed.

- c. Advancement: Kelly Williams acknowledged Nate Tackaberry, Executive Director of Advancement, who proceeded to provide an update involving the Teacher Compensation Campaign readiness efforts and the Advancement Committee focus. The tactical team continues work, and momentum continues involving readiness elements identified by the consultant. The team consists of Nate Tackaberry, Kim Desotell, Melissa Wolcanski, Brenda Daming and Bree Boettner. The Advancement Committee has divided into two forces focusing on planning giving and on telling the story. An additional update was provided on the Annual Appeal citing current tracking to goal, thank you calls being completed by Trustees, social media, and follow-up communications to those who have not yet contributed. Kelly Williams recapped the readiness efforts for the Compensation Campaign and extended gratitude to the members of Advancement Committee for their immense work and engagement. Discussion followed.
- d. Finance: Nick Anderson reported on behalf of Sarah Green.
 - i. August financials are tracking close to year-to-date budget. Financials do not yet reflect significant activity as it is early on, and tuition revenue is yet to be reported. Tuition payment plans begin in July, and revenue will start being recognized in September.
 - ii. The Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit was approved by e-vote earlier in the month and the audit was submitted as required on timely basis. Gratitude was extended for the prompt attention to the required review and electronic vote.

7. Other:

- a. Safety Survey: Kim Desotell reported that the Safety Survey launched on October 9, 2025 with solid responses being received. Parents have been expressing gratitude for conducting the survey. The survey will close on October 17, 2025.
- b. Planned Giving: Nate Tackaberry distributed drafts of planning giving documents and an estate declaration form and requested feedback from each Trustee to be sent to his attention.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 9, 2025