



## **Atlas Board Meeting/Minutes**

February 22, 2024  
5 PM Central

Posted publicly January 28, 2024 online at  
[www.atlaspublic.org](http://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, January 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/83359683212?pwd=QXFtR25HRVErU28vUHRiTk5TQmU0dz09>

Any individual wishing to make a public comment must notify the Atlas Board Chairman via email at [russ.kirk@atlaspublic.org](mailto: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

**Russ, Alice, Lorna, Mark, Scott, Nancy and Colby present. Kwofe absent.**

**The meeting had two visitors: Dr. Boyd from SLU and Chris Poelker.**

### Scheduled Public Comments

**There were no public comments.**

### Minutes

- Review [MINUTES](#) from January Meeting

**There were no comments, questions, edits for the January Board minutes. A vote to approve will take place in the Consent agenda.**

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

Russ Kirk, Board President

- Update on today's Opportunity Trust talk on St. Louis Education data: **Presentation from this seminar will be shown to the full Board in the coming months.**
- Exciting Development Committee update!
- Retreat Date Options: June 13 or 14; Week of June 24. **Russ asked for Board members to look at their calendars and select a date or dates that work best for them and send to him within a week.**

## Governance Committee Report: 5:10-5:15 pm

Alice Dickherber, Governance Committee

- Governance Committee - **No Meeting in February**
- Missouri Ethics Commission - Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD). **Board was given a reminder.**

## Finance Committee Report: 5:15-5:25 pm

Scott Malin, Committee Chair

- Finance Committee [MINUTES](#)
- January's Financial Statements:
  - [Cash Flow Statement](#)
  - [Statement of Activities](#)
  - [Balance Sheet](#)
  - [Ramp Register](#)
  - [Bank Account Registers](#)
  - [Bank Reconciliations](#)
  - [Budget by Month](#)

**Scott gave a report from the meeting:**

**Highlights from the review (See more detail in the linked minutes):**

- **Overall very clean and on financials!**
- **Atlas begins the second half of the fiscal year with 154 days of cash on hand—continues to be very strong.**
- **Consolidated assets are approximately \$17,638,200 and total liabilities are approximately \$14,941,400 resulting in net assets of \$2,696,800. These amounts exclude any depreciation of the property and equipment for the 2024 fiscal year.**
- **Actual revenue year-to-date is approximately 65% of the Board budget, which is approximately 7% more than budgeted on an annual basis.**
- **Actual expenditures are approximately 55% of the Board budget, which is approximately 3% less than budgeted on an annual basis.**
- **Ending the month with \$2,298,009.74 in cash.**

### **Development Committee Report: 5:25-5:35 pm**

Nancy Wild, Committee Chair

- Development Committee [MINUTES](#)
- [Case for Support](#)

**Nancy provided a report from the meeting:**

**Highlights from the review:**

- **First committee meeting since October 23 of 2023**
- **Committee reviewed its mission statement and all agreed it represents its charge**
- **Colby updated the Committee on the coming partnership with Jumpstart that will assist Colby and this committee's Development process**
- **Moving up a year, Atlas will be looking to hire a Chief Communications and Development Officer beginning in the 2024-25 school year. This individual will be a key for the Development Committee.**
- **Colby reviewed the Case for Support and received solid recommendations from the committee on improvements.**
- **A 90-minute group discussion excited the team that set Sunday, March 3 at 4 pm to have a followup meeting to keep the momentum going.**

### **Consent Agenda: 5:35-5:40 pm**

Board President: Russ Kirk

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

**Scott made a motion to approve the Consent agenda; Nancy provided the second. Roll call and it was unanimously approved.**

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

Colby Heckendorn, Executive Director

- ADA: 90.48% Current Enrollment: 310
- [Student Recruitment Dashboard](#)
  - 62 active KG applications to date for the 2024-2025 school year
- Review and Discuss the [2024-2025 School Calendar](#)
  - Vote to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar
- Review and Discuss Atlas' [Instructional Culture Insight Survey](#)
- [Special Education Records Policy](#)
  - Vote to approve the Special Education Records Policy

### Colby provided his report. Highlights included:

- **A presentation of the Student Recruitment Dashboard. For next year's kindergarten class Atlas has budgeted 104 students. To help recruiting, Atlas held a family event at the Magic Made where over 110 folks attended, including 15 potential new families.**
- **The Board voted to approve the 2024-25 school calendar: Mark motioned to approve; Scott seconded. Roll call unanimously approved the 2024-25 school calendar.**
- **A presentation of the yearly Instructional Culture Insight Survey. Overall Atlas scored above the national average in 14 of the 16 categories (Compensation and school operations were the two below the national average. Scores are down from the previous year, but Colby provided the reasons why AND a path forward to improve. One note: the survey was taken at the very beginning of the year with new staff and a new building and only one day to clearly discuss with staff—not an excuse, but a note.**
- **The Board voted to approve an updated Special Education Records Policy. Alice motioned to approve; Scott seconded. Roll Call unanimously approved the Special Education Records Policy.**

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

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

## Motion to Adjourn: 6:15 pm

**Scott motioned to adjourn the meeting; Nancy seconded. Roll call unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.**

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Russ Kirk, Board Chair

