



FINAL

Advancement Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 8, 2025
9:30 – 11:00 AM
Via Zoom

Present: Marjie Blevins; Steve Kenney; Brian Mullen; Joel Rainville; Gabrielle Rohde

Staff: Andree Aronson; Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Kristine Smyth

The meeting began on Thursday, January 8, 2025, at 9:32 a.m.

Meeting Intention: Led by Joel.

DEI Statement: Matt read the DEI Statement.

Minutes: The December minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Marjie moved to approve the minutes and Steve seconded. Gabi abstained from voting due to an excused absence. The minutes were approved.

President's Remarks

Matt reported that he emailed Board members regarding the ICE presence in Minneapolis. He wants to give the Board the opportunity to help in whatever way members are comfortable with. Matt provided an update on policies that are in effect at Sarah's and Learning in Style. Conversations are underway with regards to possible ICE presence at either program.

The committee discussed camera coverage at both programs. Matt reported that he is working with the Province to improve security. Both programs also have signage that explicitly state that ICE and Border Patrol agents cannot enter the premises without the proper paperwork. The committee discussed how and when Accola uses its voice. Accola is in a position within the community to create dialogue without proselytizing or lobbying. Andree reported that she and Cheryl will be at Holy Angels in February to discuss social justice. She has also been looking into partnerships with local churches.

Advancement Director's Remarks/Updates

Financials: Andree reviewed the Advancement financials. Andree explained Q2 numbers are being entered into the system and an infrastructure is being created that will lead to Accola's success. This process will show sustainability and success over time. There was a discussion about sustainability, estate gifts, and restricted/unrestricted donations.

Breakfast Update – April 21, 2026

Andree reported that the Breakfast has been confirmed for April 21, 2026 at St. Catherine University. Comfort Dondo has agreed to be the speaker at the event. Andree reviewed a draft of the sponsorship package. Potential sponsors will be able to register on the Accola website. Andree encouraged committee members to think about who they could invite to this breakfast, which is a free event. Andree reviewed messaging and explained that there is a list of potential sponsors. The event will also

consist of a grounding ceremony, a welcome, a video, and an ask. There will be table hosts at each table. Andree will review the role of the table host with Gabi and Marjie.

Accola will be moving its database to Bloomerang this month. This will help bring donors, volunteers, and partners together in one place. Andree reported that the website will be revised this year to reflect a more cohesive message.

Sarah's will be hosting a fundraising event this spring. Wisdom Ways will host a Soul Conference in the summer.

Update: 2025-2026 Board Training Planning

Board Buddies: This topic was tabled until the February committee meeting.

Other Business

Matt explained that one of the major strategic initiatives for Accola is to evaluate the facilities. This will be a topic at the next Executive Committee meeting. Different cost scenarios and possibilities will be reviewed.

Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola