Accola Executive Committee
Wednesday, July 23, 2025; 8:00 – 9:30 am
Zoom Virtual Meeting

In Attendance: Kevin Berg; Anita S. Duckor, CSJ-C; Steve Kenney; Mary Lydon; Brian Mallaro; Susan Oeffling, CSJ; Joel Rainville; Jill Underdahl, CSJ; Jean Wincek, CSJ

Staff: Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Anne Weyandt

The Accola Executive Committee convened on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 via Zoom. Chair Steve Kenney called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

DEI: Read by Anita.

Spiritual Centering: Jean led the committee in spiritual centering.

Minutes: The May minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Susan moved and all present members voted to approve the March minutes.

President's report – See Report
Matt reviewed the new format of the President's Report. Feedback about the level of information contained within the report was requested. Matt reported that there are two new leadership team members: Andrée Aronson (Advancement Director) and Haven Green (Wisdom Ways Director). Accola is hiring a new Marketing Coordinator.

Matt reviewed the funding for Learning In Style School. Matt reported that there has been discussion about the admin/Wisdom Ways relocation. He explained that this relocation is to increase engagement with our communities and that it will not change our relationship and commitment to the CSJ community.

Matt reported that Accola is submitting grants towards legal funding and the creation of access hubs for immigrants. Matt provided a report of Sarah's and the possibility of updating its facility. Matt reviewed the earned revenue plan.

The committee discussed the idea and sustainability of immigrant hubs. There was a discussion about the admin/WW relocation and where staff are choosing to work. It was suggested that an organizational chart be drawn up of the reporting structure of Accola and staff departments.

Committee Updates
<u>Finance/Audit:</u> Brian reported that the budget has been approved for FY26. Goals include a transition to a governance role and a solid financial team has been organized. Financials have become more transparent. Brian reviewed the audit process. Goals for FY26 include initiatives that support Matt, the Accola team, and resource management. Brian is open to feedback on additional goals for the Finance Committee.

Investment: Mary reported that Tiffany undertook a large forensic project that identified various funds, including the intent of donor restrictions, that weren't clear. The Investment Committee and Accola now has a better understanding of how funding can be calculated for the annual distribution. The committee is working on the selection process for an Investment Manager.

Nomination & Governance: Anita reported that the Nomination and Governance Committee had nine goals this past year and many were accomplished. Goals for the upcoming year include improving Board development and the onboarding process. A more transparent and open officer selection process wll also be developed. The Board Portal will be updated monthly. Steve stated that Anne Weyandt will be joining the committee.

Mission Education: Susan reported that the CSJ Mission Education Committee met in June and has begun a preliminary discussion about future projects. The committee is processing Board feedback about topics of interest. There was a discussion about the committee meeting with donors to explain the CSJ connection to Accola.

Advancement: Joel reported that the Advancement Committee and the Marketing Committee merged into one last year. Joel reviewed the goals of the committee throughout the transition period. Joel addressed committee attendance and is working with Steve to improve this. Joel reported that Andrée is drafting the Integrated Fund Development plan for FY26.

Discussion/Action – Board Winter Retreat

The Executive Committee discussed a possible Board Retreat for FY26. The committee agreed that this retreat should be in-person, productive, and have intention and meaningful processes. Steve asked for volunteers to serve on a planning committee.

Executive Committee Assessment Results

This agenda item was tabled.

Executive Session: The Executive Committee went into Executive Session at 9:37 a.m.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola