



Atlas Board Meeting

April 28, 2022

5 PM Central

Board of Directors

Russ Kirk, Board President
Kwofe Coleman, Board Treasurer
Alice Dickherber, Board Secretary
Gay Lorberbaum, Board Member

Sonia Park, Board Member
Lorna Sanchez McClellan, Board Member (late)
Mark Minden, Board Member
Scott Malin, Board Member (Late)

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.

NWEA Analysis from Bruce Hansel with Informed Improvement:

Atlas Elementary has achieved exceptionally strong levels of student achievement and growth in its first year of operation.

Kindergarten students were first assessed with the NWEA nationally normed test this winter. Their average achievement level was better than 68% of test takers in both reading and math. First grade students had exceptionally strong growth with above average growth between the fall and winter NWEA tests of approximately seven weeks in reading and ten weeks in math. This growth corresponds to school and teacher effectiveness better than 80 to 90 percent of schools per research-based effectiveness models.

Board President: Russ Kirk

Call to Order/Roll Call

Check-In

Public Comment

- No Unscheduled Public Comment

Minutes

- Review [MINUTES](#) from the March Atlas Public Schools Board Meeting

Board Chair Report

Board President Report

- [Site Visit Summary](#) from the Commission
- Draft of Summer Retreat [Agenda](#)

Governance Committee Report

Governance Committee Chair: Alice Dickherber

- Complete - Mo Ethics Commission Disclosures
- Review of minutes
- Recommend the Board accept the Wellness policy, School and Board Calendar

Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair: Mark Minden

- Finance Committee [MINUTES](#) from April 18, 2022
- March Financials
 - [Bank Register](#)
 - [Bank Reconciliation & Statement](#)
 - [Balance Sheet](#)
 - [Statement of Activities](#)
 - [Statement of Cash Flows](#)
- Level Field Partners recommendation - review of 720 N Leonard Street as a potential site.
 - Board expressed satisfaction with the level of due diligence. Our goal is to find the site that makes the most financial and programmatic sense for Atlas.
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Academic Oversight Committee Report

Committee Chair: Sonia Park

- Academic Oversight Committee [MINUTES](#) from April 27, 2022
- Tierrus Nance and Genevieve Backer lead the discussion of the academic data
- This was the first deep dive into academic performance of our students;
- Atlas is exploring SIS/Dashboard products. Upfront cost of SIS/Dashboard will be covered by the Opportunity Trust; and for the life of the charter, the annual maintenance cost will be covered. OT is doing this for all of their portfolio of schools.
- Academic team is using the data to inform practices.
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Development Committee Report

Committee Chair: Kwofe Coleman

- Team members include: Kwofe, Mark, Russ and Colby. If anyone else is interested in being a member–welcome!
- Level Field Partners helped in setting targets and giving us direction as we begin to start thinking about fundraising.
- Fundraising needs to be a priority at this point in time as we prep for the growth of Atlas!
- The preliminary work to be ready to begin a campaign includes writing a case statement and completing a feasibility study. All Board members will support this work.

Consent Agenda

Board President: Russ Kirk

Motion to Approve: Scott Malin

Second: Gay Lorberbaum

Unanimous approval.

- Voted to approve the following discussed items:
 - **Governance:**
 - March Atlas Public Schools Board Meeting Minutes
 - **Finance:**
 - March Financials & Bank Register

Executive Director Report

Executive Director: Colby Heckendorn

- Current Enrollment: Unchanged at 118 KG & 1st Graders

- Intent to Return
 - 100% of families have completed the Intent to Return Form; due to the significant work of the Atlas team and the strong relationships that the team has built with families.
 - 4 out of 118 or 3.3% of students have indicated they will not be returning to Atlas
 - Student 1: Moved to the county; kept house in city so they could finish the school year
 - Student 2: Switching to a charter school in the city that is closer to their home
 - Student 3: Participating in VIC and attending school where older siblings attend
 - Student 4: Switching to a charter school in the city that is closer to their home
- [Student Recruitment Dashboard](#)
 - 65 Total Applications Submitted
 - 40 families have completed registration
 - 50 Kindergarten applications for 75 Seats
 - 8 First Grade applications for 6 projected seats
 - 7 Second Grade applications for 7 projected seats
 - Not yet on a waitlist because we will over enroll (at a rate acceptable to our sponsor)
- [Staffing Update](#); Atlas model is that assistant teachers role is a pipeline to a lead teacher position. Atlas pays assistant teachers significantly more than assistant teachers in leading districts. Assistant teachers are compensated more if they are in a certification program, and we have now created six certified teachers.
- Atlas has received 82 applicants for open positions for 2022-2023 - this is roughly 6 per position.
- Review and Discuss [Test Integrity and Security Policy](#) (reviewed by Michelle Bosse). The MAP test is required by DESE, but doesn't start until third grade.
 - Vote to approve Test Integrity and Security Policy
 - Motion to approve: Alice Dickherber
 - Second: Mark Minden
- Family Night at Magic House MADE: tonight from 6-8 pm
- Update on Charter School Growth Fund; Atlas is a FINALIST!!! This is a huge win for the school! Congratulations, Atlas!
- Next Board Meeting: Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 5 pm

Motion to Adjourn: Kwofe Coleman
Second: Alice Dickherber