



DRAFT

**Accola Board of Directors
Thursday, February 19, 2026; 4:00-6:30 PM
In-Person & Zoom**

In Attendance: Kevin Berg; Marjie Blevins; Karen Gervais; Steve Kenney; Mary Lydon; Brian Mullen; Susan Oeffling, CSJ; Colleen O’Malley, CSJ; Adele O’Sullivan, CSJ; Joel Rainville; Gabrielle Rohde; Kris Smyth; Sandy Vargas; Anne Weyandt; Jill Underdahl, CSJ; Jean Wincek, CSJ

Staff: Matt Halley, Tiffany Melnik

Excused Absences: Anita Duckor, CSJ-C; Angela Schreiber, CSJ

Absent: Comfort Dondo

The Accola Board of Directors meeting convened in-person and on Zoom on Thursday, January 19, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

DEI Statement: Read by Kevin.

Spiritual Centering: Led by Joel.

Minutes: The December minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, all present members voted to approve the December meeting minutes with one abstention.

Impact Breakfast – April 21, 2026

The group discussed plans for an upcoming Impact Breakfast on April 21st at the Rauenhorst Ballroom at St. Catherine University, where board members were asked to host tables and solicit sponsors. Several members shared their strategies for inviting guests, including leveraging personal networks and social media. The CSJ sisters reported making progress on their table invitations, with some guests already confirming attendance.

Setting the Stage for Financial Decision-Making:

President Matt Halley presented the *February 2026 Level Setting* deck

The presentation was framed as a strategic alignment conversation, not a decision point. Objectives included:

- Aligning Board assumptions with current organizational realities
- Confirming Accola's financial strength
- Preparing the Board for governance work ahead

Financial Update

FY26 contributed revenue goal is \$940,000. Year-to-date contributions as of 12/31 total \$328,756 against a YTD budget target of \$638,934 (approximately 52% of annual goal achieved, consistent with prior year timing). Variance is primarily related to grant revenue expectations.

Asset Position

Accola's assets, accumulated under a foundation model, provide financial strength but present structural considerations as the organization operates as a service-delivery nonprofit. Asset rigidity may affect grant eligibility, pace of capacity-building, and short-term operating flexibility.

Strategic Framing

Assets provide flexibility that enables capacity-building; capacity-building supports revenue diversification; diversified revenue reduces long-term reliance on assets. The organization remains in a capacity-building phase, and stability is essential to long-term sustainability.

The presentation concluded with generative governance questions for future Board consideration. No action was requested or taken.

Sarah's Facility Planning: Matt discussed the state of the Sarah's facility, which is a 30-year-old building past its useful life and the need to consider options for spending money, including renovating the facility or investing in a new facility. The board acknowledged the need for concrete proposals and discussed the upcoming budget decisions, with a focus on maintaining the organization's mission and capacity.

President's Report

Due to time constraints, Matt did not provide a verbal President's report. He referred to staff reports in the Board Portal.

Committee Reports

Finance and Audit: Tiffany reported that Accola was operating in a deficit position due to lower than expected advancement revenue, though core recurring funding sources remained steady.

Investment Committee: Mary discussed their upcoming meeting with LCG to transition their investment management and address custodial issues.

Nomination and Governance: Steve (for Anita) reiterated the need for new board members,

particularly those with finance or investment management experience, and encouraged younger candidates.

Programs and Opportunities: Anne announced an upcoming retreat and requested that board members be present at 5 PM on Friday for an opening ritual.

Advancement: Joel provided an update on the April 21st Impact Breakfast Event and encouraged board members to help fill tables.

CSJ Mission Education: Susan asked for feedback on the February Board Education Session and indicated that due to the community crisis stemming from the ICE surge, the committee is no longer considering a bus tour for this year.

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matt Halley, Accola