



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting

Published on April 27, 2025 at 9:36 PM EDT

Date and Time

Monday April 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM EDT

Location

All meetings occur at the school's primary address: 2575A Snapfinger Road, Decatur, GA 30034.

Register to attend online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqd-2uqTliHNbQk4Rtf5l6MoBLdAEPB-C29>

If you have any trouble attending a board meeting, call or text our Head of School, Jocelyn Alter, at 404-618-2242.

Pre-work:

- Familiarize yourself with meeting [slides](#)
- Review competitive bids (see slides for recommendations, bids are [all linked in folder](#))
 - Furniture (FF&E)
 - Signage
 - Moving Vendor
- Review proposed new board members
 - Finance: [Jenea Caruth](#)
 - Partnerships: [LaKenya Norris](#)
 - Governance: [Sharicka Samuels](#)

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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I.	Opening Items		7:00 PM
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A.	Record Attendance	Toby Egbuna	5 m
	ADD CONNECTOR		

B.	Call the Meeting to Order	Michael Freeland	1 m
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The [MONTH] meeting of the DeKalb Brilliance Academy Governing Board is called to order at [TIME].

Anyone that is here for public comment, please indicate by signing up on the clipboard in the back OR in the chat in zoom by X:10 PM if you would like to make a comment. We will have two minutes for each speaker, in the order in which we receive the request to comment.

C.	Approve March meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Toby Egbuna	2 m
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II.	Meeting opening		7:08 PM
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A.	Mission and Vision	FYI	Michael Freeland	3 m
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Our mission: With unwavering commitment to exceptional academics, leadership development, and community collaboration, **DeKalb Brilliance Academy** prepares all Kindergarten-8th grade students to thrive in high school and college, have fulfilling careers, and become impactful leaders in our communities.

Our vision: Each child will know and leverage their unique brilliance to critically analyze the world around them and to design a better and more equitable future.

B.	Board Commitments	FYI	Michael Freeland	2 m
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- **Build excellence:** We know that an excellent school starts with an excellent founding team. We come to our time together well-prepared, fulfill our commitments, and generate new ideas to accomplish our goals.
- **Stay engaged:** We stay engaged by “remaining morally, emotionally, intellectually, and socially involved in the dialogue.”

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace disagreement: We value disagreement and agree to bring issues into the open. It is through dialogue, even when uncomfortable, that we grow as a team to best serve our students. • Take responsibility for intent and impact: We assume best intent, and also take responsibility for the impact of our actions. • Process, not the people: We know that everyone is working hard for the team, and look first at how to change the process, policies, or plans when we don't reach our goals. 		
C. Public Comment	FYI	Michael Freeland	10 m

If people sign up:

- **Transparency:** Board meetings are a public forum to provide transparency into the governance of the school. Engagement from the community is strongly encouraged and vital to that governance. We value and appreciate the input from our community members. As we proceed with public comments, we would like to remind everyone of the following guidelines:
- **Time Limit:** A total of 30 minutes shall be set aside for public comment. Each speaker will have a maximum of 2 minutes to speak. A speaker may not sign up to speak more than once during the same public comment period
- **Board Action:** The board cannot respond to public comment in the meeting, and in general needs to listen, and then follow up after the board meeting, this is because the board acts through policies and votes as a governing body, not through individuals, so we cannot respond until the board has the information to respond as a group (as opposed to individually), as applicable. We understand this can feel awkward, but please know that we are taking careful notes and take all feedback to the board seriously. The board will direct an appropriate committee or the Head of Schools to engage in responding at a later time as necessary and appropriate.
- **Scope of discussion:** Please be aware that certain topics cannot be discussed during the public comment period. These include, but are not limited to, pending investigations or legal matters, personnel matters, confidential student information and matters, and issues that are subject to ongoing grievance or complaint procedures. Any attempt to discuss these topics during public comment will not be permitted.
- **Discourse:** Speakers are encouraged to maintain decorum and present their comments in a civil manner. The Governing Board reserves the right to request any speaker engaging in defamatory comments to cease. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in adhering to these guidelines.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any disruptive members of the public will be asked to cease their disruption to allow the Board meeting to continue. If the disruption continues, the disruptive member will be asked to leave the meeting. Start public comment: “the order we have for public comment is XYZ” <p>If people do not sign up: “seeing no requests for public comment, we will move to the next section of our agenda”</p>			
III. Committee Updates			7:23 PM
A. Abbreviated Committee Updates	Discuss	Michael Freeland	2 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance: will vote on new board members in board votes section Academics: completed LKES mid-year eval for Head of School, no other updates this month Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We’ve fundraised \$8,369 toward board commitment of \$16,500. Very important that 100% of board members make meaningful personal donation (many funders as this to measure the board’s support of the school). Only 2 months remain to secure your \$1,500 per board member. <p>See slides here.</p>			
IV. Finance			7:25 PM
A. Finance Committee Update	FYI	Quentin Johnson	5 m
<p>Review March financials (presentation and details)</p> <p>See slides here.</p>			
V. Facility			7:30 PM
A. Facilities Taskforce	FYI	Brian Howell	5 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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- See slides [here](#) and April owner's report [here](#).

VI. School Leadership Report Out			7:35 PM
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| A. | School Leader Report Out
See slides here . | FYI | Jocelyn Alter | 5 m |
| B. | Staff Advisory report out
See slides here . | FYI | Blake Miller | 2 m |
| C. | Family Advisory report out
See slides here . | FYI | | 2 m |

VII. Board Votes			
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VIII. Board Vote			7:44 PM
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| A. | Competitive Bids
(all linked in folder) | Vote | Jocelyn Alter | 10 m |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furniture (FF&E) • Signage • Moving Vendor | | | |
| B. | New Board Member Vote | Vote | Michael Freeland | 5 m |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance: Jenea Caruth • Partnerships: LaKenya Norris • Governance: Sharicka Samuels | | | |

Suggested motion language: I move to approve Jenea Caruth, LaKenya Norris, and Sharicka Samuels to join the DeKalb Brilliance Academy Governing Board of Directors for the 25-26 school year.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
IX. Executive Session: Real Estate			
X. Closing Items			7:59 PM
A. Team shoutouts	Discuss	Michael Freeland	5 m
Align shoutouts to board agreements:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build excellence: We know that an excellent school starts with an excellent founding team. We come to our time together well-prepared, fulfill our commitments, and generate new ideas to accomplish our goals. • Stay engaged: We stay engaged by “remaining morally, emotionally, intellectually, and socially involved in the dialogue.” • Embrace disagreement: We value disagreement and agree to bring issues into the open. It is through dialogue, even when uncomfortable, that we grow as a team to best serve our students. • Take responsibility for intent and impact: We assume best intent, and also take responsibility for the impact of our actions. • Process, not the people: We know that everyone is working hard for the team, and look first at how to change the process, policies, or plans when we don’t reach our goals. 			
B. Meeting feedback survey	FYI	Michael Freeland	5 m
Fill out survey here			
C. Adjourn Meeting	FYI	Michael Freeland	
<i>Now we will adjourn our board business.</i>			
<i>As a reminder, we don’t need a motion to close - I will just ask if there is any further business, and if there is none, we can adjourn board business. Do we have any further board business to discuss?</i>			
<Pause>			
<i>Seeing none, I adjourn official board business.</i>			