



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Published on March 23, 2026 at 9:26 AM EDT

Amended on March 23, 2026 at 6:44 PM EDT

Date and Time

Monday March 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM EDT

Pre-work:

- review silent mobile panic alert system quotes [here](#)
- 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		Joseph Akpan	1 m
	The March 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.

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| C. Approve February meeting minutes | Approve Minutes | Joseph Akpan | 2 m |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----|

II. Meeting opening 7:08 PM

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|-----------------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| A. Mission and Vision | FYI | Joseph Akpan | 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.

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| B. Board Commitments | FYI | Joseph Akpan | 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.

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| C. Public Comment | FYI | Joseph Akpan | 5 m |
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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. Finance Committee Updates FYI Quentin Johnson 10 m

Finance Committee Update

- February financial ([presentation](#) + [details](#)).

	Purpose	Presenter	Time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Days cash on hand in strong position 				
B.	Academic Committee Updates	FYI	Mesha Greene	5 m
Academic Dashboard and Response Plan				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrected scope and sequence misalignments to ensure alignment prioritized assessed standards • Implemented weekly quizzes and schoolwide data analysis cycles to monitor mastery and adjust instruction in real time • Increased coaching and PD focused on rigor and execution 				
Full academic dashboard available here .				
IV.	School Leadership Report Out			7:33 PM
A.	School Leader Report Out	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	15 m
See slides here .				
V.	Board Workshop			7:48 PM
A.	FY27 Budget Preview		Quentin Johnson	5 m
Timeline Overview for FY27 budget process:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee reviewed draft/assumptions • Preliminary preview to board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Contingencies (with and without cap approval) • Public budget hearings in April • Official board vote in May • Budget officially goes into effect July 1 				
VI.	Board votes			7:53 PM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. Crisis Alert System Vote	Vote	Eva Parks	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required by law to be active by July 1; must vote ASAP • Eva procured three quotes (see here) • Add voting language here 			
VII. Closing Items			7:58 PM
A. Team shoutouts	Discuss	Joseph Akpan	5 m
Align shoutouts to board agreements:			
<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. • 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	Joseph Akpan	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 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: 			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 - "<i>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?</i>" ◦ 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. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March Board Meeting: April 27, 2026 		

C. Adjourn Meeting FYI Joseph Akpan

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 February meeting minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: C. Approve February meeting minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for FY26 Full Board Meetings on February 23, 2026

APPROVED



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Date and Time

Monday February 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM

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](#)
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Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

J. Counts

Ex Officio Members Present

K. Herbert

Non Voting Members Present

K. Herbert

Guests Present

J. Alter (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 Feb 23, 2026 at 7:08 PM.

C. Approve January meeting minutes

Q. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from FY26 Full Board Meetings on 01-26-26.

M. Greene seconded the motion.

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

II. Meeting opening

A. Mission and Vision

Curtis Armour read our mission and Sharicka Samuels read our vision

B. Board Commitments

C. Public Comment

III. Board votes

A. Charter amendment

Q. Johnson made a motion to "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 enrollment cap from 588 students to 805 students, effective for the 2026–2027 school year."

C. Armour, Jr. seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

M. Freeland Aye

C. Armour, Jr. Aye

Q. Johnson Aye

L. Norris Aye

J. Carruth Aye

S. Samuels Aye

Roll Call

M. Greene Aye
J. Akpan Aye
J. Counts Absent

B. FY27 Calendar

M. Greene made a motion to "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."

Q. Johnson seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

M. Freeland Aye
J. Counts Absent
M. Greene Aye
Q. Johnson Aye
S. Samuels Aye
L. Norris Aye
C. Armour, Jr. Aye
J. Akpan Aye
J. Carruth Aye

IV. 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 8:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Freeland