



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Published on October 25, 2025 at 6:56 PM EDT
Amended on October 26, 2025 at 10:06 AM EDT

Date and Time

Monday October 27, 2025 at 7:00 PM EDT

Pre-work:

- Review [FY25 audit & management response letter](#)
 - Review [emergency situations purchase policy](#) for board voting
 - Preview Agenda below
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Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			7:00 PM
A. Record Attendance		Tiayana Logan	5 m
<i>Connector:</i>			
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Michael Freeland	1 m
The October meeting of the DeKalb Brilliance Academy Governing Board is called to order at [TIME].			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<p>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.</p>			
C.	Approve September meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Michael Freeland
			2 m

II. Meeting opening 7:08 PM

A.	Mission and Vision	FYI	Michael Freeland	3 m
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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
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- **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.

C.	Public Comment	FYI	Michael Freeland	5 m
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If people sign up:

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

A. Committee Updates	FYI	10 m
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- Partnerships & Governance did not meet this month.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Committee has draft dashboard - next month will include all Q1 academic and survey data for board review • Present September financial (presentation + details). 			
IV. School Leadership Report Out			7:28 PM
A. School Leader Report Out	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	15 m
See slides here .			
V. Board votes			
VI. Board Workshop			7:43 PM
A. FY25 Audit	Discuss	Quentin Johnson	10 m
See slides here .			
B. Board Votes	Vote	Michael Freeland	10 m
Decision 1: Vote on FY25 Audit Social Media Policy: <i>Move to approve the FY25 Audit as presented to the board.</i>			
Decision 2: Vote on FY25 Audit Finding Management Response Letter Suggested motion language: <i>Move to approve the FY25 Audit Finding Management Response Letter as presented to the board.</i>			
Decision 3: Vote on Emergency Situations Purchase Policy <i>Not related to the audit; this was just a policy found to be missing from our existing policies during the admin team's annual submission of policies to the SCSC.</i> Suggested motion language: <i>Move to approve the recommended emergency purchase policy as presented to the board.</i>			
VII. Closing Items			8:03 PM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. Team shoutouts	Discuss	Michael Freeland	10 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	5 m
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- **Check out with Tiayana & Jocelyn to ensure all compliance items complete**
- **Save the Dates:**
 - **November 5–6:** Required SCSC training (Option 1: Macon)
 - **November 14:** Game Night/Fall Fest
 - **November 24:** Board Meeting (note virtual meeting)
 - **December 10-11:** Celebration of Learning Showcases
 - **December 18:** Staff/board holiday celebration
 - **February 11–12:** Required SCSC training (Option 2: Atlanta)

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>

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<i>Seeing none, I adjourn official board business.</i>			

Coversheet

Approve September meeting minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve September meeting minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for FY26 Full Board Meetings on September 22, 2025



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Date and Time

Monday September 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM

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](#).
- Review [revised calendar](#), [social media policy](#) & [reduction in force policy](#) for board voting
- Preview Agenda below

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present

E. Parks, K. Herbert

Non Voting Members Present

E. Parks, 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 Sep 22, 2025 at 7:11 PM.

C. Approve August meeting minutes

Q. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from FY26 Full Board Meetings on 08-25-25.

M. Greene seconded the motion.

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

II. Meeting opening

A. Mission and Vision

Mesha recited mission and Quentin recited the vision.

B. Board Commitments

C. Public Comment

No one present

III. Committee Updates

A. Committee Updates

Governance -3 policy revisions for vote today suggested by the school's Legal counsel

Finance — under-funding by GADOE (which will be at least partially corrected in mid-year adjustment starting in March), despite cash flow being strong. Reduced by \$765,000.

There are higher than projected education costs. Bottom line expected to be less than \$500K.

Partnership- grant prospecting and submission using tools like ShareWay and Givebutter, etc., goal to pursue at least 3 new grant opportunities over 50K per month

Board giving and individual fundraising- ensure we have 100% board giving by June 30 with \$1500 per board member

Academic- reviewed year 4 baseline data from DIBELS and MAP (ELA and Math)

- reviewed Y4 DBA priorities, goals and guiding meetings
- dashboard will be ready to share in October

IV. School Leadership Report Out

A. School Leader Report Out

Staffing- opening a 3rd self-contained classroom,

- these are the most difficult positions to staff
- moved a 2nd grade teacher to cover a 5th grade departure and hired a new 2nd grade teacher
- 12 kids per class which is the max

Enrollment- 747 applicants (exceeded our goal of 600)

- we need to get 10 more students each in 4th and 5th (current waitlists are 0)

Attendance- so far in September has average daily attendance of 95.93% (exceeded 95% goal)

Staff development- week over week development trajectory focusing on key indicators needed for academic rigor

First parent workshop- 40 families showed up

Spirit week- Hispanic Heritage

Playground design charrette with students

V. Board votes

A. Social Media Policy- recommends revisions the social media policy from the school's legal counsel as present to the board

Q. Johnson made a motion to approve the recommended revisions to the social media policy from the school's legal counsel as presented to the board.

J. Counts seconded the motion.
FERPA violations better protected
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. FY25 End of Year Family Calendar Revision

Motion to approve the revision to the FY25-26 school year calendar as submitted to the board.
B. Hartman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Reduction In Force Policy- language from the school's legal counsel as presented to the board

M. Greene made a motion to approve the recommended reduction in force policy from the school's legal counsel as presented to the board.
J. Counts seconded the motion.

- would be brought to the board for approval if ever needed to be utilized due to a budget shortfall.
- would also provide better EEOC protections

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
Q. Johnson made a motion to move into executive session for a personnel matter.
J. Counts seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
Q. Johnson made a motion to end executive session.
B. Hartman seconded the motion.
at 8:20pm
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VI. Board Workshop

A. Fundraising Gap Brainstorming

- less access to local tax revenue and district-level supports--> persistent operating gPA
- reimbursements and services lag behind needs--> we frontload costs and capacity
- BOARD ACTION- take 3 minutes to search your LinkedIn to see what connections you have in GaDOE and OMB. Put those in Groupme chat.

B. Growth: Replication// High School

- Replicating our K-8 model in new communities allows more students to benefit from a project-based, career-connected education, meeting the demand for high, real-world learning experiences.
- Expansion to pre-k offers children early learning and social emotional development.
- Expanding into high school supports students from foundational learning through graduation, equipping them for high-demand careers and providing continuity in their education journey.

VII. Closing Items

A. Team shoutouts

- Quentin gave a shoutout to Jocelyn, Kedra and Eva for their pivot with the under-funding matter with GaDOE
- Quentin gave a shout out to Jazmin for her legal perspectives and guidance bringing attention to present matters
- Joceyln gave a shout out to the new board members
- Jazmin gave a shout out to Mike for being a great board president
- Mike gave a shout out to the board
- Jazmin gave a shout out to Tiyana for her weekly board reminder emails

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 9:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Counts

Documents used during the meeting

None