DeKalb Brilliance Academy

FY27 Board Meeting

Published on July 25, 2026 at 9:35 PM EDT
Amended on July 25, 2026 at 9:42 PM EDT

Date and Time

Monday July 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM EDT

Pre-work:

- review revised local wellness policy, staff handbook, and parent/family handbook (changes in red text (additions) and strikethrough (removals).

Access all board meeting materials here

Agenda

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	**Opening Items**			**7:00 PM**
A.	Record Attendance		Jazmin Counts	5 m
B.	Call the Meeting to Order		Michael Freeland	1 m

The August 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.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

We will have two minutes for each speaker, in the order in which we receive the request to comment.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
C.	Approve June meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Michael Freeland	2 m

II. Meeting opening — 7:08 PM

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	Mission and Vision	FYI	Michael Freeland	3 m

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.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	Board Commitments	FYI	Michael Freeland	2 m

- **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.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
C.	Public Comment	FYI	Michael Freeland	5 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.
- 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”

If people do not sign up: “seeing no requests for public comment, we will move to the next section of our agenda”

III. Committee Updates — 7:18 PM

	Item	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	Committee Updates	FYI	Michael Freeland	5 m

- No committee meetings in June
- Finance reports combined for June and July (board will see in August meeting)
- Board retreat scheduling pushed to September to be able to have fuller attendance and be in person

	Purpose	Presenter	Time

- **Complete and Upload Board Forms:** Please complete the board commitment, conflict of interest, and confidentiality (combined form) and upload to this folder

IV. School Leadership Report Out — 7:23 PM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. School Leader Report Out	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	20 m

See slides here.

V. Board votes — 7:43 PM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. Decision 1: Approval of Handbook and Policy Revisions	Vote	Jocelyn Alter	5 m

Decision 1: Approval of Handbook and Policy Revisions

Suggested Motion Language: *I move to approve the revisions as submitted to the board in the Local Wellness Policy, Staff Handbook and Student & Family Handbook, as submitted to the Board.*

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
B. Decision 2: Vote on charter renewal	Vote	Michael Freeland	5 m

Decision 2: Vote on charter renewal

Suggested motion language: *I move to direct the DeKalb Brilliance staff to seek a five-year charter renewal for DeKalb Brilliance Academy.*

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
C. Decision 3: Vote on FY26 Executive Bonuses	Vote	Michael Freeland	5 m

Decision 3: Vote on FY26 Executive Bonuses

Suggested motion language: *I move to approve the issuance of FY26 executive merit bonuses of $5,000 per eligible executive, in accordance with the terms outlined in their employment contracts and at the Board's sole discretion.*

VI. Closing Items — 7:58 PM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. Team shoutouts	Discuss	Michael Freeland	5 m

Align shutouts to board agreements:

	Purpose	Presenter	Time

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		Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	Meeting closing	FYI	Michael Freeland	5 m

- **Next meeting:** August 24, 2026
- **Complete board action items:**
  - **Complete and Upload Board Forms:** Please complete the board commitment, conflict of interest, and confidentiality (combined form) and upload to this folder
- ***Adjourn board meeting***

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
C.	Adjourn Meeting	FYI	Michael Freeland	

Now we will adjourn our board business.

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?

<Pause>

Seeing none, I adjourn official board business.