



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Published on February 21, 2026 at 12:00 PM EST

Date and Time

Monday February 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM EST

Pre-work:

- review [board meeting slides](#)
- review [charter amendment board resolution](#) and [supporting documentation](#)
- review [draft FY27 calendar](#)
- all materials for board meeting are in a folder [here](#)

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			7:00 PM
A. Record Attendance		Jazmin Counts	5 m
	Roll call + connector: when your name is called, please share one word that reflects your hope or intention for our work this year.		
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Michael Freeland	1 m
	The February meeting of the DeKalb Brilliance Academy Governing Board is called to order at [TIME].		

Purpose Presenter 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 January 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

- **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

If people sign up:

Purpose Presenter Time

- 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. Governance Committee updates FYI Michael Freeland 5 m

- ALL board members attended SCSC governance training!

	Purpose	Presenter	Time	
B.	Finance Committee Updates	FYI	Quentin Johnson	10 m

Finance Committee Update

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

24-25 Comprehensive Performance Framework: Finance

- Were not able to get any additional points in appeal for 24-25 Comprehensive Performance Framework
- Met with EdTec to align on a close checklist to make sure there is clear visibility
- 25-26 Financial indicators on CPF tracking to be in the green

Timeline Overview for FY27 budget process:

- Finance Committee currently reviewing draft/assumptions
- Preview to board in March
- Public budget hearings in April
- Official board vote in May
- Budget officially goes into effect July 1

C.	Academic Committee Updates	FYI	Mesha Greene	5 m
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Academic Dashboard and Response Plan

- **Corrected scope and sequence misalignments** 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](#).

D.	Partnerships Committee Update	FYI	LaKenya Norris	5 m
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Purpose

Presenter

Time

- Only 4 months left to reach your fundraising goal!
 - 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 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 See slides here .	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	15 m
V.	Board votes			7:58 PM
A.	Charter amendment charter amendment board resolution and supporting documentation	Vote	Michael Freeland	15 m

Why We Need a Charter Amendment

Current Enrollment Cap = 588 students

This number no longer reflects our school. When the cap was set it did not account for self-contained special education classrooms.

Purpose

Presenter

Time

As an LEA, we are legally required to serve enrolled students - including those who require self-contained placements. We have already opened 3 self-contained classrooms and may need more.

Beginning next year (2026–2027 school year), our projected enrollment will exceed 588.

We need our charter to match our reality and our legal obligations.

What We Are Requesting & What SCSC Requires

Proposed New Cap: 805 Students

- 28 students × 3 classes × 9 grades = 756
- Up to 4 self-contained classes × 12 students = 48
- Maximum possible = 804

Timeline

- **By April 1:** Submit amendment request
- **April 29:** SCSC Board vote
- **Effective:** 2026–2027 school year

What SCSC Requires

- Board resolution + minutes
- Specific charter language change
- Rationale
- Enrollment projections
- Financial viability
- Facility capacity documentation
- Evidence of community demand

Suggested motion language: I move that the Governing Board of DeKalb Brilliance Academy approve the Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Charter Amendment Request to the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia to increase the school's

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
enrollment cap from 588 students to 800 students, effective for the 2026–2027 school year.			
B. FY27 Calendar draft FY27 calendar	Vote	Michael Freeland	10 m

2026–27 Calendar Development Process

1. State Requirements: Under Georgia law:

- Schools must provide a minimum of 180 instructional days
- SCSC requires brick-and-mortar instruction for 180 days, with limited virtual flexibility (up to 5 pre-approved virtual days annually)

1. District Alignment (Family Stability): We align closely with DeKalb County School District for school breaks/closures. When our calendar is misaligned student attendance drops. Alignment supports attendance and family predictability.

