



Atlas Board Meeting/Minutes

March 28, 2024
5 PM Central

Posted publicly February 22, 2024 online at
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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, March 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. To join by Zoom copy and paste the following URL in a web browser:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8335968321?pwd=QXFtR25HRVErU28vUHRiTk5TQmU0dz09>

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

Roll Call: Russ, Kwofe, Lorna, Mark, Scott all present. Alice and Nancy, absent. Russ has Alice's proxy vote.

Scheduled Public Comments

The meeting had one public comment from Mr. Bradley Hoffman.

Minutes

- Review [MINUTES](#) from February Meeting

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

Russ Kirk, Board President

- Board Retreat Update: July 22
- Board Candidate Interviews: March 27

Russ discussed that the second annual Board retreat would be Monday, July 22. A one-day affair. Colby to send out a calendar invite. Russ stated that 100% attendance would ensure an outstanding retreat.

Alice and Russ attended the Opportunity Trust's Board/Committee Fellowship on Thursday, March 27. It was an opportunity for Atlas to speak with individuals who are going through intense training to become either Board of Committee members for Charter schools. It was an impressive group and Atlas will find out on Friday if any of the candidates have further interest in Atlas.

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

Alice Dickherber, Governance Committee

- Governance Committee [MINUTES](#)
- [Atlas Family Survey](#)
- Chief Communication and Development Officer - Katie O'Sullivan
- Missouri Ethics Commission - Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD)

Russ reported out the March Governance Committee meeting recap with Scott adding additional comments.

Highlights included:

- **A strong and positive result of the Atlas Family Survey (see results linked above).**
- **Colby and team have added another quality force with the hiring of Katie O'Sullivan for the position of Chief Communications and Development Officer. Katie begins her new position on April 1, 2024.**
- **A reminder to Board members that completion of the Missouri Ethics Commission Personal Financial Disclosure deadline is coming up: May 1, 2024.**

Finance Committee Report: 5:20-5:30 pm

Scott Malin, Committee Chair

- Finance Committee [MINUTES](#)

February's Financial Statements:

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

- [Report Summary from Jim Torti](#)

Highlights from the review (See full statements in links above):

- **Cash on hand: 154 days.**
- **Consolidated assets are approximately \$17,676,800 and total liabilities are approximately \$14,969,700 resulting in net assets of \$2,707,100. (These amounts exclude any depreciation of the property and equipment for the 2024 fiscal year.)**
- **Actual revenue year-to-date is approximately 73% of the Board budget, which is approximately 6% more than budgeted on an annualized basis.**
- **Actual expenditures are approximately 63% of the Board budget which is approximately 4% less than budgeted on an annualized basis.**
- **Ending the month with \$2,336,669.51 in cash.**

Academic Oversight Committee Report: 5:30-5:40 pm

Lorna Sanchez, Committee Chair

- Academic Oversight Committee [MINUTES](#)
- [Winter 2024 Data Review](#)
- [Atlas Report Card from TNTP](#)

Lorna reported the many highlights from Winter 2024 Data Review and the report card from TNTP (see full reviews in links above). The Committee and Colby and staff are excited about the results and are looking forward to Atlas' first effort at Missouri's MAP testing for its 3rd graders which is coming up shortly.

Development Committee Report: 5:40-5:50pm

Nancy Wild, Committee Chair

- Committee meeting: March 27.

With Nancy not in attendance, Kwofe and Mark provided an update of the Development Committee meeting that was held the night before. The Committee is excited on a number of fronts:

- **The hiring of Katie O'Sullivan (as noted above)**
- **The Grant partnership with Jumpstart which will provide a Development Coach and technology**

infrastructure for our development efforts.

- A handful of initial potential donors have been identified and plans are moving forward to take the next step—Kwofe is taking a leadership role in this initial effort.
- April will be an important month for the Committee and the strategy going forward.

Consent Agenda: 5:50-5:53 pm

Board President: Russ Kirk

- Vote to approve the following discussed items:
 - **Governance:**
 - February Minutes
 - **Finance:**
 - February Financials & Bank Register
 -

Scott made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Kwofe seconded the motion. Roll call approval: Russ, Scott, Kwofe, Mark, Lorna, Alice's proxy by Russ. Motion approved.

New Business: 5:53-6:15

- Presentation of the [Atlas Public Schools FY23 Annual Report](#) by the Commission

A bright spot during the meeting was the presentation of the FY23 Annual Report by the Missouri Charter Public School Commission (MCPSC). Shawn Williams, MCPSC's Deputy Director of Community Engagement presented the results via phone. The net from Mr. Williams and the MCPSC is that Atlas—both Colby/staff and Board continue to provide the children at Atlas with high quality learning opportunities.

Executive Director Report: 6:15-6:30 pm

Colby Heckendorn, Executive Director

- ADA: 90.56% Current Enrollment: 302
- [Student Recruitment Dashboard](#)
 - 76 active KG applications to date for the 2024-2025 school year
- Staffing Update

Colby updated the Board on three main areas:

- **The Average Daily Attendance (ADA) continued to be solid at Over 90% and the current enrollment is 302.**
- **He reviewed the 2024-25 recruitment dashboard and active applications for kindergarten is strong at 76—ahead of last year's schedule (Goal is a minimum of 104).**
- **Atlas will be adding 16 new staff members next year, including five new classroom lead teachers. Six of those 16 positions have been filled with numerous interviews upcoming in the next couple of weeks.**

Q&A + Announcements: 6:30-6:35

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

Motion to Adjourn: 6:35 pm

Kwofe motioned to adjourn the meeting; Lorna seconded. Unanimously approved.

Russ Kirk, Board Chair