



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
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 March 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.” 	FYI	Michael Freeland	2 m

	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
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- 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 7:23 PM

A.	Abbreviated Committee Updates	Discuss	Michael Freeland	2 m
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- **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:**
 - 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.

See slides [here](#).

IV. Finance 7:25 PM

A.	Finance Committee Update	FYI	Quentin Johnson	5 m
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Review March financials ([presentation](#) and [details](#))

See slides [here](#).

V. Facility 7:30 PM

A.	Facilities Taskforce	FYI	Brian Howell	5 m
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	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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- See slides [here](#) and April owner's report [here](#).

VI. School Leadership Report Out 7:35 PM

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

VIII. Board Vote 7:44 PM

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

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
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IX. Executive Session: Real Estate

X. Closing Items 7:59 PM

A.	Team shoutouts	Discuss	Michael Freeland	5 m
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Align shoutouts to board agreements:

- **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
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Fill out survey [here](#)

C.	Adjourn Meeting	FYI	Michael Freeland	
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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 March meeting minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve March meeting minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting on March 24, 2025



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday March 24, 2025 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., C. Payton, J. Akpan, J. Counts, M. Freeland, M. Greene, Q. Johnson (remote), T. Egbuna, T. Ruffin

Directors Absent

D. Watters

Ex Officio Members Present

B. Miller (remote), K. Herbert (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

B. Miller (remote), K. Herbert (remote)

Guests Present

Alecea Thompson (remote), Asia Bowles (remote), Breyanah Henry (remote), J. Alter, Jamye Adams, Jaymee Harper (remote), Meranda Reed (remote), Renisha Morrow (remote), Saiya Lin (remote), Terica Huff (remote), Wynton Woody (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 Mar 24, 2025 at 7:05 PM.

C. Approve February meeting minutes

B. Howell made a motion to approve the minutes from DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting on 02-24-25.

C. Payton seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

D. Approve January meeting minutes

B. Howell made a motion to approve the minutes from DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting on 01-27-25.

J. Akpan seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

B. Howell	Aye
B. Hartman	Aye

Roll Call

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

II. Partnerships

A. Partnerships Committee Report Out

Back and forth on feedback about the Commerce Club event;

- Make it possible for people to buy tickets closer to the date
- Need to think of a way to thank the Commerce Club for hosting
- Ideating on finding a more feasible time - tough to do so in Atlanta

III. Finance

A. Finance Committee Update

- FY26 is under review tonight (3/24)
- 99 days of cash in the bank (minimum is 60)
- We use BRITA is over \$1M, which is above the benchmark
-

IV. Academics

A. Academics Committee Report Out

- On target for every grade except Third and Second grade
- Implementing strategies from fourth grade to raise the scores for third grade and a different first-grade
 - Goals are to meet the targets AND achieve proficiency
- Fourth and third grade targets are lower as these are the children impacted by COVID shutdowns

Q (Chawn): are we being reactive or proactive?

A (Kedra): Both. The reactive part of it is assessing more frequently (2-3x a week). The proactive part was doing the initial assessment, and the reactive part assessed more aggressively.

Q (Brian): how is proficiency measured?

A (Jocelyn): it's captured at the end of the year. Whether or not you're proficient at the start of the year is important but not the target. The aim is for accelerated progress.

Q (Brandon): Have we done anything to prep for SSHT test?

A (Kedra): Haven't addressed it yet; it's on our radar though. We are doing things to help our kids prep for high school courses and the goal is to kick off broader prep in early fall.

- Mesha volunteering to help plan.

V. Facility

A. Facilities Taskforce

- Furniture vendor selected
- Evaluating AV and low-voltage vendors
- Considering skylight vendors
- Roof needs more work than initially planned; looks like 50-60% needs to be updated
 - Choosing to do a partial repair as replacing the entire roof would eat up the entire budget
- Deciding to buy furniture now. Should save on future furniture prices if/when tariffs come into play.

VI. School Leadership Report Out

A. School Leader Report Out

- 100% of staff who were offered contracts have accepted
- Targeting 1000 applicants for FY26 staffing recruiting goal
- Kedra took staff to NYC for a high-performing charter school study.
 - Per Jocelyn, this is a great opportunity and something that typically happens later when people get to fellowships.

B. Staff Advisory report out

- Spots open for staff gratitude
- 3rd and 4th grade students taking GMAS at the end of April

C. Family Advisory report out

Transitioning to a PTA in FY26

VII. SY25-26 Budget First Review

A. Brief Overview

Overview:

- Need competitive salaries
- Allocating budget for middle school

VIII. Board Vote

A. Competitive Bids

Q. Johnson made a motion to approve CTS as our AV/low voltage provider for the 25-26 school year.

J. Counts seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

Q. Johnson made a motion to approve CTS as Dekalb Brilliance Academy's tech support provider for the 25-26 school year.

M. Greene seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

D. Watters	Absent
M. Greene	Aye
B. Riley	Aye
J. Akpan	Aye
C. Payton	Aye
Q. Johnson	Aye
B. Hartman	Aye
C. Armour, Jr.	Aye

Roll Call

B. Howell Aye

T. Egbuna Aye

M. Freeland Aye

T. Ruffin Aye

J. Counts Aye

Q. Johnson made a motion to approve Constant Contract Solutions LLC as Dekalb Brilliance Academy's janitorial provider for the 25-26.

T. Ruffin seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

C. Armour, Jr. Aye

T. Egbuna Aye

C. Payton Aye

J. Akpan Aye

M. Freeland Aye

Q. Johnson Aye

D. Watters Absent

B. Hartman Aye

T. Ruffin Aye

M. Greene Aye

B. Riley Aye

J. Counts Aye

B. Howell Aye

IX. 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 8:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Freeland