



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting

Published on June 21, 2025 at 12:55 AM EDT

Amended on June 23, 2025 at 6:58 PM EDT

Date and Time

Monday June 23, 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:

- Review minor proposed policy revisions (in red) in [staff](#) and [student/family](#) handbooks, and revised [sexual harassment/title IX policy](#)
- Review [consent for resolution for property purchase](#) and [fact certificate](#) for adjacent land parcel
- Familiarize yourself with meeting [slides](#)

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			7:00 PM
A. Record Attendance ADD CONNECTOR		Toby Egbuna	5 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order 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.		Michael Freeland	1 m
C. Approve May meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Toby Egbuna	2 m
II. Meeting opening			7:08 PM
A. Mission and Vision 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.	FYI	Michael Freeland	3 m
B. Board Commitments <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. 	FYI	Michael Freeland	2 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
- 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.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	Academics	7:23 PM
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A.	Academic Committee Update	FYI	Tareva Ruffin	5 m
MAP Growth (goal is 60%+) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA: 68% met or exceeded growth goals• Math: 59% met or exceeded growth goals MAP Proficiency (Developing & Above) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA: 4 of 5 grades met proficiency goals• Math: 3 of 5 grades met proficiency goals Milestones (GA State Test in Grades 3–4): both grades met/exceeded proficiency goals in both ELA and math Focus Areas: 1st grade staffing; continued growth in early math proficiency				
See slides here See academic dashboard here				

IV.	Governance	7:28 PM
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A.	Governance Committee	FYI	Michael Freeland	5 m
Board training: Mesha, Curtis, Tareva, & Brian are finished! All trainings have to be completed by June 30 or the board is out of compliance and will have a finding on the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework.				
Incoming board members: new board member training will happen in June and new board members will join July meeting.				
Outgoing board members: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toby and Tareva have completed a three-year term of service and are exiting the board				

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon, Brian, and Chawn have completed *two* three-year terms of service and are exiting the board • Thank you to exiting board members for creating the foundation to bring the school from just an idea to what we are today. 			

See slides [here](#).

V. Partnerships 7:33 PM

A. Partnerships Committee	Discuss	Brittany Hartman	5 m
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- **Partnerships:**
 - We've fundraised \$12,526 toward board commitment of \$16,500.
 - Very important that 100% of board members:
 - reach their commitment AND
 - make meaningful personal donation (many funders as this to measure the board's support of the school).
 - Congratulations to Toby, Micahel, Chawn, Brittany, Brandon & Jazmin for fulfilling their commitments!
 - Only 1 week remains to secure your \$1,500 per board member.

See slides [here](#).

VI. Finance 7:38 PM

A. Finance Committee Update	FYI	Quentin Johnson	5 m
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- Review May financials ([presentation](#) and [details](#))
- Cash flow remains strong, although slight dip with moving FY26 tech purchases into FY25
- On track with SCSC requirements

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
• 76% of board fundraising commitment complete with one week to go			
See slides here .			
VII. Facility			7:43 PM
A. Facilities Taskforce	FYI	Brian Howell	5 m
• See slides here and see full June owner's report here			
VIII. School Leadership Report Out			7:48 PM
A. School Leader Report Out	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	10 m
See slides here .			
IX. Board Votes			7:58 PM
A. Approval of Property Purchase and Loan Documents	Vote	Brian Howell	5 m
Decision 1: Approval of Property Purchase and Loan Documents Suggested Motion Language: <i>I move to approve the Consent Resolution for Property Purchase and LFFF Loan and the related Fact Certificate, authorizing DeKalb Brilliance Academy to acquire the property located at 2300 Park Central Boulevard and enter into an acquisition loan of up to \$1.25 million with LFF Fund LLC, as detailed in the provided documents.</i>			
B. Approval of Handbook and Policy Revisions	Vote	Michael Freeland	5 m
Decision 2: Approval of Handbook and Policy Revisions Suggested Motion Language: <i>Move to approve the revised Staff Handbook, Student & Family Handbook, and Sexual Harassment Policy, as submitted to the Board.</i>			
C. Head of School Contract	Vote	Michael Freeland	5 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
X. Closing Items			8:13 PM
A. Team shoutouts	Discuss	Michael Freeland	5 m
Align shutouts 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 closing	FYI	Michael Freeland	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Important June 30th deadlines:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Complete fundraising◦ Complete all SCSC trainings• Save the date: Ribbon cutting on July 18 at 4 PM• Next meeting: July 28, 2025 at 7 PM			
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>			

Coversheet

Approve May meeting minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve May meeting minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting on May 22, 2025



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday May 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Location

[Add all members](#) 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>

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Pre-work: familiarize yourself with meeting [slides](#)

Directors Present

B. Hartman, B. Howell, B. Riley, C. Payton, J. Akpan, J. Counts, M. Freeland, M. Greene, T. Ruffin

Directors Absent

C. Armour, Jr., D. Watters, Q. Johnson, T. Egbuna

Ex Officio Members Present

B. Miller, E. Parks, K. Herbert

Non Voting Members Present

B. Miller, E. Parks, K. Herbert

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 Thursday May 22, 2025 at 7:06 PM.

C. Approve April meeting minutes

C. Payton made a motion to approve the minutes from DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting on 04-28-25.

J. Counts seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

II. Meeting opening

A. Mission and Vision

Brittany read mission, Kedra read vision

B. Board Commitments

C.

Public Comment

No requests for public comment

III. Board Vote

A. FY26 Budget

C. Payton made a motion to I move to approve the FY26 budget as presented in the public budget hearings.

J. Akpan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Adjacent Land Parcel Deposit

J. Akpan made a motion to I move to approve the Facilities Taskforce's recommendation to (a) authorize the existing \$10,000 initial deposit on the adjacent land parcel to become non-refundable, and (b) commit to up to \$75,000 in additional non-refundable due diligence expenses related to evaluating the parcel for potential acquisition.

C. Payton seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

Roll Call

T. Ruffin	Aye
M. Greene	Aye
J. Counts	Aye

IV. 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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Freeland