

Voice of the Faithful
Board of Trustees
January 20, 2023

A virtual meeting was held. Attending: Mary Pat Fox (Presiding), Pat Gomez, Elia Marnik, Svea Fraser, Paul Hardart, John Salvati, Margaret Roylance, David Castaldi, and Joe Feitelberg. Also present was Donna Doucette, Executive Director.

The meeting was called to order by Mary Pat Fox, President, at 12 p.m.

An opening prayer was led by Svea Fraser.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of November 21, 2022, had been circulated to the Trustees. Pat corrected the name of the university she had contacted for assistance in identifying possible reviewers for the Protection of Children study. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended and seconded, the minutes were approved.

Financial Reports: Pat Gomez addressed the Board. Financials had been distributed prior to the meeting. Pat reported on the final large contribution being made by our major donor as they fall back to their primary focus on catholic education. Donna stepped us through the cash flow report.

Executive Director Report. Donna Doucette submitted a written report in advance of the meeting. Donna discussed her attendance at the recent AUSCP meeting.

Financial Transparency Working Group and Governance. Margaret Roylance discussed the need for the Governance Report to be done in the Spring, necessitating the letter from the President to the Bishops to go out by the end of January. The FWG is meeting Saturday, January 21, to discuss possible changes to include looking at the “foundations” in the diocese. Also discussed was the possibility of taping a video that would instruct dioceses on the best ways to improve their scores.

Protection of Children Working Group Update. Pat Gomez expressed concern about finding reviewers. She had asked Sandra but unfortunately, she declined due to her current workload. The search continues.

Retreat: Svea Fraser discussed the plans for the retreat and the importance of it. The group agreed to the date of April 22, 2023, in the Boston area. Svea will work on the location and welcomed others who may want to work with her on that. We agreed that we should plan on a full day starting at approximately 10 am and end at 4 pm with lunch brought in. All agreed we would like a mass included.

Search Committee: Mary Pat reported that the committee had a successful meeting. Members of the committee had requested that we move forward with the retreat. Pat Gomez had spoken to Ray Joyce, former VOTF ED, and he had recommended posting on Linked-In and said he would distribute to his network. Mary Pat agreed to discuss with Nick his intentions and next steps for the ED job search. Nick stressed the need for the board to contact our major donors before going public with the search. All agreed that was the right approach. Margaret, Pat and Mary Pat will meet next week to ensure all major donors are contacted about Donna's retirement.

New Business: Joe Fietleberg brought forth a motion and ensuing conversation on the need for a strategic plan. Joe nominated Paul Hardart to lead the committee. Conversation resulted in a unanimous vote to begin praying about this and for the board members to review what is on the website; the official work on the strategic plan would begin after the retreat. Paul Hardart agreed to lead the committee to begin work immediately following the retreat.

At 1:51 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with a prayer, the Glory Be.

Next Meeting February 17, 2023, at 12 noon.