COMMUNITY. SPIRIT. JUSTICE.

DRAFT

Accola Board of Directors
Thursday, June 18, 2026; 4:00-6:30 PM
In-Person & Zoom

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

Staff: Andrée Aronson; Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absences: Comfort Dondo; Gabrielle Rohde

The Accola Board of Directors meeting convened in-person and on Zoom on Thursday, June 18, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

DEI Statement: Read by Steve.

Spiritual Centering: Led by Susan.

Agenda: The agenda was amended to include a Board of Director term renewals and to remove the Executive Session item. Hearing no further changes, Brian moved to approve the agenda and Kris seconded. All present members voted to approve the agenda.

Minutes: The April minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Susan moved to approve the minutes and Karen seconded. All present members voted in favor to approve the minutes.

President's Report
Matt reported that the school year for LIS has been completed and summer classes have begun. Accola is wrapping up its fiscal year. A new director for Sarah's… an Oasis for women, Sara Nelson, has been hired and will start on July 13.

Discussion – Accola Board Recruiting Policies and Building an Inclusive Organization
Board members discussed the need for intentional efforts to diversify leadership. Staffing, and leadership approaches and decision-making processes were also discussed. It was suggested that the Board implement three specific goals:

1. Adding 4 Board members of color
2. Ensuring the next leadership hire is a person of color

3. Reframing the mission statement.

Board members were asked to submit specific ideas for strengthening Board diversity within five days of this meeting to help launch a new recruitment program starting in July. Board members discussed the need for better collaboration and communication between the board and leadership to address organizational challenges and move forward effectively.

Committee Reports

Finance and Audit: Steve reported that the May financials reflect the work of Andree and the Advancement team. $200,000 was drawn from the approved $400,000. Expenses for the year will be in line with what was budgeted.

Budget FY27: Steve reported that the budget for FY27 was prepared to be in line with the values of Accola. Steve reviewed the budget process and highlighted comparisons between FY26 and FY27. Andree is developing a 5-year plan that will replace the $1 million dollar gift from the Province, which will end in two years. Steve noted that traditionally Accola withdraws 5% of the rolling average distribution but will be increasing this disbursement to 7%. This decision is only for FY27 and the committee is not making a recommendation to change the traditional policy of using 5% for the distribution. Contributions for FY27 will be $825,000. The budget also anticipates a 3% cost of living increase. Steve reviewed expenses, program costs/revenue, and in-kind rent.

Hearing no further discussion, Joel moved to approve the budget for FY27 and Kevin seconded. All present members voted in favor of the budget.

Investment Committee: Mary reported that it was decided that funds held for SMHC should be turned over to the clinics. As of May 31, the value of these funds were calculated and distributed, totaling in $6.1 million to be transferred. Accola currently has $22.1 million in investments.

Nomination and Governance

By-Law Changes: Anita reviewed the proposed changes to the by-laws. Hearing no further discussion, Brian seconded to approve the amended by-laws and Susan seconded. All present members voted to approve the by-laws.

Term Renewals: Anita reviewed all Board term renewals. Hearing no further discussion, Brian moved to approve the renewals and Kris seconded. All present members voted in favor of the Board term renewals.

Officer Elections: Anita reviewed the Officer Slate for FY27. Sandy Vargas will be Chair, Kevin will be the Vice Chair, and Jean will continue as Secretary. Hearing no further discussion, Brian moved and Joel seconded to approve the slate. All present members voted in favor.

Board Retirements: Anita reported that Angela Schreiber, CSJ, and Susan Oeffling, CSJ will be stepping down from the Board. Anita reviewed the recognition of their service. Hearing no changes, Brian moved to approve the recognition and Kevin seconded. All present members voted to approve the recognition.

Programs and Opportunities: Anne reported that the Board needs to look collectively at Accola's mission and clarify/refine it. This topic will be a future Board agenda item.

Advancement: Joel reported that the committee recently met and discussed current fundraising efforts. Andree reported that the Sarah's Fundraiser went well. She referenced the growth/engagement strategies that are outlined in her Advancement report.

CSJ Mission Education: Susan reported that the committee would like to take over the Spiritual Centering during Board meetings. The committee is also looking for creative ways to bring stories to the Board.

Executive Session: There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment: The Accola Board adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola