



Accola Mission Education Committee
Monday, February 17, 2025; 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
In-Person & Zoom

Present: Kevin Berg; Susan Oeffling, CSJ; Angela Schreiber, CSJ; Kristine Smyth; Jill Underdahl, CSJ; Karen Zeleznak, CSJ-C

Staff: Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Not Present: Andrea Pearson Tande, CSJ-C

The Accola Mission Education Committee meeting began on Monday, February 17, 2025 at 1:33 p.m.

DEI Statement: Read by Susan Oeffling, CSJ.

Spiritual Centering: The committee was led in spiritual centering by Matt Halley.

Minutes: The December Minutes were presented for committee approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, the minutes were approved by all present members.

Approval of Agenda: The Mission Education Committee agenda was presented. Hearing no additional items to add to the agenda, the agenda passed unanimously.

Accola Update

Matt updated the committee on Accola. Each site has a different level of activity. LIS hosted a wonderful international pot luck for students and staff/volunteers. Students report that they feel safe at LIS and there is a deep sense of community.

The residents of Sarah's are reporting anxiety and fear due to the current political climate. Matt stated that those with asylum status are required to meet with ICE agents. Staff are attending these meetings with residents. Some family reunifications have been cancelled.

The Board will review a proposal from the Programs and Opportunities Committee about the future of Wisdom Ways. This will be a two-meeting process.

Debrief: Marty Roers Presentation

Susan requested feedback regarding the January Board Education session. Kris stated that the presentation given by Marty Roers (CSJ Justice Office/Commission) went well and led to an interesting discussion. Angela added that she heard several people say that they learned a lot and were impressed. There was a discussion about a possible partnership particularly with regards to Accola and Wisdom Ways.

Update: Bus Tour

Susan reviewed a possible itinerary for the May bus tour. The committee discussed timing and logistics. It was pointed out that the Celeste Hotel does not provide catering. Kris will finalize the itinerary, double-check with Celeste about catering and possibly reach out to Mimi to discuss catering options.

The committee discussed who would be invited to attend this tour. The bus can seat 56 and it would be ideal for Accola staff to attend as well. It was decided that it would also be appropriate to invite committee members who are not Board members.

Susan will set up another meeting of the subcommittee.

CSJ Topics/Questions Generated By Board

Susan presented the list of ideas generated at the December Board meeting. Kevin added that it would be helpful to learn more about St. Catherine University and St. Mary's Health Clinics. Susan added that it would also be helpful to learn about the consociate program.

The committee discussed ways to provide this information to Board members (emails, videos, discussion at Board meetings, etc.).

Next Meeting: March 17, 2025

Adjournment: The Mission Education Committee adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lacy Sietsema, Accola