



Brighten Academy

Brighten Academy Governing Board Meeting

Working Session

Published on July 10, 2026 at 2:47 PM EDT

Amended on July 13, 2026 at 7:23 PM EDT

Date and Time

Monday July 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM EDT

Location

Brighten Academy Charter School

The Brighten Academy Governing Board will meet on Monday, July 13, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in the school cafeteria.

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter
I. Opening Items		
A. Call the Meeting to Order		Jamilia Smith
B. Record Attendance		LaKia Bryant
C. Adoption of Agenda	Vote	Jamilia Smith
D. Approval of Minutes	Approve Minutes	LaKia Bryant

	Purpose	Presenter
--	---------	-----------

Approve minutes for Brighten Academy Governing Board Meeting on June 15, 2026

II. Public Comment

Public comment should be received by the Board Secretary or Board Chair 24 hours prior to a scheduled Board meeting.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSceTrI9e71uncQV4LjSCeqoav9ibYxtPu3Y-mM2hH4CvmiKIA/viewform>

A. Acknowledgment of Guests	FYI	Jamilia Smith
------------------------------------	-----	---------------

III. Executive Committee

A. Comp Analysis	Vote	Matthew Vitale
-------------------------	------	----------------

B. Board On Track Contract Renewal	Vote	Jamilia Smith
---	------	---------------

C. Strategic Support Task Force	Discuss	Jamilia Smith
--	---------	---------------

- Staffing Equity & Fiscal Alignment Committee (SEFAC)

D. 2026-2027 Transition Update	Discuss	Jamilia Smith
---------------------------------------	---------	---------------

IV. Finance Committee

A. Finance Committee	Discuss	Matthew Vitale
-----------------------------	---------	----------------

- Monthly Financials

V. School Leadership Report

A. Information Only	FYI	Shanika Wells
----------------------------	-----	---------------

- Facilities
- Curriculum
- Staffing
- School Nutrition Program Update
- Dress Code Recommendation
- Athletics Update

	Purpose	Presenter
• June Surplus		
VI. Governance Committee		
A. Info Only	FYI	Evony Hammonds
• Social Media Policy		
B. Items for Vote	Vote	Evony Hammonds
• Ms. Wells to present discipline policy. Matrix will be presented at a later date.		
• Website Update		
VII. Executive Session		
A. Exec Session Voting		
VIII. Local SBOE/Chamber Events		
IX. Other Business		
A. Announcements	FYI	All
X. Closing Items		
A. Adjourn Meeting	FYI	Jamilia Smith

Coversheet

Approval of Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: D. Approval of Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material:
Minutes for Brighten Academy Governing Board Meeting on June 15, 2026

APPROVED



Brighten Academy

Minutes

Brighten Academy Governing Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday June 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location

Brighten Academy

The Brighten Academy Governing Board will meet on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in the school cafeteria.

Directors Present

C. Claiborne, E. Hammonds, J. Smith, K. Moses, L. Bryant, R. Coffee, S. Battle, T. Cabrera

Directors Absent

M. Vitale

Guests Present

C. Sparks, D. Davis, K. Smith, S. Littles

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Smith called a meeting of the board of directors of Brighten Academy to order on Monday Jun 15, 2026 at 6:13 PM.

B.

Record Attendance

C. Adoption of Agenda

J. Smith made a motion to approve the amended agenda.

S. Battle seconded the motion.

Amendment:

- Budget approval

- 2026-2027 transition responsibilities

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Approval of Minutes

J. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from Brighten Academy Governing Board Meeting on 06-01-26.

C. Claiborne seconded the motion.

Sharon Young discussed dress code at the June 1 meeting.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Public Comment

A. Acknowledgment of Guests

Kriston Peterson: Questions about the inclusions of multiple director roles and not hiring an AP.

Terry Pino: Outside of the published meetings, Pino wanted to know if communication would be sent out to teachers and administration.

Tony Aybar: Wanted to know if the needs of the staff align with the survey results.

Lori Tidwell

Donna Turner

Dr. Terry Pino

Sandi Gore

Sara Louhr

III. Executive Committee

A. Executive Session Voting Matters

- Implement the final version of the 2026-2027 organization structure second by Cary. Passed.

- All staff that are transitioning out must meet the transition requirements.

- Reviewing and reissuing contracts in accordance with the 2026-2027 organization structure.

B. Contract Ratification: STEM Teacher

S. Battle made a motion to Ratify the contract in alignment with b3-nepotism policy. Jade Colquitt.

C. Claiborne seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Board Officer Nominations

J. Smith made a motion to approve the nominations as presented.

S. Battle seconded the motion.

Lakia Bryant- Board Secretary

Evony Hammonds- Vice Chair

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Strategic Support Task Force

Strategically support Brighten's efforts including dress code and IT, and other concerns throughout the year.

IV. Finance Committee

A. Finance Committee

Candy discussed monthly financials.
three

Vote:

updated diversified contracts

- cleaning
- maintenance
- school nutrition

Cary submitted a motion for all three contracts. Shauncey second. Passed.

Technology contract will not be moving forward. Further research and discussion.

B. Monthly Financials for Vote

C. Claiborne made a motion to budget for FY26-27.

J. Smith seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. School Leadership Report

A. Information Only

Facilities update:

- Parking structure
- replacement of 11 windows
- bathroom update
- outdoor maintenance is in progress

Curriculum:

- Admin met with science teachers, there is a need for a dedicated science curriculum including STEM scopes, amplify science, or discovery education. The team landed on STEM scope.

Staffing Update:

- One individual resigned. 10 contracts ready to be signed, 3 are pending including:
 - 4th grade ELA
 - 6th grade math
 - 8th grade math
- School nutrition program:
 - -\$28,000 balance due
 - on probation with the Georgia Dept of Ed. The reports were not being done from December-March.
- Scheduling interviews for Head and Assistant volleyball coaches
- Discussed May surplus list.

