



**Accola Board of Directors**  
**Thursday, April 17, 2025; 4:00-6:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom**

**DRAFT**

**In Attendance:** Marjie Blevins; Comfort Dondo; Anita S. Duckor, CSJ-C; Karen Gervais; Stacy Jacobson; Steve Kenney; Mary Lydon; Susan Oeffling, CSJ; Colleen O'Malley, CSJ; Adele O'Sullivan, CSJ; Joel Rainville; Gabrielle Rohde; Kris Smyth; Fr. Larry Snyder; Jill Underdahl, CSJ; Anne Weyandt; Jean Wincek, CSJ

**Staff:** Cheryl Behrent; Matt Halley; Cindy Kaiser; Tiffany Melnik; Lacy Sietsema; Elisabeth O'Toole

**Excused Absences:** Kevin Berg; Brian Mallaro; Maya Missaghi; Brian Mullen; Mark Richards; Angela Schreiber, CSJ; Sandy Vargas

The Accola Board of Directors meeting convened in-person and on Zoom on Thursday, April 17, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**DEI Statement:** Read by Steve.

**Spiritual Centering:** Led by Matt.

**Minutes:** The February and March Board minutes were presented for approval. The February minutes were reviewed. Hearing no changes, Gabi moved and Mary seconded to approve the February minutes. All present members voted in favor to approve the February minutes.

The March Board minutes were reviewed. Hearing no changes, Kris moved to approve the March minutes and Susan seconded. All present members voted in favor to approve the March minutes.

**President's Report**

Matt said the themes for Accola right now are around sustainability planning and budget planning. Matt said that the sustainability work would ideally be done but it isn't.

Matt reported that there continues to be ongoing work with sustainability and budget planning. There has been some Accola staff reorganization. The Marketing Subcommittee has met with Dan Ryan and will help guide future messaging for Accola.

Accola is hiring for a new Wisdom Ways Director and Advancement Director.

**Sarah's... an Oasis for Women Update**

Cheryl reported that a save-the-date to the Sarah's Spring Fundraiser has been shared with the Board. Board members are encouraged to attend. Cheryl shared some additional networking opportunities.

### **Wisdom Ways**

Cindy reported that the team is working on identifying potential community partners across various social justice causes. Current programming is wrapping up and a new catalog will not be distributed until the new director is hired.

### **Learning In Style School**

Elisabeth shared a photo of LIS students on a fieldtrip to the Minnesota state capital building. Elisabeth provided an update on the status of LIS students and the increasing use of emergency funds/resources to help students with rent and utilities.

### **Committee Updates**

Steve reminded the Board that committee minutes are available on the Board Portal.

Advancement: Joel told Board members to expect an Advancement committee member to reach out to them to brainstorm ways to network and engage others about Accola.

CSJ Mission Education: Susan reminded Board members to RSVP for the CSJ Bus Tour.

Nomination and Governance: Anita reminded Board members that Board and Committee surveys will be emailed out soon.

### **Finance Committee**

Mary reported that the Finance Committee has reviewed the FY26 budget draft. This draft will be approved at the June Board meeting. Mary requested feedback from the Board.

YTD Financial Position: Mary reviewed the operating and balance sheet. This document does not include investments which are in good shape. The operating and balance sheet reflects that Accola is currently in a good position. Each program has stayed within its budget. Several unanticipated estate gifts have been received throughout the year. There will be a projected surplus of \$32,000 by the end of the fiscal year.

FY26 Budget Proposal: Mary reviewed the FY26 budget summary. The sustainability initiatives have been incorporated into this budget. These initiatives were reviewed. One-time charges were explained. Fundraising capacity and the facilities feasibility study were reviewed. There was a discussion about the establishment of partnerships and the launch of a community engagement program. Steve provided the Board with a review of the previous Finance Committee meeting and explained the rationale for presenting the FY26 budget in its current format. The goal for presenting the budget to the Board is to obtain feedback before the June Board meeting. There was a discussion about deliverables from the sustainability initiatives. The Board discussed potential opportunities for Accola.

**Executive Session:** The Board went into Executive Session at 5:25 p.m.

**Board Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Lacy Sietsema, Accola