



Atlas Board Meeting Agenda/Minutes

September 26, 2024
5 PM Central

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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, Member
Victor Thomas, Member

Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Atlas Public Schools Board of Directors will hold a digital board meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. To join by Zoom copy and paste the following URL in a web browser:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GJkxUGJEji1PhBlSdKkiimUniJedYmE/view?usp=sharing>

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: 5:00-5:05 pm

Russ Kirk, Board President

Call to Order + Roll Call + Welcome

Alice, Kwofe, Lorna, Mark, Scott, Nancy, Victor, Russ, Colby—all present.

Scheduled Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes

- Review [MINUTES](#) from August board meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the August minutes. Board will vote on approval of the minutes in the Consent Agenda.

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

Russ Kirk, Board President

- **Board Chair Fall Convening: September 20**
- **Robbyn Wahby meeting:” October 4**
- **MCPSA Fall Conference: October 17-18**

Governance Committee Report: 5:10-5:11 pm

Alice Dickherber, Governance Committee Chair

- **Governance Committee did not meet in September**

Finance Committee Report: 5:11-5:20 pm

Scott Malin, Committee Chair

- Finance Committee [Minutes](#)

August's Financial Statements:

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

Highlights from the review:

- **Consolidated assets are approximately \$ 17,500,500 and total liabilities are approximately \$15,962,400 resulting in net assets of \$1,562,400. (These amounts exclude any depreciation of the property and equipment for the 2024 fiscal year.)**
- **Cash on hand: 114 days.**

Discussed points of interest:

- **On Cash flow Statement, a first month balance of \$2,095,621**
- **Revenue was 6% less than budget–\$926,900–with shortfall because of lower gifts/grants, less basic formula and less federal revenue. This shortfall in August is common as the new school year starts. Will right itself in the next couple of months.**
- **While revenue was down, expenses were 2% lower than budget–\$1,122,30 resulting in a new loss of \$195,400 for the month.**

The committee recommended approval of the August financial statements to the full Board and will be voted on at Consent agenda.

Consent Agenda: 5:25-5:30 PM

Board President: Russ Kirk

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

Scott made a motion to approve the Consent agenda; Alice seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report: 5:30-5:55 pm

Executive Director: Colby Heckendorn

- **Strong Start to the School Year**
 - **Fully Enrolled with PK-4 436 Students**
 - **Fully Staffed with a Certified Teacher in Every Classroom**
 - **Beginning of the Year Benchmarks and Small Group Placements**
- **Preschool Programming**
 - **We've received positive feedback from families on the quality of programming**
 - **42 Families on the PK waitlist**
 - **Aim to add one additional classroom at the start of the 2025-2026 school year**
- **Family Communication**
 - **Weekly Family Newsletter that goes out on Thursdays**
 - **All but 5 families have connected to Atlas on Dojo**
 - **100% of Atlas teachers post weekly to Dojo**
 -

Colby added that the Family Council met yesterday and the initial meeting had over 40 families. Oliver Clark from Colby's staff is the Director of the Family Council.

- Atlas has applied for the [Emerson Early Literacy Grant](#).

The schools that earn the grants can receive up to \$250,000.

- Phase II Building Update
 - [Floor Plans](#)

Colby walked the Board through a preliminary look at “what could be” as Atlas prepares for the next phases of renovation. A statement was made that the next review of the project should be done in person with both architects, contractors and financial planners to make a full presentation. The Board agreed and Russ will work with Colby and team to find a couple of dates that could work for all Board members.



Q&A + Announcements: 5:55-6:00 pm

Scott Clithero was attending the meeting and gave an update on the Atlas Parents Sports Association that is now forming. The organization is an officially licensed non-profit in the State of Missouri. Excitement is high with Atlas families—as an example, the past two years, Atlas has had two basketball teams compete at the YMCA. This year, with the season starting in October, Atlas will have five co-ed teams competing! More information to come.

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

Motion to Adjourn: 6:00 pm

Kwofe made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Alice seconded the motion; Unanimously approved.

Russ Kirk, Board Chair