



Atlas Board Meeting/Minutes

January 25, 2023

5 PM Central

Posted publicly December 16, 2023 online at

www.atlaspublic.org

Board of Directors

Russ Kirk, Board President
Scott Malin, Board Treasurer
Nancy Wild, Board Secretary

Alice Dickherber, Member
Kwofe Coleman, Member
Lorna Sanchez McClellan, Member
Mark Minden, Board Member

Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Atlas Public Schools Board of Directors will hold a digital board meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. To join by Zoom copy and paste the following URL in a web browser:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86421001864?pwd=OGIzYTNIb3NtY0tpdXA0MmNUcXNtZz09>

Any individual wishing to make a public comment must notify the Atlas Board Chairman via email at russ.kirk@atlaspublic.org by noon the day of the meeting. An individual has a maximum of three (3) minutes for its public comment(s).

The Board of Directors retains the right to return to a closed Executive Session for reasons permissible under Section 610.021 of the Missouri Revised State Statutes.

Our Mission: The mission of Atlas Public Schools is to educate the whole child by combining a rigorous academic program with authentic, real-world experiences so all students thrive in middle school, high school and beyond.

Our Vision: At Atlas we envision a time when all students in St. Louis have the skills and habits needed to be successful in the 21st century, and where St. Louis is heralded as a model of a flourishing, diverse, and empowered community. We believe that high quality public schools will be the catalyst for community transformation that will result in a thriving city.

Meeting Agenda

Salutation: 5:00 pm

Russ Kirk, Board President

Call to Order + Roll Call + Welcome

All Board members are present.

We welcomed Tonja Richardson from the Missouri Charter Public School Commission as the Commission continues its annual Atlas review.

Scheduled Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes

- Review [MINUTES](#) from December Meeting

Board Chair Report: 5:05-5:10 pm

Russ Kirk, Board President

- Update on Development Committee
- June Retreat
- Missouri Ethics Commission: Personal Financial Interest Statement: Due May 1, 2024

Russ provided the updates on the above:

- **Development Committee has a new chairperson: Nancy Wild**
- **Board will hold its annual retreat in June and will look for dates that work for all members.**
- **Board members will be receiving a mail notification to complete the annual Missouri Ethics Commission Personal Financial Statement.**

Governance Committee Report: 5:10-5:20 pm

Alice Dickherber, Governance Committee

- [Visitors to School Property and Events Policy](#)
- Governance Committee [MINUTES](#)
- Expanding Early Childhood Programming for the 2024-2025 school year
 - [Program Overview](#)
 - Vote to approve the Early Childhood Expansion Plan
- Review Draft of the [2024-2025 School Calendar](#)
 - 153 Days of Instruction during Regular Session
 - 20 Days of Instruction during optional Summer Session
 - 6 Days built in for inclement weather

Alice provided highlights from the December meeting:

- **Atlas did not have a Visitors to School Property and Events Policy and the committee voted to recommend to the full Board to approve the new policy (to be voted on in the Consent Agenda.**
- **Atlas is proceeding with a plan to begin an Early Childhood program in the 2024-25 school year. The Committee voted to recommend to the full Board to approve the plan. Mark made a motion to approve the plan to open an Early Childhood program in the 2024-25 school year. Alice seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.**
- **There will be one change to the 2024-25 school year's calendar: Atlas will off the entire week of Thanksgiving: November 25-29, 2024 vs. just the Wednesday before.**
- **A second edit f the Case for Support to assist the Board and Development Committee was presented**
- **Ms. Tierrus Nance was present at the Committee meeting and updated the status of the Family Council.**

Finance Committee Report: 5:20-5:35 pm

Scott Malin, Committee Chair

- Finance Committee [MINUTES](#)

December's Financial Statements:

- [Cash Flow Statement](#)
- [Statement of Activities](#)
- [Balance Sheet](#)
- [Ramp Register](#)
- [Bank Account Registers](#)
- [Bank Reconciliations](#)

Scott presented highlights from the December meeting:

- **Atlas continues to be in a strong financial position at the halfway point of the school year.**
- **Cash on hand: 153 days**
- **Cash on hand at month's end: \$2,300,114**
- **Atlas received a \$217,780 reimbursement from First American Title Insurance for the prior year expense to the playground.**
- **Final closing for the first phase of the new building purchase/renovations to be in late February/March**

Consent Agenda: 5:35-5:40 pm

Board President: Russ Kirk

- Vote to approve the following discussed items:
 - **Governance:**
 - December Minutes
 - [Visitors to School Property and Events Policy](#)
 - **Finance:**
 - December Financials & Bank Register
 -

Scott made a motion to approve the Governance Committee meeting minutes and the Visitors to School Property and Events Policy and the December Financials. Nancy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report: 5:40-6:10 pm

Colby Heckendorn, Executive Director

- ADA: 90.64% Current Enrollment: 305
- [Student Recruitment Dashboard](#)
 - 59 applications to date for the 2024-2025 school year
- Team Member Recruitment
 - Mid-year Evaluations - January
 - Intent to Return - February
 - Early Onboarding of Assistant Teachers
 - Adding at least six certificated teachers for the 2024-2025 school year
- [Buildings and Grounds Update](#)
 - Completion of Phase One
 - Looking Ahead to Phase Two
 -

Highlights from Colby's report:

- **Attendance is still solid despite the December holidays and the winter cold snap in January**
- **Recruitment continues to be strong**
- **January is a big month for team member evaluations; the team is in recruitment mode for the 2024-25 school year.**
- **With building Phase One almost completed, it's time to be looking ahead for Phase Two.**

Q&A + Announcements: 6:10-6:15 pm

- [Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule](#)
- [Board Member Professional Development Tracker](#)

Motion to Adjourn: 6:15 pm

Kwofe made motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Russ Kirk, Board Chair