APPROVED

Brighten Academy

Minutes

Brighten Academy Charter School Governing Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday February 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location
5897 Prestley Mill Rd
Douglasville, GA 30135

The Brighten Academy Governing Board will meet on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in the Media Center.

Directors Present
C. Claiborne, J. Smith, M. Vitale, S. Battle

Directors Absent
C. Burns Falker, K. Moses

Ex Officio Members Present
T. Pugh

Guests Present
A. Cameron, C. Sparks, D. Davis, G. McGhee, K. Smith, S. Littles

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Smith called a meeting of the board of directors of Brighten Academy to order on Monday Feb 23, 2026 at 6:14 PM.

C. Adoption of Agenda

J. Smith made a motion to adopt agenda.
C. Claiborne seconded the motion.
passed
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Approval of Minutes

J. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from Brighten Academy Charter School Governing Board Meeting on 02-09-26.
M. Vitale seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

The floor was opened for public comment. No comments were given

B. Aknowledgment of Guests

Guests acknowledged

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Executive Director

For governance:
1-matter for approval
January surplus motion was made to move forward to surplus the items. Jamilia Smith moved, Cary Claiborne seconded, motion passed

2-updates on strategic plan
leadership structure increases TKES growth
teaching and learning added focus on EL PD sequence

3-updates KPIs
-leadership, mid-year review by Donna Davis, admin team did mid-year review with EL coach. Both the work plan and mid-year review have been provided electronically. Jamilia S inquired about who should attend upcoming leadership conferences, and it was

advised that school leaders like the Principal and the ED but that AP may also attend. Matt V asked about how iReady works, and Donna D explored how an initial assessment is taken and how it builds a system for the learners. Jamilia S asked about how iReady is discussed at the class level and Dr. Littles gave insight and it was brought to light about how we can celebrate the educators and the students around iReady.
-culture, the goal is to build a positive school. Clear routines and a sense of belonging is what that looks like. 95.79% february attendace rate, january was 95.15%, we are tracking well. Matt V asked about the benchmark, Candace S gave last year's data and stated that we have a slight uptick.
-MKS, winter iReady growth date. Dr. Littles and Donna Davis gave an analysis of the data. Jamilia S asked about alignment around using iReady in the classroom. Candace S mentioned that there can be some improvements in that area but that there is dedicated time each week, also there are small groups, instructional coaches, and intervention specialists. Matt V asked about the national norms portion and Dr Littles confirmed that there are national norms identifiers. Cary C asked about instructional help and Candace S gave insight the plan in place like "what I need wednesday" (for students).

Informational
1-key accomplishment
kids heart challenge raise $4,328.04, exceeding goal of $4,000

2-matters for noting
-electronic sensing equipment in Douglas county, info provided by Candace S, Evolve metal detectors. Officer Chubb is doing some research. Based on a school survey last year, there was no interest to having a metal detector. There will need to be policies surrounding this if/when implemented
-open enrollment status provided by Katie S, as of 2/23 we are up 100 from last year
-budget timeline for SY26 and SY27 was provided and we are on track for 26/27, we are in a good space to meet at date for 26/27 budget as stated by Tonetta Pugh
-Legislative updates were provided for awareness
-Local Chamber Event, Jamilia S, Tonetta P and Katie S attended an event "the talent equation", and left with some key takeaways for implementation
-Tonetta P, gave update on e rate progress and stated that 95% of the work by PCS has been completed

*as a special note, the Executive Director's report is available electronically and as a printed version

B. ED Items for Vote

J. Smith made a motion to approve January surplus.
C. Claiborne seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Executive Committee

A. Requests for Proposals Update

Jamilia S stated that there is an Executive committee meeting following general body meeting.
we received 3 proposals and will discuss at Exec Cmte meeting

V. Finance Committee

A. Finance Committee

C. Claiborne made a motion to December financials.
M. Vitale seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Info Only

none

C. Birdies Golf Tournament Update

Matt gave an update, list of participants and coaches were emailed and no feedback as of yet. Matt asked that we get connected with Women of Douglasville, as well as the Chamber. Jamilia asked if its on the Chamber calendar, Tonetta mentioned that it was submitted, but it is not currently listed.
Registration info provided by Katie, no registration but we do have firm commitments.

VI. Governance Committee

A. Info Only

elections update was provided

B. Items for Vote

S. Battle made a motion to acceptance for policy related to Professional Development.
M. Vitale seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VII. Local SBOE/Chamber Events

A. Douglasville State of the City & Business After Hours

info provided

B. Douglas County Annual Gala

final list will be sent to the chamber

C. State of the County- April 13th

info provided

VIII. Other Business

A. Announcements

GCSA march 9 conference

Mrs Sims gave info about the Grocery Store and the ribbon cutting on March 23- chamber of Commerce will be here, Georgia Feeds Family partnership and Atlanta Food Bank. Flyers will be distrubuted and Student Council and Beta will help fulfill the orders

End of Year Student Council presidet info provided by Teyah Smith, she stated that the details are being firmed up but they would like the presence of the Board

Brighten Broadway dates changes to May 15-17, 2026 from the weekend before

8th grade graduation May 20

B. Executive Session

J. Smith made a motion to personnel matters.
S. Battle seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
Recommendation needed from HR regarding personnel matter
The position can be posted by HR to fill the necessary positions

Matt moved for denial of employment contract which will trigger the provision of F50, Cary seconded.

IX. 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 9:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Smith