



# DeKalb Brilliance Academy

## FY26 Full Board Meetings

Published on January 26, 2026 at 4:03 PM EST

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### Date and Time

Monday January 26, 2026 at 7:00 PM EST

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### Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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<b>I.</b>	<b>Opening Items</b>		<b>7:00 PM</b>
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<b>A.</b>	Record Attendance	Jazmin Counts	5 m
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<b>B.</b>	Call the Meeting to Order	Michael Freeland	1 m
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The January 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.

<b>C.</b>	Approve November meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Michael Freeland	2 m
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	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>II. Meeting opening</b>			<b>7:08 PM</b>
<b>A. Mission and Vision</b>	FYI	Michael Freeland	3 m
<p><b>Our mission:</b> With unwavering commitment to exceptional academics, leadership development, and community collaboration, <b>DeKalb Brilliance Academy</b> prepares all Kindergarten-8th grade students to thrive in high school and college, have fulfilling careers, and become impactful leaders in our communities.</p> <p><b>Our vision:</b> 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.</p>			
<b>B. Board Commitments</b>	FYI	Michael Freeland	2 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Build excellence:</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Stay engaged:</b> We stay engaged by “remaining morally, emotionally, intellectually, and socially involved in the dialogue.”</li> <li>• <b>Embrace disagreement:</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Take responsibility for intent and impact:</b> We assume best intent, and also take responsibility for the impact of our actions.</li> <li>• <b>Process, not the people:</b> 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.</li> </ul>			
<b>C. Public Comment</b>	FYI	Michael Freeland	5 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

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

If people do not sign up: “seeing no requests for public comment, we will move to the next section of our agenda”

III. Committee Updates7:18 PM

A. Finance Committee Updates	FYI	Quentin Johnson	10 m
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Finance Committee Update

- December financial ([presentation](#) + [details](#)).
- Days cash on hand in strong position

24-25 Comprehensive Performance Framework: Finance

- 24-25 Comprehensive Performance Framework misses the mark by 5 points.
- Currently appealing 15 points.
- Will continue to work with EdTec to align structures to prevent any future audit issues (the one, small issue in the FY25 audit cost the school 20 points on CPF because the indicator is all-or-none).

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25-26 Financial indicators on CPF tracking to be in the green</li> </ul>			
<b>B. Academic Committee Updates</b>	FYI	Mesha Greene	10 m

## Q2 Academic Dashboard and Response Plan

- **Strategic staffing adjustments** aligned to the RIF rubric to strengthen instructional leadership
- **Corrected scope and sequence misalignments** in upper elementary to ensure alignment to assessed standards
- **Implemented weekly quizzes and schoolwide data analysis cycles** to monitor mastery and adjust instruction in real time

Full academic dashboard available [here](#).

## 24-25 Comprehensive Performance Framework: Academics

Outperformed by 10 or more points in all grade bands served on all measures

<b>C. Partnerships Committee Update</b>	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	5 m
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- Vetting grants for school to apply to (LeKenya)
- Sourcing fundraisers to recruit to the board (Joseph)
- Supporting annual campaign board work (Curtis)
  - All board members have an annual give/get commitment of \$1,500 by June 30th. Thank you for the fundraising work you do for our school - it is crucial to reach our goals for our students.
  - **If you are a new board member**, please go to [our fundraising page](#) and click "start a fundraiser". Follow the prompts to create your fundraising page.
  - **If you are a returning board member**, because this year's fundraiser is focused on the same goal (we're halfway to our playground fundraising goal), you do *\*not\** need to make new fundraising pages. Instead, please:
    - 1. Go to your fundraising page and click "edit page"
    - 2) increase your amount to include the \$1,500 goal for this year (e.g. increase from \$1,500 to \$3,000).
  - 3) Reach out to your previous donors ([list here](#)) and ask - *"Last year you helped get us to the halfway point on the money we need for a*

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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*playground. Can I count on you to give again this year to get us to the finish line?"*

**Both** - use our marketing kit to help you craft [emails](#) and/or [posts](#) to get the link to your fundraising page out to your audience.

