



## Atlas Board Meeting Minutes October 28, 2021

**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.

### Salutation

Board Chair

### Call to Order

### Check-In

In attendance:

Russ Kirk, Board Chair

Alice Dickherber, Secretary

Colby Heckendorn, Executive Director

Sonia Park, Member

Mark Minden, Member

Gay Lorberbaum, Member

Lorna Sanchez McClellan, Member(arrived at 5:20)

Absent:

Kwofe Coleman, Treasurer

### Public Comment

- No public Comment today.

### Minutes

- Review [MINUTES](#) from the 9/23/2021 Atlas Public Schools Board Meeting

## Board Chair Report

- Brief recap of Missouri Charter Public Schools Association Conference. Possibility of this conference will be in St. Louis next year. Our first audit deadline will be in December 2022, so we will begin the process of choosing an auditing firm.
- Robbyn's Missouri Charter Public School Commission (MCPSC) Board of Directors toured the school last week. Robbyn will be at our November Board Meeting to discuss sponsor oversight and performance review fundamentals.
- Atlas is going to be a test school for a new module of Board Training that takes place regularly during Board meetings. First module will be at next Board meeting in November

## Governance Committee Report

Governance Committee Chair: Alice Dickherber

- [Board of Directors Responsibilities](#) will be circulated via docusign.
- Report on Executive Director Evaluation, which we will present for full Board approval next month.
- The Governance Committee will track Board Commitments at the monthly meeting.

## Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chair: Kwofe Coleman

- [Bank Register](#)
- [Balance Sheet](#)
- [Statement of Activities](#)
- [Statement of Cash Flows](#)
- No questions on any of these items.
- Construction Costs Update: Colby Reviewed Construction cost total.

## Consent Agenda

Board President

- Voted unanimously approve the following discussed items:
  - **Governance:**
    - 9/23/2021 Atlas Public Schools Board Meeting Minutes
  - **Finance:**

- September 2021 Financial Reports
- September 2021 Bank Register

Motion to approve Consent Agenda

Motion | Mark Minden

Second | Gay Lorberbaum

Unanimously approved

## Executive Director Report

Executive Director: Colby Heckendorn

Staff is coming off intercession, and they had a full week of strategic planning, reflection, data, meetings on student support, grade level team meetings on curriculum.

- Report on October Highlights: place-based learning at work!
  - Expeditions to Forest Park, Circus Flora, and MADE, fourth expedition is planned. They are purposeful and meaningful, and connected to the curriculum. Families have been really receptive to this part of the Atlas Model.
  - Small adjustments have been made to the daily schedule to improve the structure of the day and adjust to the space.
  - Leadership is working to fully leverage the two teachers in classroom model to improve student experience and outcomes.
  - Before & After School Programming has been run in-house thus far. This week, Atlas received the 21st Century Grant, a grant that was co-written with Unleashing Potential, who will manage before and after care at an extremely discounted rate for our families. An Atlas team member will remain with Unleashing Potential to support students academically and socially during the before and after school time.
- [Enrollment and Lottery Policy](#)
  - Vote to approve Enrollment and Lottery Policy
  - Changes to the dates so they apply in the new calendar year.
  - Update to require children of Faculty and Staff to live in the St. Louis Public School District. This does not impact any current students.
  - Motion to approve - Sonia Park
  - Second - Gay Lorberbaum
    - Unanimously approved
- [Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Leave Policy](#)
  - Vote to approve Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Leave Policy
  - This policy needs to be in place per state statute and is drafted by our attorney.
  - Motion to Approve - Mark Minden

- Second - Gay Lorberbaum
  - Unanimously approved
- [Staff Culture Survey](#)
  - Positive Results on our first Staff Culture Survey, which is great given how hard this year is for teachers. Atlas wants to create a culture of feedback. Our New School Venture Fund gives us access to several platforms - NWEA, Kelvin, and Clever.
    - Culture is a priority at Altas.

## **Q&A + Announcements**

- Next Board Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 5 pm
- Condensed the next few meetings because of the holidays.

## **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn: Kwofe Coleman  
Second--Gay Lorberbaum  
Unanimously Approved

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Alice Dickherber , Board Secretary