



Accola Board of Directors
Thursday, June 26, 2025; 4:00-6:00 PM
In-Person & Zoom

DRAFT

In Attendance: Kevin Berg; Marjie Blevins; Anita S. Duckor, CSJ-C; Karen Gervais; Stacy Jacobson; Steve Kenney; Mary Lydon; Brian Mallaro; Brian Mullen; Susan Oeffling, CSJ; Colleen O'Malley, CSJ; Adele O'Sullivan, CSJ; Joel Rainville; Mark Richards; Gabrielle Rohde; Angela Schreiber, CSJ; Kris Smyth; Jill Underdahl, CSJ; Sandy Vargas ; Anne Weyandt; Jean Wincek, CSJ

Staff: Cheryl Behrent; Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema; Elisabeth O'Toole

Excused Absences: Comfort Dondo; Tiffany Melnik; Maya Missaghi; Fr. Larry Snyder

The Accola Board of Directors meeting convened in-person and on Zoom on Thursday, June 26, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

DEI Statement: Read by Kevin.

Spiritual Centering: Led by Steve.

Minutes: The April minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes, all present members voted in favor of the minutes.

President's Report

Introduction of New Directors: Matt announced that Accola is now fully staffed. He welcomed two new Directors: Andrée Aronson (Director of Advancement) and Haven Green (Director of Wisdom Ways). Introductions were made.

It was reported that the end-of-year campaign is in full swing. The 2023-2024 annual report has also been mailed out.

LIS Update: Elisabeth reported that the school year has ended. She provided a review of the 2024-2025 school year and noted that her full report is on the Board Portal. There was a discussion about the use of emergency funds and the policy of how these funds are distributed.

Sarah's Update: Cheryl reviewed the Sarah's Fundraiser event that took place in early June. It was a successful event that raised \$36,000, with expenses equaling \$1,000. She would like feedback about the event from those who attended.

Committee Updates

Finance & Audit: Brian reported that the committee has been very focused on developing the FY26 budget.

Investment: Mary reported that the Investment Committee meets quarterly and has not met recently. She has been working with Tiffany to hire a professional money manager to manage asset allocations.

Nomination and Governance: Anita reported that the self-assessments have been emailed out and will be compiled for the August meeting. She reminded the Board of why these assessments are important. The President's evaluation will be emailed out shortly. She explained the purpose of this survey and emphasized that it is okay to not know everything.

CSJ Mission Education: Susan thanked those who were able to attend the CSJ Bus Tour. She reviewed the results of a post-event evaluation. Currently, the committee is reviewing the list of topics that were brainstormed at the December Board meeting.

Programs & Opportunities: Anne welcomed Haven to Accola.

Advancement: Joel reported that Advancement continues to meet and the Marketing subcommittee met recently. The subcommittee is developing the messaging needed to position Accola to donors and the community. Advancement is looking at its role in the FY26 budget with regards to fundraising. The fundraising goal is mildly aggressive, but it is doable. The committee is discussing a future Board training session about Advancement and Fundraising. He requested feedback or ideas for this training.

Discussion/Presentation – Sustainability Plan

Matt presented the Accola Sustainability Plan. This plan includes a 10-year financial projection and the development of a theory of change. The plan is meant to serve as a guide, not necessarily a strategic plan. Matt reviewed where Accola was a year ago and the need to figure out how all the programs fit together and how we can tell the story of Accola. A model has been developed to map out donations and fundraising. Each section of this plan was reviewed.

The workgroups determined that for Accola to become sustainable, it would have to focus on community engagement, earned income, and facilities planning. Matt reviewed each of these ideas and the challenges that have arisen/will arise moving forward.

Matt explained that these initiatives have been built into the new FY26 budget. There was a discussion about sustainability and what it will entail. The Board discussed the need to assess all Accola programs.

Action – Approval of Proposed 2025-26 Budget

The proposed FY26 budget was presented to the Board. Brian Mallaro explained that this budget has gone through the Finance Committee twice and it has been reviewed by the Executive Committee. Expenses are increased due to open positions being filled and there is a need to focus on revenue. The budget includes an aggressive fundraising goal. There was a discussion about in-kind revenue/in-kind rent, expenses and contracted services.

Brian Mallaro moved to approve the FY26 budget and Sandy seconded. All present members voted to approve.

Action – Election of Accola Board Officers for 2025-2026

On behalf of the Nomination and Governance Committee, Anita presented the following Board Slate:

- Steve Kenney – Accola Board Chair
- Kevin Berg – Accola Vice Chair

- Jean Wincek, CSJ - Secretary

These new positions will be effective as of July 1. There was a discussion about the Vice Chair position. Anita moved to approve the slate and Brian Mullen seconded. All present members voted to approve.

Action – Appointment of Ministries Foundation Board & Officers

Kevin reviewed the changes made to the Ministries Foundation. The organization has been simplified and is a supporting organization for Accola. The Accola Board appoints the Ministries Foundation Board. Kevin read the recommendation for who should serve on this Board.

All present members voted to approve the slate for the Ministries Foundation.

Recognition

Kevin reported that this is Stacy's last Board meeting and thanked Stacy for all her work and service.

Kevin recognized Lacy for her work.

Anita read a proclamation recognizing Kevin's work as Chair.

Executive Session: 6:11 p.m.

Board Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lacy Sietsema, Accola