



**Advancement Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 11, 2025
9:30 – 11:00 AM
Via Zoom**

Present: Steve Kenney; Joel Rainville; Gabi Rohde; Kris Smyth

Staff: Andree Aronson; Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Marjie Blevins; Brian Mullen; Mark Richards

The meeting began on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9:38 a.m.

Meeting Intention: Led by Joel.

DEI Statement: Joel read the DEI Statement.

Minutes: Approval of the August minutes has been postponed until the October committee meeting.

Advancement Update

Andrée updated the committee about the Open House at Learning In Style on September 25. This event will begin at 8:30 and include a tour of the facility. The October Open House will also be at Learning In Style School. The November Open House will take place at Carondelet Village.

Andrée is implementing a bi-monthly staff update. This update will contain some program stories and finances. This will help keep the Board connected to Accola activities.

Andrée reported that Sam Fernandez has begun her position as the MarCom Manager. A new Volunteer and Community Partnership Manager will begin work at the end of September.

The new Accola brochures were unveiled at Septemberfest and have received positive reviews. It was requested that copies of the brochure be mailed out to all Board members.

Andrée reported that she has met with sixteen Board members. Additional members of the wider CSJ community were suggested to Andrée as well.

There will be a relaunch of Wisdom Ways on September 26. An invitation will be sent out to the Board and CSJ Community.

Updated Committee Charter

Joel reviewed the updated Advancement Charter. This revised charter has a stronger focus on development and fundraising. Marketing and communication language have been taken out. The committee discussed ways to keep the Board accountable with regards to being advocates of Accola. An Integrated Fund Development Plan has been drafted, and it is important that the committee familiarize itself with this plan and incorporate it in staff and Board culture.

Committee metrics will be reported quarterly. The committee discussed increasing engagement and fundraising. Matt emphasized the importance of leveraging the direct voice of the Sisters and the origin story of Accola.

Annual Fund Development Plan

A special committee meeting will be organized to review the Integrated Fund Development Plan.

2025-2026 Board Training/Planning

It was reported that some of the Board Education sessions will be used for Board training. This training will include actionable items the Board can do to promote Accola and help increase engagement.

There was a discussion about Board recruitment and current Board member terms.

Other

Joel requested committee feedback on the Advancement Charter and suggestions for Board training. The committee work plan for FY26 was reviewed. There was a discussion about lapsed donors and how the Board can be involved in reach-out efforts.

Adjourn: The Committee adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lacy Sietsema, Accola

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lacy Sietsema, Accola