



Atlas Board Meeting/Minutes

December 14, 2023
5 PM Central

Posted publicly November 17, 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://drive.google.com/file/d/1_CFv1zPPUvI-H_k5AE6yEPum_ZbJ85Tw/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 pm

Russ Kirk, Board President

Call to Order + Roll Call + Welcome

Present: Russ Kirk, Lorna Sanchez, Alice Dickherber, Mark Minden, Scott Malin, Colby Heckendorn.

Absent: Kwofe Coleman and Nancy Wild. Also attend, Scott Clithero, AOC member.

Scheduled Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes

- Review [MINUTES](#) from November Meeting
-

There were no questions/comments/additions to the November minutes. Vote to approve in the Consent Agenda.

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

Russ Kirk, Board President

- Quarterly Board Chair recap

Russ updated the Board on yesterday's quarterly Board Chair meeting. Key points were updates from Noah Devine from the Missouri Charter Public School Association; Ian Buchanan from the NAACP on Right to Read initiative and Amelia Corl from the Opportunity Trust on the \$35mm CSP grant it earned.

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

Alice Dickherber, Governance Committee

- December [MINUTES](#)

Alice reviewed the Governance Committee's December 7 meeting and highlighted:

- **Recommended Executive Director performance goals (to be voted on in Consent Agenda)**
- **Focus on new Board Member recruitment**
- **Focus on Board member professional development training**
- **Reviewed our "Arc of the Year" progress**
- **Continued excellence on Epicenter compliance**

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

Scott Malin, Committee Chair

- Finance Committee [MINUTES](#)

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

The Finance Committee met an hour before the Board meeting. Scott provided a recap of the meeting and, once again, Atlas is in a strong financial position. Additionally Atlas continued the Audit process by posting the audit publicly and final documents were sent to DESE.

Development Committee Report: 5:35-5:50 pm

Mark Minden, Committee Chair

- Review and Discuss Draft of Atlas [Statement of Need](#)

Colby presented the second version of the Statement of Need as Atlas begins to formulate its strategy for donor recruitment. A lengthy discussion ensued and the Board provided Colby with valuable information and recommendations. It was a strong discussion.

Consent Agenda: 5:50-5:53 pm

Board President: Russ Kirk

- Vote to approve the following discussed items:
 - **Governance:**
 - November Minutes
 - Executive Director Goals
 - **Finance:**
 - November Financials & Bank Register
 -

Scott moved to approve the Governance minutes and Executive Director Goals and the November Financials and Bank Register. Alicer seconded the motion. Roll Call unanimously approved the motion.

Executive Director Report: 5:53-6:15 pm

Colby Heckendorn, Executive Director

- Student Recruitment Update
 - 57 applications for the 2024-2025 school year
 -

Colby: The recruitment team is working hard and preparations for the 2024-25 school year are in full swing.

- Early Childhood Education

Colby: the time may be right for Atlas to begin an early childhood program. Currently, Atlas has eight seats within a group of schools providing that program. In a survey of Atlas families, there is a strong positive response to opening one. Atlas has the space in its new building. This is in the early stages of development and the Board will be kept up to date as this potential moves forward.

- Facilities Update
 - Playground is complete and open
 - [FB Reel](#)
 - Punch List
 - Fence on northwest corner
 - East entrance vestibule
 - Minor flooring repairs
 - Tree Removal
 - Final draw planned for February
 - Safety Film on First Floor Windows
 -

Colby: presented a FaceBook reel of the Atlas students having a joyful experience on the new playground—a big hit and big positive for the new building. Also there are a few odds and ends (punch list) still to be completed on the playground. Once all the punch list items are completed, the final draw and closure for the new building will be done—planned for February. A recently won DESE grant will allow Atlas to add safety film on all the first floor windows—another enhancement to the new building.

Q&A + Announcements: 6:15-6:20 pm

- [Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule](#)

The Atlas holiday party will be on December 15.

Motion to Adjourn: 6:20 pm

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Lorna seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Russ Kirk, Board Chair

