



## Atlas Board Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2024  
5 PM Central

Posted publicly April 28, 2024 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, Board Member

### Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Atlas Public Schools Board of Directors will hold a digital board meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. To join by Zoom copy and paste the following URL in a web browser:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84131556840?pwd=T25YM25XU2R4VIFmOUFUUIB0Mkpydz09>

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

**Please welcome our new Board member: Victor Thomas!**

Russ, Lorna, Mark, Victor, Nancy, Alice all present. Kwofe and Scott were absent–Russ had Scott's proxy vote.

### Scheduled Public Comments

There were no public comments.

### Minutes

- Review [Minutes](#) from May meeting
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There were no comments/questions/additions to the minutes.

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

Russ Kirk, Board President

- [Board Retreat](#): July 22, 2024

**All Guests have accepted invitations and working sessions have been completed. Timeline:**

- **Presentation content/pre-read content due July 8**
- **Review/rehearse July 15**

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

Alice Dickherber, Governance Committee

- Governance Committee [MINUTES](#)
- Audit Proposal from [Schmersahl Treloar & Co.](#)
- Vote to approve Schmersahl Treloar & Co as new auditing firm

### Highlights from the review:

- **Discussed onboarding process for new Board member Victor Thomas.**
- **Atlas is partnering with St. Louis Teacher Residency program for three teachers. This aligns with the mission to have two teachers in each classroom.**
- **FY 25 staffing is almost complete.**
- **Colby and team continue to be 100% compliant with MCPSC's Epicenter.**
- **The Committee went into Executive Session pursuant to 610.021 (3) to discuss the Executive Director review.**
- **Colby recommended Schmersahl Treloar & Company as the new Atlas audit firm, replacing KEB.**

**Alice made a motion to approve the Schmersahl Treloar & Company as the new Atlas audit firm. Mark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. NOTE: the contract with ST&C will be held by the Board.**

## Finance Committee Report: 5:20-5:40 pm

Scott Malin, Committee Chair

- Finance Committee: Committee met at 4 pm today; Minutes are not completed. Russ to report out.

May's Financial Statements:

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

### Highlights from the review:

- **Cash on hand: 155 days.** This was calculated using an estimate of monthly expenses of \$483,654
- **Consolidated assets are approximately \$18,782,600 and total liabilities are approximately \$15,940,500 resulting in net assets of \$2,842,100.** (These amounts exclude any depreciation of the property and equipment for the 2024 fiscal year.)
- **Actual revenue year-to-date is approximately 101% of the Board budget, which is approximately 9% more than budgeted on an annualized basis.**
- **Actual expenditures are approximately 92% of the Board budget which is equal to the budget on an annualized basis.**
- **Ending the month with \$2,457,612 in cash.**
- **Discussed points of interest:**
  - **On Statement of Activities, the committee received updates on line items that were off on YTD totals. EX: Miscellaneous Revenue has a YTD total of \$219,285 vs. a budget of \$12,000—reason being a number of unexpected revenues from various grants and other incomes. A lot of the variances are because of timing and the fact Atlas pays for products/services and then receives payment from grants to cover the expenses.**
  - **On the Credit card register the Committee appreciates grant designations on expenses.**
  - **On the bank register, Atlas was paid \$20,432 from an Ameren MO BizSavers grant that would fall into miscellaneous revenue noted above. There was also a deposit of \$5,551 from the Atlas Day of Giving.**
  - **Received \$4,187.57 in interest from Commerce.**

Review and Discuss [FY25 Budget](#)

- [Budget Overview](#)
- Vote to approve FY25 Budget
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**Colby and Lindsay Phillips presented the Atlas FY25 Budget (see links above). A key element of the budget—and like it has been the past three years—is a very conservative approach. It budgets known revenue and expenses. Because of strong fiscal governance that has afforded the school a strong balance sheet, Atlas is looking to move up the second phase of expansion (the third floor renovations) to be completed by August, 2025.**

**Mark made a motion to approve the FY25 budget; Alice seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.**

### Consent Agenda: 5:40-5:43 pm

Board President: Russ Kirk

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

**Mark made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Alice seconded; Unanimously approved.**

### Executive Director Report: 5:44-6:00 pm

Colby Heckendorn, Executive Director

- **June ADA: 87.29% Overall ADA: 90.64% Current Enrollment: 300**

#### Student Recruitment

- [Student Recruitment Dashboard](#)
  - **105 active KG applications to date for the 2024-2025 school year**

2024-2025 Enrollment Summary					
Grade Level	Target Enrollment	Registration Complete	Registration in Progress	Outstanding Offers	Total Active Applications
Kindergarten	104	67	32	6	105
First Grade	104	101	3	4	108
Second Grade	78	74	2	1	77
Third Grade	78	81	1	1	83
Fourth Grade	52	54	2	0	56
	416	377	40	12	429

### New Business: 6:00-6:15 pm

Review and Discuss [FY25 Board Meeting Schedule](#)

- Vote to approve FY25 Board Meeting Schedule

**The Board reviewed the FY25 Board and Committee schedule and voted to approve:**

**Alice made a motion to approve the FY25 Board meeting schedule; Nancy seconded. Unanimously approved.**

Motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 610.021 (3) to discuss Executive Director Review

- Roll Call Vote to Enter into Executive Session

**Alice made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 610.021 (3) to discuss Executive Director Review; Mark seconded: Roll Call Vote: Russ, Victor, Alice, Lorna, Mark, Nancy, Scott (via proxy) voted to enter Executive Session.**

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

- No Development or Academic Oversight Committee meeting in June. Next AOC meeting: July 17.
- [Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule](#)
- [Board Member Professional Development Tracker](#)

### **Motion to Adjourn: 6:20 pm**

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

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**Russ Kirk, Board Chair**