2. Academic & Operational Layering: We then layer in:

- Balanced academic quarters
- State testing windows (MAP, Milestones, etc.)
- Built-in weather flexibility
- Weekly early release days for 90-minute instructional planning blocks
 1. Without early release, teacher planning time is fragmented (<40 min blocks). Analogy - preparing to lead six different meetings each day, with only two 30-40 minute time chunks to do so.
 2. This structure directly supports our academic results by creating one 90-minute block per week protected time for data analysis, intervention alignment, or PBL design

Community Input & Final Structure

Early Release Day Vote Results: 99.1% voted for Fridays (vs. changing to different day)

Key Calendar Highlights

- First Day: August 3, 2026
- Last Day: May 31, 2027

- | | Purpose | Presenter | Time |
|---|---------|-----------|------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 180 instructional days • Aligned breaks with DCSD • Early Release: Fridays (per community vote) | | | |

Recommended Motion:

“I move that the Board approve the 2026–27 DeKalb Brilliance Academy School Year Calendar as presented in alignment with Georgia law, SCSC guidance, and community input.”

VI. Closing Items 8:23 PM

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| 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.
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| B. | Meeting closing | FYI | Michael Freeland | 5 m |
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- **Required SCSC virtual training:** Sharicka, Jenea, & LaKenya
- **Fundraising:** Set up your donation page & make progress toward your \$1,500 goal. Only 4 months left to reach your fundraising goal!
 - 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.

Purpose

Presenter

Time

- **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.
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- 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 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.

• **March Board Meeting:** Monday, March 23, 2026

C. Adjourn Meeting

FYI

Michael Freeland

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 January meeting minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: C. Approve January meeting minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for FY26 Full Board Meetings on January 26, 2026

APPROVED



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Date and Time

Monday January 26, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

B. Hartman, C. Armour, Jr., M. Freeland

Ex Officio Members Present

E. Parks (remote), K. Herbert (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

E. Parks (remote), K. Herbert (remote)

Guests Present

J. Alter (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

Q. Johnson called a meeting of the board of directors of DeKalb Brilliance Academy to order on Monday Jan 26, 2026 at 7:07 PM.

C. Approve November meeting minutes

M. Greene made a motion to approve the minutes from FY26 Full Board Meetings on 11-24-25.

J. Akpan seconded the motion.

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

II. Meeting opening

A. Mission and Vision

Kedra read the mission. Jenea read the mission.

B. Board Commitments

Team Agreements was reviewed silently amongst the board.

C. Public Comment

No one present for Public Comment.

III. Committee Updates

A. Finance Committee Updates

- Quentin reviewed the financial presentation. Total fundraising is in the green. Days on cash is in a strong position for the remainder of the academic year. Updated Uncat expenses is at \$3K as of today.
- 24-24 Comprehensive Framework misses the mark by 5 points, currently appealing 15 points
- Working with EdTec to align structures to prevent any future audit issues.
- 25-26 financial indicators on CPF on track to remain in green.

B. Academic Committee Updates

- Mesha presented for Academic updates.
- Strategic staffing adjustments aligned to the RIF rubric to strengthen instructional leadership.
- corrected scope and sequence misalignment in upper elementary to ensure alignment to assessed standards.
- implemented weekly quizzes and school-wide data analysis cycles to monitor mastery and adjust instruction in real time.

C.

Partnerships Committee Update

- Vetting grants for school to apply to (LaKenya)
- 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.

IV. School Leadership Report Out

A. School Leader Report Out

- Jocelyn presented
- Staffing
 - 25-26- 2 resignations in January; 1 open role
 - 26-27 hiring: 180 applicants so far
- Enrollment
 - 25-26- 496 current students (goal 504)
 - 26-27: 262 applicants so far (45% increase compared to this time last year)
- Compliance
 - strong CPF results
- 100th day of school, Hive Time Celebration and Kinder Chant Off, and Staff of the Month

V. Executive Session - Leadership Contracts

A. Enter Executive Session

- Joseph motioned to go into executive session and Jenea seconded.
- The session was concerning employment contracts for leadership.
- Unanimous vote

B. Exit Executive Session

Exited at 8:10pm

VI. Closing Items

A. Team shoutouts

- Quentin and Joseph spoke to their enjoyment of being on the board and their growth.
- Jocelyn thanked finance for all they do.

B. Meeting closing

Governance Board Training February 11-12th

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Q. Johnson