



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting

Published on January 26, 2025 at 11:03 PM EST

Date and Time

Monday January 27, 2025 at 7:00 PM EST

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-2uqTliHNbQk4Rtf5I6MoBLdAEPB-C29>

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

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			7:00 PM
A. Record Attendance		Toby Egbuna	5 m
ADD CONNECTOR			
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Brian Howell	1 m
The [MONTH] meeting of the DeKalb Brilliance Academy Governing Board is called to order at [TIME].			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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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.

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|-----------|--|-----------------|--------------|-----|
| C. | Approve November meeting minutes | Approve Minutes | Brian Howell | 2 m |
| D. | Approve December Emergency Meeting Minutes | Approve Minutes | Brian Howell | 2 m |

II. Meeting opening **7:10 PM**

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|-----------|--------------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| A. | Mission and Vision | FYI | Brian Howell | 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.

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|-----------|-------------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| B. | Board Commitments | FYI | Brian Howell | 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	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.
- 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. Governance

7:25 PM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. Governance Committee Update See slides here .	Discuss	Michael Freeland	2 m
IV. Finance			7:27 PM
A. Finance Committee Update • See slides here . • Review December financials (presentation and details)	FYI	Quentin Johnson	5 m
V. Academics			7:32 PM
A. Academics Committee Report Out • See slides here . • See detailed dashboard here	FYI	Tareva Ruffin	5 m
VI. Facility			7:37 PM
A. Facilities Taskforce • See slides here and January owner's report here .	FYI	Brian Howell	5 m
VII. School Leadership Report Out			7:42 PM
A. School Leader Report Out • See slides here .	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	5 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
B. Staff Advisory report out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See slides here. 	FYI	Blake Miller	5 m
C. Family Advisory report out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See slides here. 	FYI		5 m
VIII. Board Workshop			
IX. Partnerships			7:57 PM
A. Partnerships Committee Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See slides here. 	FYI	Brittany Hartman	30 m
X. Closing Items			
A. Team shoutouts 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. 	Discuss	Brian Howell	5 m
B. Meeting feedback survey Fill out survey here	FYI	Brian Howell	5 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
C. Adjourn Meeting	FYI	Brian Howell	

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.

Coversheet

Approve November meeting minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: C. Approve November meeting minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material:
Minutes for DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting on November 18, 2024

APPROVED



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday November 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM

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-2uqTliHNbQk4Rtf5l6MoBLdAEPBC29>

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

Directors Present

B. Hartman (remote), B. Howell, B. Riley (remote), C. Armour, Jr. (remote), D. Watters, J. Akpan, J. Counts, M. Freeland, M. Greene (remote), Q. Johnson, T. Egbuna, T. Ruffin

Directors Absent

C. Payton

Guests Present

J. Alter

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Freeland called a meeting of the board of directors of DeKalb Brilliance Academy to order on Monday Nov 18, 2024 at 7:09 PM.

II. Consent agenda & meeting opening

A. Approve Minutes

D. Watters made a motion to approve the minutes from DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting on 10-28-24.

J. Counts seconded the motion.

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

B. Mission and Vision

C. Board Commitments

D. Public Comment

NA

III. Finance

A. Finance Committee Update

- Reviewed loans for the new building

IV. Academics

A. Academics Committee Report Out

- Have surveyed students on what they want to focus on for their middle school
 - Most interested in science/environmental science

Back and forth about the structure of the curriculum design for the middle schoolers. The primary question is if the three tracks need to be kept independent or if collaboration between the tracks is possible.

V. Partnerships

A. Partnerships Committee Update

- Targeting \$50k total value donated this year
- Request for board members to share corporations

Actions

- Will share the fundraising CRM that we have with board members

VI. Facility

A. Facilities Taskforce

Closing on the building Wednesday 11/20.

VII. School Leadership Report Out

A. School Leader Report Out

- Strong fall fest turnout
- Fundraising documentation is complete.
- Staffing and recruiting for FY26 starts the week of Nov 25.

B. Staff Advisory report out

C. Family Advisory report out

VIII. Closing Items

A. Team shoutouts

B. Meeting feedback survey

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Freeland

Coversheet

Approve December Emergency Meeting Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: D. Approve December Emergency Meeting Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for December Emergency Meeting on December 9, 2024

APPROVED



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

December Emergency Meeting

Date and Time

Monday December 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Location

DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Directors Present

B. Howell (remote), C. Payton (remote), J. Akpan (remote), J. Counts (remote), M. Freeland (remote), M. Greene (remote), Q. Johnson (remote), T. Egbuna (remote), T. Ruffin (remote)

Directors Absent

B. Hartman, B. Riley, C. Armour, Jr., D. Watters

Ex Officio Members Present

E. Parks (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

E. Parks (remote)

Guests Present

J. Alter (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Freeland called a meeting of the board of directors of DeKalb Brilliance Academy to order on Monday Dec 9, 2024 at 7:03 PM.

II. Facility

A. Facilities Taskforce

Docs - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Dyz9wGpf9BMhzsSo4gTk8dfs2MuvCtot?usp=drive_link

We have two bids for the work on the new building to transform it into educational space. The facilities team is pushing to work with Carroll Daniel.

Unexpected expenses for the new school surpassed the initially planned \$12.25M. Need to confirm how much wiggle room we should give to avoid follow-up meetings. The target spend is \$12.5M. Contingency budget is up to \$12.75M. The board needs to confirm what amount is okay to go back to the contractor with between \$12.25 - 12.75

Q. Johnson made a motion to Motion to approve selection of general contractor of Carrol Daniel for up to \$12.5M, in terms outlined in board resolution.

B. Howell seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

- J. Counts Aye
- B. Hartman Absent
- Q. Johnson Aye
- M. Freeland Aye
- T. Egbuna Aye
- D. Watters Absent
- C. Payton Aye
- B. Howell Aye
- J. Akpan Aye
- T. Ruffin Aye
- B. Riley Absent
- C. Armour, Jr. Absent
- M. Greene Aye

III. 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 7:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Freeland