



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Published on August 23, 2025 at 2:02 PM EDT

Amended on August 23, 2025 at 3:43 PM EDT

Date and Time

Monday August 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM EDT

Pre-work:

- **<PAST DUE> Complete and Upload Board Forms:** Please complete the [board commitment, conflict of interest, and confidentiality \(combined form\)](#) and upload to [this folder](#).
- **Complete “All About You” survey:** fields are optional so you can skip whatever you want to, but the intent is to be able to celebrate and support you as a board member.
- **Complete Background Check:** We finally connected with JDP and they will be sending background checks directly to anyone who needed a resend. Thank you for your patience on this.
- **Leverage LinkedIn:** Connect with [fellow board members](#) on LinkedIn & add DeKalb Brilliance to your volunteer section on your LinkedIn profile
- **Preview Agenda below**

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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I.	Opening Items		7:00 PM
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A.	Record Attendance	Tiayana Logan	5 m
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Connector: if you could be instantly good at anything, what would it be and why?

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	Call the Meeting to Order	Michael Freeland	1 m
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 July meeting minutes	Approve Minutes Michael Freeland	2 m
II.	Meeting opening		7:08 PM
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.			
B.	Board Commitments	FYI Michael Freeland	2 m
<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. 			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
- Start public comment: "the order we have for public comment is XYZ"

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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. Committee Updates	FYI	Quentin Johnson	10 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present June financial (presentation + details). Closed fiscal year with full points on SCSC financial framework. • Finance reports combined for July & August (board will see in September meeting). This will be very important to help us understand what spending does/does not need to be adjusted for remainder of year. Closely monitoring some bills we should *not* have to pay (\$12K residual water bills + \$100K property taxes). Will alert full board if advocacy/support needed. • Mike secured generous offer of office furniture! • Working through final sections of closeout in new building - RTUs, floor glue, and playground • Purchase of adjacent land parcel completed, insurance policies active, etc. 			
IV. School Leadership Report Out			7:33 PM
A. School Leader Report Out	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	10 m
See slides here .			
V. Board Action Items			7:43 PM
A. FY26 Committee Goal Setting – Live Work Session	Discuss	Michael Freeland	20 m
<p>Minutes 1–5: Review: Skim your committee's draft FY26 goals. What's aligned? What's missing?</p> <p>Minutes 6–15: Adjust: Revise and refine together. Aim for 1–3 clear, measurable, high-impact goals.</p> <p>Minutes 16–20: Submit in BoardOnTrack: One member logs into BoardOnTrack <i>Need help? Flag down Jocelyn or Tiayana.</i></p>			
VI. Closing Items			8:03 PM

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

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 closing	FYI	Michael Freeland	10 m
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- **Meeting feedback survey:** <https://forms.gle/ti4WRQRLBW44rzFF9>. Includes committing to one semester 1 event to attend :)
 - Sept 26 (3-4 PM): Salsa dancing Hispanic Heritage celebration with families
 - Oct 3 (8-9 AM): K-2 Chant Off
 - Oct 10 (8-9 AM): 3-5 Chant Off
 - Oct 20-24 (volunteers needed during school day): Fall Book Fair
 - Nov 15 (Saturday!): Fall Fest
 - Dec 10-11 (4-6 PM): Celebration of Learning Showcases
- **Next meeting:** September 22, 2025
- **Save the Dates:**
 - **November 5–6:** Required SCSC training (Macon)
 - **December 18 (evening):** Staff/board holiday celebration
 - **February 11–12:** Required SCSC training (Atlanta)
- **Complete board action items:**
 - Background Check
 - Board Commitment, Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest Forms
 - Complete “All About You” survey

Connect with [fellow board members](#) on LinkedIn & add DeKalb Brilliance to your volunteer section on your LinkedIn profile

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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 July meeting minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve July meeting minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for FY26 Full Board Meetings on July 28, 2025



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Date and Time

Monday July 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Pre-work:

- Review minor proposed policy revisions (in red) in [staff](#) and [student/family handbooks recommended by DBA lawyers](#)
- Familiarize yourself with meeting [slides](#)

Directors Present

B. Hartman, C. Armour, Jr. (remote), J. Akpan, J. Caruth, J. Counts, L. Norris, M. Freeland, M. Greene, Q. Johnson, S. Samuels

Directors Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present

K. Herbert

Non Voting Members Present

K. Herbert

Guests Present

J. Alter, T. Logan

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 Jul 28, 2025 at 7:35 PM.

C. Approve June meeting minutes

M. Greene made a motion to approve the minutes from DeKalb Brilliance Academy Board Meeting on 06-23-25.

B. Hartman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

M. Freeland	Aye
J. Caruth	Aye
M. Greene	Aye
J. Akpan	Aye
L. Norris	Aye
C. Armour, Jr.	Aye
S. Samuels	Aye
J. Counts	Aye
Q. Johnson	Aye
B. Hartman	Aye

II. Meeting opening

A. Mission and Vision

B. Board Commitments

C. Public Comment

no public comment

III. Committee Updates

A. Committee Updates

Joseph - Vice Chair

Jazmin - Secretary

Q. Johnson made a motion to Approve officers for FY26: Michael Freeland - Chair, Joseph Akpan - Vice Chair, Quentin Johnson - Treasurer, and Jazmin Counts - Secretary.

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

Roll Call

J. Akpan	Aye
Q. Johnson	Aye
J. Caruth	Aye
B. Hartman	Aye
J. Counts	Aye
L. Norris	Aye
S. Samuels	Aye
C. Armour, Jr.	Aye
M. Freeland	Aye
M. Greene	Aye

IV. Board Votes

A. Approval of Handbook and Policy Revisions

J. Akpan made a motion to Move to approve the recommended revisions from the school's legal counsel in the Staff Handbook and Student & Family Handbook, as submitted to the Board.

B. Hartman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Q. Johnson	Aye
L. Norris	Aye
B. Hartman	Aye
M. Greene	Aye
C. Armour, Jr.	Aye
J. Caruth	Aye
J. Counts	Aye
M. Freeland	Aye
J. Akpan	Aye
S. Samuels	Aye

Q. Johnson made a motion to Move to approve the issuance of FY25 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.

J. Counts seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Caruth	Aye
M. Freeland	Aye
C. Armour, Jr.	Aye

Roll Call

J. Counts	Aye
L. Norris	Aye
S. Samuels	Aye
J. Akpan	Aye
Q. Johnson	Aye
B. Hartman	Aye
M. Greene	Aye

V. Closing Items

A. Team shoutouts

B. Meeting closing

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Freeland