#### IV. School Leadership Report Out 7:43 PM

A.	School Leader Report Out	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	15 m
	See slides <a href="#">here</a> .			

#### V. Executive Session - Leadership Contracts 7:58 PM

A.	Enter Executive Session	Vote	Michael Freeland	5 m
B.	Exit Executive Session	Vote	Michael Freeland	5 m

#### VI. Closing Items 8:08 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 closing	FYI	Michael Freeland	5 m
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- **Save the Dates:**
  - **February 11–12:** Required SCSC training

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Joseph, Quentin, Mesha &amp; Curtis required to attend 1 day</li><li>▪ Sharicka, Jenea, &amp; LaKenya required to attend 1.5 days</li><li>◦ February Board Meeting: Monday, February 23, 2026</li></ul>		
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 November meeting minutes

<b>Section:</b>	I. Opening Items
<b>Item:</b>	C. Approve November meeting minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Approve Minutes
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	Minutes for FY26 Full Board Meetings on November 24, 2025



## DeKalb Brilliance Academy

### Minutes

#### FY26 Full Board Meetings

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##### **Date and Time**

Monday November 24, 2025 at 7:00 PM

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##### **Directors Present**

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

##### **Directors Absent**

B. Hartman

##### **Guests Present**

J. Alter (remote), T. Logan (remote)

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#### **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 24, 2025 at 7:05 PM.

##### **C. Approve October meeting minutes**

Q. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from FY26 Full Board Meetings on 10-27-25.



M. Greene seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

## II. Meeting opening

### A. Mission and Vision

Quentin read Mission.

Tiayana read Vision.

### B. Board Commitments

### C. Public Comment

Mike announced public comment @ 7:15pm

None.

## III. Committee Updates

### A. Finance Committee Updates

Quentin held the presentation.

- Days cans on hand are in a strong position.
- Expect improvements to the year-end fund balance once the remaining funds in the loan are deposited after the final loan drawdown.
- No other major concerns for this month. Things are squared away with Ed-Tech.

### B. Academic Committee Updates

Mesha held the presentation. Jocelyn and Tiayana contributed.

- Will have survey data soon.
- Showed a preview of the new dashboard, but will not have data until next month.
- Quarter 1 attendance tracked well, discipline data favors well.
- Staff investment lower, 61% of staff last year voted well about school, this year an increase at 85%

### C. Partnerships Committee Update

Need volunteers to help with:

- setting up campaign pages for annual fundraiser -Curtis stepped up.
- Recruiting new fundraiser board member- Jospeh stepped up.
- lead fundraiser event/silent auction planning- Curtis stepped up

- Reviewing grant applications and recommending those who should apply.-  
LaKenya/Joseph stepped up

#### **IV. School Leadership Report Out**

##### **A. School Leader Report Out**

- one termination and one resignation in November
- admin covering cafe manager role
- focused on feedback arc of staff development
- holding steady at 498 students (less than 2% enrollment variance will get all SCSC points)
- November attendance daily at 95% (meeting goal)
- Compliance reports submitted all in the same week
- Fun times: Candy Crawl, SAC & NEHS Induction, Fall Fest, You've Been Boomed, Milestones Prep Lunch. TOTY

#### **V. Board Workshop**

##### **A. Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) Discovery Protocol**

Understanding the comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF)

- Renewal for 5 years is the goal because a 2 or 3 year in a K-8 model could be concerning to parents who are preparing for their scholar to be middle school age and wanting them to remain in the same school.
- DBA submits their renewal in January 2026.
- In our 1st year being eligible for this measure DBA surpassed both DeKalb County Schools (scored 68) and the State (scored 75) on progress.
- The board went over a deep review of what is needed for us to be approved for a renewal.

#### **VI. Closing Items**

##### **A. Team shoutouts**

- Tiayana gave shout out to board for remaining engaged
- Jazmin gave shoutout to Curtis for his kindness
- Mike gave shoutout to board for stepping up to help with Partnerships in Brittany's bereavement

##### **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 8:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Freeland