



## Atlas Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025

5 PM Central

Posted publicly March 30, 2025 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, 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, April 24, 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/81661606086?pwd=56Hbc7vnJmmOZv85tIrlQzNxvb3u7Y.1>

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: 5:00-5:05 pm

Russ Kirk, Board President

### Call to Order + Roll Call + Welcome

Russ, Alice, Nancy, Victor, Mark, Scott, Colby all present. Scott Clithero was also in attendance. Kwofe, Lorna were absent.

### Scheduled Public Comments

There were no public comments.

**Minutes:** Review [MINUTES](#) from the March 27th Board Meeting

There were no edits or additions to the March minutes. The Board will vote on approving the minutes in Consent Agenda.

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

Russ Kirk, Board President

- Board Retreat: **July 23rd at CityPark**

## Academic Oversight Committee Report: 5:10-5:30

Lorna Sanchez McClellan, Committee Chair

- Academic Oversight Committee [MINUTES](#)
  - [Mid-Year Data Stepback](#)

In Lorna's absence, Russ provided an update from the AOC meeting. Highlights included:

- "We're getting better at what we do...we're a better school now than last year and the years before"--Colby
- Throughout the 24-slide presentation, "celebration" was top of mind as our children are continue to improve within Atlas' culture.
- Data was presented for a point in time, slides 17 (regarding ELA) and 23 (math) are important as the academic team presented pathways to make improvements.

## Governance Committee Report: 5:30-5:45 pm

Alice Dickherber, Governance Committee Chair

- Governance Committee [MINUTES](#)

Alice provided the update from the Committee. Highlights included:

- The Board is now 100% compliant with the completion of the Missouri Ethics Commission's Personal Finance document.
- Colby updated the status of the two CSP grants that were submitted. One is for the opening of the middle school; the second is for an elementary school replication.
- Colby presented Charter Amendment 5 for the Committee to discuss. It's a change to our charter stating that Atlas may replicate a second elementary school. Committee will recommend approval to the full Board.

- Colby and the Committee recommends compliance with the Continuous School Improvement Guidelines as part of the annual DESE Annual Performance Report.
- The schedule for our Charter renewal is moving quickly and could be held in June.
- Committee decided to review Bylaws every year. The Committee reviewed the current Bylaws and gave feedback. Colby has asked our attorney, Michelle Basi, to also review. Michelle will join our May committee meeting to discuss.

Review and Discuss [Charter Amendment 5](#)

- Vote to Approve Charter Amendment 5
- 

**Alice motioned to approve the Charter Amendment 5; Nancy seconded. Unanimously approved.**

## Finance Committee Report: 5:45-6:00 pm

Scott Malin, Committee Chair

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

**Scott presented the Finance Committee report: Highlights from the review:**

- **Cash on hand: 128 days up from last month's 108. Budget projections have Atlas finishing the 2024-25 fiscal year with 135 days of cash on hand.**
- **Total assets are approximately \$26,262,100 and total liabilities approximately \$23,672,500 resulting in net assets of approximately \$2,589,600. NOTE: included this month is \$7,773,139 in cash as an outcome from our March 6 loan closing with EFF—it's placed in a Construction Fund at UMB Band to be used for future construction expenses.**
- **Actual revenue YTD is approximately \$7,316,100 which is 14% higher than budgeted on an annual basis. The higher than budgeted is primarily attributable to basic formula revenue, gifts/grants revenue and federal revenue which are all running higher on an annualized basis through March.**
- **Actual expenditures are approximately \$6,552,200 which is approximately 10% 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 \$763,900. Cash on hand: \$3,071,084.**
- **Expenditures for the school for the six months ending March 31, 2025 include \$508,834 for capital expenditures.**
- **Interest earned on the Commerce account: \$3,710.25 (Total YTD: \$32,115.70).**
- **--The school earned \$1,069.20 for metal recycling from the Phase I building project.**

## Development Committee Report: 6:00-6:10

Nancy Wild, Committee Chair

- Development Committee [MINUTES](#)

**Nancy provided the Committee report. Highlights included:**

- **Atlas is soliciting donations through the Give STL Day and Katie is providing all Board members with a like to send to individuals who may be interested in donating to the school.**
- **The Board is 100% at individual giving.**
- **On May 2, Colby and Katie will do an in-person presentation as part of the CSP grant applications. Winners will be announced later in May.**
- **The Committee is developing a monthly meeting cadence.**

## Consent Agenda: 6:00-6:05 PM

Board President: Russ Kirk

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

**Scott made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Mark seconded; Unanimously approved.**

## Executive Director Report: 6:05-6:30 pm

Executive Director: Colby Heckendorn

- Phase II Building Update
  - [Construction Progress](#)
  - [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.**
  - **Offer Letters for the 25-26 SY went out to teachers on 4/21 and are due 4/28**
  - **To date, we've hired 6 external teacher candidates**
  - **We currently have 1 teacher vacancy in Elementary Spanish**
  - **Resident Teachers**
    - **2-3 Residents through Teach STL**
    - **Up to 6 Internal Residents**
    - **All Residents are certified teachers or will be certified by the 26-27 SY**
- Student Recruitment Update
  - **As of 4/22 we have received 346 applications for the 2025-2026 school year**
    - **Up 28 from 318 applications last month**
  - **We had over 50 new families at the Atlas Open House event on 4/12**

## Q&A + Announcements: 6:30 pm

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

### **Motion to Adjourn: 6:30 pm**

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

---

**Russ Kirk, Board Chair**