Accola
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Accola Executive Committee
Wednesday, May 27, 2026; 8:00 – 9:30 am
Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

Staff: Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

The Accola Executive Committee convened on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 via Zoom. Chair Steve Kenney called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

DEI: Read by Susan.

Spiritual Centering: Anne led the committee in spiritual centering.

Agenda: The May agenda was presented for approval. Hearing no changes to the agenda, Susan moved to approve the agenda and Joel seconded. All present members voted in favor of the agenda.

Minutes: The March minutes were presented for approval. Jean suggested removing the comments on page 3 regarding the executive session. This section will be placed in its own separate document as is. With this change, Anita moved and Kevin seconded the approve of the revised minutes. All present members voted to approve.

Open Board Discussions
Matt reviewed the prioritized list of open Board discussions. The committee discussed how and when these topics should be brought forward to the Board and how much preparation for these discussions should take place beforehand. Matt stated that there needs to be an update and refinement of the Accola Strategic Plan. The mission and vision of Accola should be more focused, while the Accola values are clearly aligned.

The committee discussed whether it is time to revise the strategic plan and what this process might look like in terms of resources, staff engagement, and Board involvement.

The committee discussed open staffing and Board positions and revenue priorities. It was suggested that this may be a project for FY27 but that a process should be established for ahead of time. Jean suggested refining the mission and vision, analyzing current commitments, and prioritize accordingly. The committee discussed community and donor engagement, planning versus action, and Board responsibilities. It was pointed out that the mission was intentionally made broad to better fit the programs under the Accola umbrella. Matt emphasized the importance of deeper conversations and efficiency.

It was suggested that this project could start with a small ad hoc group of people putting together a plan for beginning the process of strategic planning. This would help determine the best approach without starting from scratch. The committee discussed relationships and partnerships within the community, and challenges in the non-profit community. Mary suggested that committee members sort through their files and notes and get copies of the work with previous consultants. The Board Chair, in consultation the with Board Officers and Matt, will determine who is on this ad hoc committee.

Anne moved a two-part motion: 1) to form an ad hoc board committee to 'refresh' the Accola mission and vision, including a consideration of the landscape within which we live with other nonprofit and organizational partners and collaborators; and 2) for Matt and Board Officers establish a calendar for Board decision-making to ensure the 'big questions' come before the Board for consideration and action in a timely manner. Jean seconded this motion. All present members voted in favor of this two-part motion.

President's Report

Overview of Accola Status: Matt reported that there are a lot of open staffing positions and two medical absences. Danielle is acting as interim director for Wisdom Ways and Andree is providing support for Danielle. Matt is currently supporting Learning In Style School and Administration. Marie Smith has temporarily joined the team and will be managing the budget and finance departments. Director interviews are moving forward with Sarah's and Learning In Style.

Governance vs. Operational Initiatives Discussion

Role of President
Role of Committees
Role of Executive Committee
Role of Full Board

Matt reported that strategic planning will help establish clarity around Board, committee, and President roles.

Committee Updates

Finance & Audit: Steve reported that there is exciting news in terms of revenue and this will show on the May report. There will be a special Finance/Audit Committee meeting on June 1 to go over a preliminary draft of the budget. There will be a full review of the final budget on June 16, which will be recommended to the Board at the June 18th meeting.

Steve reported that RFPs were sent out for the hiring of a new audit firm. However, this hiring is now being pushed back until FY27. He reported that Otto Bremer has presented Accola with a $125,000 grant and two recent estate gifts have come in. Matt has been authorized to take up to $400,000 to cover cash flows.

Advancement: Joel reported that the Breakfast was both engagement-wise and financially successful with over 60 new donors and over $200,000 in donations. The committee previewed the new Accola website, which will be published by the end of June. The Soul Conference has moved from a weekend event to several events throughout the summer. Joel encouraged members to attend events, including the Sarah's Fundraiser. Joel reported that the committee has discussed the possibility of establishing a subcommittee of young professionals who can help with greater engagement and community building.

Nomination & Governance

Board, Committee, and President Assessments: Anita reported that Board, President, and Committee assessment surveys will be sent out on June 1. The Board handbook will be updated. She and Lacy have been talking about ways to make the Portal more accessible to members.

Mission Education: Susan reported that the committee continues to discuss what and how topics around the CSJs should be presented to the Board. The challenge is finding time during Board meetings.

Programs and Opportunities

Crisis-to-Community Program Recommendations: Anne reported that the committee is working collaboratively with Matt to develop a recommendation on the Crisis-to-Community project. This topic will be discussed at the Board Education session. This initiative stems from the earned income project. Questions include if this initiative fits within the scope of Accola's mission, risks in moving in a new program direction, and whether additional research is needed.

Investment

Transfer of Funds to SMHC: Mary reported that the Market has increased and the endowment is at $27.7 million. SMHC will receive its portion of the investment pool before the end of June. If an account with Fidelity is not set up by this time, SMHC will receive a check. Kevin encouraged documentation of this transaction and having someone for SMHC to sign off.

Other Business

None

Executive Session None

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lacy Sietsema, Accola