



Atlas Board Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2025

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, February 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. To join by Zoom copy and paste the following URL in a web browser:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81544072504?pwd=F3gUd7OMPfH07uR8nmYNbICksqo5vM.1>

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

Russ, Alice, Kwofe, Lorna, Mark, Scott, Victor, Colby present; Nancy absent (Russ has her proxy).

Scheduled Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes: Review [MINUTES](#) from the February 27rd Board Meeting

There were no comments/edits to the February minutes.

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

Russ Kirk, Board President

- Board Retreat: July 23rd at CityPark. **All members have agreed to attend our third annual retreat:**
 - **Governing for Student Outcomes II**

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

Alice Dickherber, Governance Committee Chair

- Governance Committee [MINUTES](#)

Highlights from the meeting:

- **Strong discussion with Colby on moving forward for two CSP grants (totaling \$4M) and the near future of beginning our middle school and elementary replication. The Committee/Board wants to continue to assist and provide guidance and Colby continues to welcome strategic input from the Board.**
- **Missouri Ethics Commission PFD is due May 1, 2025.**
- **The Committee will review the Bylaws and provide input and then include the full Board in final discussions on the Bylaws. The Committee feels strongly that Bylaws need to be reviewed yearly.**

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

Scott Malin, Committee Chair

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

Highlights from the review:

- **Cash on hand: 108 days. Budget projections have Atlas finishing the 2024-25 fiscal year**

with 137 days of cash on hand.

- Total assets are approximately \$18,011,400 and total liabilities approximately \$15,779,600 resulting in net assets of approximately \$2,231,800.
- Actual revenue YTD is approximately \$6,176,100 which is 8% higher than budgeted on an annual basis. The higher than budgeted is primarily attributable to basic formula revenue which is running approximately 11% higher than budgeted through February.
- Actual expenditures are approximately \$5,859,700 which is approximately 9% higher than budgeted on an annual basis. The overage can be attributed primarily to purchased services, supplies and capital outlay expenditures.
- Net revenue is approximately \$316,400. Cash on hand: \$2,606,546.
- In August, the LLC began making payments on the Charter School Growth Fund Loan. The loan balance on December 31, 2024 is \$983,075.
- In October, the LLC began making payments on the Local Initiative Support Corporation Loan. The loan balance on December 31, 2024 is \$15,036,327.
- Expenditures for the school for the six months ending December 31, 2024 include \$508,834 for capital expenditures.
- Interest earned on the Commerce account: \$3,351 (Total YTD: \$28,405).
- The school had an unexpected invoice for \$5,749.25 for building maintenance, electrical, plumbing and HVAC services.
- The school earned \$1,635.60 for metal recycling from the Phase II building project.

Development Committee Report: 5:30

Nancy Wild, Committee Chair

- The Development Committee did not meet in March. **Next meeting is scheduled for April 23 at 4:30 . In May, the meeting will be on May 21 at 4:30 pm.**

Consent Agenda: 5:30-5:35 PM

Board President: Russ Kirk

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

Scott made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Victor seconded the motion. Roll Call–Unanimously approved including Russ proxy for Nancy.

Executive Director Report: 5:35-6:05 pm

Executive Director: Colby Heckendorn

- Phase II Building Update
 - **Construction Progress:** Atlas has building permit in hand!
 - **Project Dashboard Summary**

- Staffing Update
 - **76 of 78 or 97.4% of Atlas Team Members have indicated they intend to return for the 2025-2026 School Year.**
 - **Next Year we will be adding 12 new teacher allocations**
 - **2 Pre School**
 - **2 Special Education**
 - **1 Related Arts**
 - **1 2nd Grade**
 - **1 4th Grade**
 - **2 5th Grade Homeroom**
 - **1 5th Grade Math**
 - **1 Math Intervention**
 - **1 Reading Intervention**
 - **Atlas' Grow Your Own Program: We have promoted 7 internal candidates to lead teacher positions for the 2025-2026 school year**
 - **To date, we've hired 3 external teacher candidates**
 - **We currently have 2 teacher vacancies**
- Student Recruitment Update
 - **As of 3/26 we have received 318 applications for the 2025-2026 school year**
 - **Offer Letters for next year have gone out and we currently have a waitlist at every grade level**
- Preview of [3rd Grade Literacy Data](#) ahead of Academic Oversight Committee (AOC) Meeting
 - **Lorna (AOC Chair) and Colby are in the process of setting up an AOC meeting to dive into all the fall results for all grades.**
- Update on Status of CSP Applications
 - **Atlas will submit the two CSP grants (middle school and elementary replication) on Friday, March 28. The two grants are \$2M each.**

Q&A + Announcements: 6:05 pm

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

Motion to Adjourn: 6:10 pm

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Kwofe seconded. Roll Call–Unanimously approved.

Russ Kirk, Board Chair