APPROVED

Brighten Academy

Minutes

Brighten Academy Governing Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday July 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM

The Brighten Academy Governing Board will meet on Monday, July 27, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in the media center..

Directors Present
E. Hammonds, J. Smith, L. Bryant, M. Vitale, R. Coffee

Directors Absent
T. Cabrera

Ex Officio Members Present
S. Wells, T. Washington-Knight

Non Voting Members Present
S. Wells, T. Washington-Knight

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

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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 Jul 27, 2026 at 6:11 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Adoption of Agenda

J. Smith made a motion to Adopt the agenda for 7/27.
R. Coffee seconded the motion.
adopted agenda with additional amendments minutes
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approval of Minutes

L. Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes from Brighten Academy Governing Board Meeting on 07-13-26.
R. Coffee seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Public Comment

A. Aknowledgment of Guests

- **Kecia Lewis** shared concerns related to **volleyball program standards**, emphasizing the need for greater **transparency, communication, and accountability**.
- **Turkessa Carter** provided comments regarding the **8th grade math teacher position**.

III. Executive Committee

A. Building Brighten's Fundraising Future

LaWanna Ross of TOTB, LLC delivered a presentation on philanthropy, outlining the opportunity for Brighten to launch a fundraising program. She provided an overview of the model, key criteria, structural components, and examples of successful implementation.

B. 2026-2027 Transition Update

T. Knight-Washington reported significant transitions for the upcoming school year, including onboarding **19 new staff members**, which provides an opportunity to strengthen professional development and optimize efficiency. The **New Teacher Academy** is underway, and preparations to welcome staff back are in progress.

Technology challenges remain a hurdle, but leadership noted progress with **Phase 1 completed** and **Phase 2 beginning this week**, with board support needed to assess overall technology needs.
Enrollment stands at **769 students**, with staffing needs including **two full-time counselors** and **one full-time SPED teacher**. Leadership is reviewing discipline practices, including adding **bullying** to the policy. The **High-Impact Tutoring Program** will move forward with the application process.

IV. Finance Committee

A. Finance Committee

M. Vitale made a motion to approve the May Monthly Financials.
R. Coffee seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. School Leadership Report

A. Information Only

See above under 2026-2027 Transition Update

VI. Governance Committee

A. Info Only

F24 – Personnel Separation - As approved by the previous Policy/Governance Committee, we are omitting the Fair Dismissal Hearing and Post Termination Hearing sections. This has been vetted by legal counsel. Shared by Evony Hammonds for Board awareness; no action required.

B. Items for Vote

E. Hammonds made a motion to to approve the Social Media Policy.
L. Bryant seconded the motion.
This policy provides comprehensive social media guidelines to ensure responsible, legal, and professional social media use by staff and affiliated organizations.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
E. Hammonds made a motion to H24 Bullying Directive.
R. Coffee seconded the motion.
This policy outlines Brighten's approach to preventing, investigating, and addressing bullying and cyberbullying to ensure a safe school environment. It also combines language from Douglas County's Bullying policy.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VII. Executive Session

A. Exec Session Voting

J. Smith made a motion to approve the role of a FT SPED Teacher.
M. Vitale seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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 8:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Smith