Accola Executive Committee
Wednesday, November 20, 2024
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; Anne Weyandt

Staff: Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Jean Wincek, CSJ

The Accola Executive Committee convened on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at Learning In Style School and via Zoom. Chair Kevin Berg called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

DEI: Read by Kevin.

Prayer: Susan Oeffling, CSJ led the committee in prayer.

Minutes: The September minutes were presented to the committee for review. Hearing no changes or corrections, Joel moved to approve and Susan seconded. All present members voted in favor, with Anita abstaining.

President's report
Matt welcomed everyone who could make it in-person for the meeting at Learning In Style School. Following the meeting, there will be an Open House. The staff has worked very hard to make LIS a welcoming place in the community.

Matt reported that Senior Leadership Team, along with Kevin and Steve, have been meeting with Michael Anderson Consulting. These consultants will be at the next Board Education Session to highlight how this work is progressing.

Matt provided an update on the Wisdom Ways Sustainability project. This project is a major initiative of the Programs and Opportunities Committee. The committee has been working with SISU Consulting and are currently gathering data to inform future recommendations. There have been listening sessions with the wider CSJ Community, as well as interviews with key stakeholders. Wisdom Ways is beloved within the community but there is a need to increase its sustainability. Kevin recognized Matt and Anne for their leadership, particularly with regards to the listening sessions. Anne expressed gratitude to all the members of the Programs and Opportunities Committee for their work. She added that Wisdom Ways will continue to be an essential part of Accola.

Matt provided an update about the development of an in-house Finance Office. Accola now has full control of its finances and is very close to having financial information processed in a way that is clear and transparent. A job description for a part-time CFO will be drafted.

Committee Updates
Finance/Audit/Investment: Brian reported that the Finance Committee recently met and reviewed the finances through the end of September. Accola continues to be financially strong. There will be additional expenses in the next couple of months. There is better documentation about how funds are transferred within Accola. The Finance/Audit Committee continues to make progress on making processes efficient, effective, and affordable.

Investment: Mary reported that the Investment Committee met in October and assets have now been transferred to Accola. The committee is working to better leverage Fidelity for reporting, which would lessen dependence on Jim Reetz. A workplan is being developed and there will be a conflict of interest policy, as well as the creation of social governance filters. Kevin added that the committee has discussed breaking the investments into subaccounts. This will help the committee see where funds are allocated.

Nomination & Governance: Anita reported that Sandy Vargas has agreed to join the Accola Board. The Board will receive this recommendation in December. Beth Bird has resigned from the Nomination and Governance Committee.

Mission & Education: Susan reported that the Mission Education Committee will utilize two Board Education Sessions (January and May). Marty Roers (Justice Commission/Office) will lead a presentation that emphasizes the importance of justice and how it intersects with Accola. The May session will be a fun experience that involves a bus tour that highlights significant CSJ sites in St. Paul.

Programs & Opportunities: Anne stated that Matt's report was comprehensive and the Programs and Opportunities Committee will continue to make progress.

Advancement: Joel reported that the Advancement and Marketing Committee will meet this afternoon. He stated that Bingo Night was fun and a lot of people participated. The Advancement/Marketing Committee will develop event success metrics and a full event strategy. The committee will developa workplan that connects with the overall strategic plan. Matt added that the Annual Appeal is out. Give to the Max is tomorrow and he encouraged Board members to share and like social media posts/emails, and donate.

Discussion: Status of Conversations with SMHC
Kevin reported that he and Matt meet quarterly with SMHC leadership. The goal is to deepen the relationship between Accola and SMHC. SMHC has expressed a feeling of being left out of the conversation of joining Accola. There was a discussion about SMHC funding expectations and the possibility of increasing the amount of fundraising from Accola. Paul Tatro provides grant writing services. The Executive Committee discussed ways to develop a relationship with SMHC that benefit both parties.

Discussion: Restructure of the Ministries Foundation
Kevin stated that the Ministries Foundation still exists, but the Endowment has moved to Accola. The Foundation will continue to exist as simpler and smaller entity. The lawyers have suggested making it a support entity, with the Board of Accola appointing the Board of the Foundation. Matt and Ralph could be the Board Officers, with the Executive Committee serving as members. This topic will continue to be discussed with the lawyers.

Discussion: Board Meeting Structure
There was a discussion about how to improve Board meetings. Kevin encouraged the committee to send him feedback.

Executive Session: The Executive Committee went into Executive Session at 9:46 a.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola