

GRACE Board of Trustees
December 9, 2025
Minutes
6:30 p.m., St. Bernard Catholic School

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

Others Present: Kim Desotell, David Gusloff, Jamie Haines, Melissa Wolscanki, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Not Present: Dr. Steven Gale, Sarah Green

Nick Anderson called the meeting to order with an opening prayer.

1. St. Bernard Catholic School: The Board welcomed Principal, David Gusloff and Site Advisory Council (SAC) Chair, Jaime Haines, and extended gratitude for the school hosting the December Board meeting. Principal Gusloff shared his experience with the school now into this third year. Areas highlighted included staff hires; strengthened, positive school culture; community involvement; partnerships internally and externally; and instructional growth. Factors involving enrollment including retention and recruitment, budget and family engagement factors were also shared. Mrs. Haines proceeded to review the SAC composition and efforts. Discussion followed. Recognition and gratitude were extended to both Principal Gusloff and Mrs. Haines for their leadership and contributions which continue to positively impact the school's mission in service to students and families.
2. Minutes: Motion made by Dan Bins and seconded by Sam Wagner to approve the October 14, 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. Fall Parent Teacher Conferences: Participation data for the Fall 2025 Parent/Teacher Conferences was presented. Participation was strong, and the schools were commended for their efforts.
 - b. Enrollment: President Desotell presented an overview of enrollment by ethnicity, noting that schools continue to reflect their surrounding communities. The system remains committed to serving all students and inviting all families to engage. Discussion followed, including a suggestion that further analysis-examining zip codes and census data-may be beneficial to inform the system's mission, marketing, and communications strategies.
 - c. WRISA Accreditation: Schools have received accreditation, with final reports from WRISA forthcoming. President Desotell shared the preliminary commendations and recommendations. The principals were lauded for their work.
 - d. Holy Cross Catholic School: No additional information is available at this time. Updates will be provided as further developments occur. Discussion followed.
 - e. Board of Directors Fall Meeting: As Nick Anderson was unable to attend the December 4th meeting, President Desotell reported on the proceedings of the meeting: Bishop Ricken's remarks and call to get families to Mass- "reclaiming Sunday"; election of officers, approval of consultors, approval of new trustees, compensation campaign update, annual report review, and audit approval.
 - f. Donation: President Desotell announced that an anonymous donation has been made directed to providing a Christmas bonus to all GRACE employees. Discussion followed regarding communications and timeline for disbursement.

4. Board of Trustees Chair Report: Nick Anderson reported on the following:
 - a. Annual Report 2024-25: The report was reviewed. The importance of “telling the story” continues to be an emphasis in all communication. The report’s “talent spotlight” is another excellent demonstration of the mission and value of GRACE.
 - b. School Safety: The comprehensive school safety materials provided in the Board packet was presented for action. President Desotell expressed full endorsement of the safety plans, safety drill logs, and written drill evaluations. Motion made by Ty Little and seconded by Ed Kippley to approve the safety plans, logs, and evaluations as presented. Motion carried.
 - c. Academic Calendar 2026-27: The 2026-27 Academic Calendar was presented for approval. President Desotell reviewed the calendar preparation process and factors involved including, in part, instructional minutes. Motion made by Chet Lamers and second by Bridget Erwin to approve the 2026-27 Academic Calendar as presented. Motion carried.
5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Advancement: Kelly Williams reported that the St. Vincent Team continues its tactical work in support of Advancement initiatives. The Advancement team tasked with the storytelling focus is working with Partners in Mission to strengthen this area. Collaboration and cohesiveness across efforts remain strong. She also highlighted the ongoing success of the Annual Appeal, noting that contributions are up \$20,000 compared to this time last year. Gratitude was expressed to the Trustees for making phone calls to donors to convey appreciation. Presentation commenced on the GRACE Feasibility Study which was presented to the Board of Directors at its December meeting. Reviewed were educator stories, recommendation steps, and campaign next steps. The short- and long-term considerations for campaign funds were also presented and discussed.
 - b. Education: Sue Amtmann expressed gratitude to all for taking the Portrait of an Eighth Grade Graduate survey. Comprehensive feedback from the various audiences has added positively to ongoing development of this Portrait. The Portrait is being aligned to categories of vitality, leadership and service. The timeline for its presentation to the Board in April is still in place. The Committee is also addressing how this tool will be used moving forward.
 - c. Facilities: Chet Lamers presented the Forced Ranking Exercise completed by the committee. A summary table and summary ranking by area were presented and discussed. The exercise provides insight into where opportunities are present and will strengthen our evaluation and next steps. Involvement of the principal leadership team and finance elements were discussed.
 - d. Finance: Melissa Wolcanski reported that financials ending in October represent two months of operation and are tracking year to date. Two subcommittees have been formed, one to address a cash investment policy and another to address insurance. Melissa Wolcanski proceeded to present proposed 2026-27 tuition and fees. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Ty Little and seconded by Sam Wagner to approve the K-8 tuition and fees presented at the 2.5% increase with preschool tuition and fees to be readdressed. Motion carried. Given the impending launch of the 2026-27 enrollment season the Board will need to readdress preschool tuition and fees in the near future electronically.
6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2026