VI. Governance Committee

A. Info Only

Reviewed athletics

f39-parental leave. information only.

h7-food services. tabled for review.

vote

f24-Seperation

Shauncey made motion. Cary seconded.

B. Items for Vote

VII. Other Business

A.

Announcements

Watch the Cup- FIFA World Cup two FREE events at Boundary Waters.
www.watchthecupdouglas.com for tickets.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Smith

Coversheet

Information Only

Section:	V. School Leadership Report
Item:	A. Information Only
Purpose:	FYI
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Bullying Definition Policy Update.pdf SY27 Human Resources Readiness.pdf

Bullying Definition Policy Update

Current Policy Definition	Revised Definition of Bullying (Aligned with DCSS Standards)
Bullying - <i>Zero Tolerance Offense</i> <i>Definition: Behavior that infringes on the safety of any student will not be tolerated. A student shall not bully, harass, or intimidate another student through words or actions.</i> 1. Any willful attempt to threaten or inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent ability to do so. 2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm. 3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that: a. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Georgia Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Georgia Code Section 16-5-23.1; b. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; c. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or d. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.	Bullying - <i>Zero Tolerance Offense</i> <i>Definition: A pattern of behavior, which may include written, verbal, physical acts, or through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology occurring on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm or visibly bodily harm.</i> The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication: 1. Is directed specifically at students or school personnel, 2. Is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and 3. creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. Electronic communication includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system. • Level 1 - First Offense of bullying as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4. Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or using any type of electronic means to

	harass or intimidate. • Level 2 - Second incident of bullying as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4. Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or the use of electronic equipment on school property or using school equipment to harass or intimidate. • Level 3 - Repeated acts, as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4, occurring on school property or school possession that is a willful attempt or threat to inflict injury, or apparent means to do so, any display of force that puts victim at fear of harm, any written, verbal or physical act that threatens, harasses, or intimidates; causes another person physical harm; interferes with a student's education; so severe and pervasive intimidated or threatens educational environment. Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or the use of electronic equipment on school property or using school equipment to harass or intimidate.
--	---

Brighten Academy Charter School

Human Resources School Readiness

Memo:	Update on End of Year Vacancies and SY27 Hiring Status
Prepared by:	Aubriel Cameron - Sr. Recruitment & HR Specialist
Date Prepared:	July 10th, 2026

	Vacated Position SY26	Reason for Vacancy	SY27 Status	Name of New Hire	On-boarding Status	Attended NTA?	Comments/Notes
1	SPED Lead Teacher	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Leah Butler	Pending New Hire Paperwork		
2	SPED Teacher (PT)	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Regina Lester	Pending New Hire Paperwork		Former employee resigned at the end of SY 25-26. This and the other PT Sped teacher role was one role that has been split to accommodate two part-time employees.
3	SPED Teacher (PT)	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Maria 'Amie' Culbertson	Pending New Hire Paperwork		See above
4	6th Grade ELA/SS Teacher	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Ernest Caldwell	Pending New Hire Paperwork		
5	STEAM Teacher	Backfill	Filled	Jamecia Colquitt	Pending New Hire Paperwork		Former employee has moved into another role creating a vacancy
6	5th Grade ELA Teacher	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Connie Doctor-Jones	Pending New Hire Paperwork		
7	5th Grade Math Teacher	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Alexis Fluellen	Pending New Hire Paperwork		
8	Kindergarten Teacher	Backfill	Filled	Breanna Holmes	Pending New Hire Paperwork		Former employee has moved into another role for SY 26-27 (Kinder to 3rd Grade) creating a vacancy
9	4th Grade ELA Teacher	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Imani Johnson	Pending New Hire Paperwork		Resigned at the end of SY 25-26
10	Executive Director	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Toni Washington-Knight	Pending New Hire Paperwork		Former employee resigned during the 2025 to 2026 school year. Position was filled on an interim basis for the remainder of the school year. Interim employee transitioned into a different role for the 2026 to 2027 school year, creating a vacancy.
11	3rd Grade Teacher	Backfill	Filled	Toshia Lenard	Pending New Hire Paperwork		Former employee has moved into another role, creating a vacancy
12	PE Teacher	Non-renewal	Filled	Jonathan Mendoza	Pending New Hire Paperwork		Former employee's contract was not renewed for SY 26-27, creating a vacancy
13	Kindergarten Teacher	Non-renewal	Filled	Xanthe Oliver	Pending New Hire Paperwork		Former employee's contract was not renewed for SY 26-27, creating a vacancy
14	6th Grade Math Teacher	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Kohl Streetman	Pending New Hire Paperwork		
15	8th Grade Science Teacher	Non-renewal	Filled	Sean Vann	Pending New Hire Paperwork		Former employee chose not to renew their contract at the end of SY 25-26
16	SPED Teacher	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Timara Walker	Pending New Hire Paperwork		
17	Director of Academics & Operations	Backfill	Filled	Shanika Wells	Cleared to Start		Former employee has moved into another role, creating a vacancy.
18	1st Grade Teacher	Non-renewal	Filled	Tiara Williams	Pending New Hire Paperwork		Former employee's contract was not renewed for SY 26-27, creating a vacancy
19	5th Grade ELA Teacher	Voluntary Resignation	Filled	Shenesa Williams	Pending New Hire Paperwork		
20	8th Grade Math Teacher	Voluntary Resignation	Interviewing	TBD			Former employee resigned during SY 25-26, creating a vacancy. As of 7/13, the role is still open, and interviews are being scheduled for the week of 7/13.
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							
29							
30							