



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Published on April 26, 2026 at 7:01 PM EDT

Amended on April 27, 2026 at 6:55 PM EDT

Date and Time

Monday April 27, 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
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I.	Opening Items		7:00 PM
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A.	Record Attendance	Jazmin Counts	5 m
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B.	Call the Meeting to Order	Michael Freeland	1 m
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The April 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.

Purpose Presenter Time

We will have two minutes for each speaker, in the order in which we receive the request to comment.

C. Approve March 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:

- **Transparency:** Board meetings are a public forum to provide transparency into the governance of the school. Engagement from the community is strongly

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<p>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:</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current vs. approved showcases strategic choices to decrease spending to offset decreased revenue. • Days cash on hand in strong position • March financial (presentation + details). 			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
B. Partnership Committee Report Out			5 m
<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 <i>*not*</i> need to make new fundraising pages. Instead, please: <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. 			
IV. School Leadership Report Out			7:33 PM
A. School Leader Report Out	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	15 m
See slides here .			
V. Board votes			7:48 PM
A. Charter Enrollment Cap Amendment	Vote	Eva Parks	5 m
board resolution			
B. Cleaning contract vote	Vote	Jocelyn Alter	5 m

Following a comprehensive evaluation of all [submitted proposals](#), Constant Contract Solutions is recommended as the custodial vendor for the 2026–2027 school year.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<p>Constant received the highest overall evaluation score across all reviewers, demonstrating strong alignment with the required scope of work, service quality expectations, and operational execution. In addition to scoring highest, Constant has an established presence within our building and has demonstrated responsiveness by addressing prior performance concerns and implementing staffing improvements that have resulted in a significantly improved level of service.</p> <p>The proposed cost increase of approximately 14% is reasonable and justified given a 25% increase in facility square footage and a 24% increase in student population. Additionally, the cost per square foot has decreased, reflecting improved overall value.</p> <p>Given their proven performance, responsiveness, and highest evaluation ranking, Constant represents the best combination of quality, reliability, and value for DeKalb Brilliance Academy.</p>			
VI. Executive Session			7:58 PM
A. Motion to enter executive session	Vote	Michael Freeland	5 m
B. Motion to exit executive session	Vote	Michael Freeland	5 m
VII. Closing Items			8:08 PM
A. Team shoutouts	Discuss	Michael Freeland	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. 			

	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. 			
B. Meeting closing	FYI	Michael Freeland	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 2 months left to reach your fundraising goal! • May Board Meeting: Monday, June 1, 2026 			

C. Adjourn Meeting	FYI	Joseph Akpan	
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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>

Seeing none, I adjourn official board business.

Coversheet

Approve March meeting minutes

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

APPROVED



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Date and Time

Monday March 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Pre-work:

- review silent mobile panic alert system quotes [here](#)
- all materials for board meeting are in a folder [here](#).

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)

Non Voting Members Present

E. Parks (remote)

Guests Present

J. Alter

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Akpan called a meeting of the board of directors of DeKalb Brilliance Academy to order on Monday Mar 23, 2026 at 7:07 PM.

C. Approve February meeting minutes

Q. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from FY26 Full Board Meetings on 02-23-26.

J. Counts seconded the motion.

minor error addressed prior to approving

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

II. Meeting opening

A. Mission and Vision

- LaKenya read the Mission
- Jazmin read the Vision

B. Board Commitments

- reviewed

C. Public Comment

None made.

III. Committee Updates

A. Finance Committee Updates

- Quentin made the presentation
- Strategic adjustments by leadership bring expenses in line with budget expectations
- unexpected bump in January as funding expected came in early

B. Academic Committee Updates

- Mesha made the presentation
- in regards to the academic dashboard and response plan:

- Corrected scope and sequence misalignments to ensure alignment prioritized assessed standards
- implemented weekly quizzes and school wide data analysis cycles to monitor mastery and adjust instruction in real time
- increased coaching and PD focused on rigor and execution
- in regards to current performance snapshot:
 - strong attendance and student engagement
 - decreased chronic absenteeism to 3.19%
 - strong teacher to student relationships (95%)
 - need to increase peer to peer relationships in older grades
 - reading shows steady growth across grades
 - math growth present, upper grades need acceleration
- Kedra explained the need for acceleration
- Jenea asked what the cause was for the lack
- Jocelyn explained that what was taught was not previously done and that created the slower progression, its important to factor in what was taught and when. Growth is expected.

IV. School Leadership Report Out

A. School Leader Report Out

- Jocelyn made the presentation
- Staffing:
 - 26-27 hiring; 438 applicants so far
 - 40 of 62 staff hired
 - 100% of staff offered contracts signed and will be returning
- Enrollment:
 - 26-27: 570 applicants so far (115% increase since our last meeting)
 - current waitlist is about 300 children
- Family Registration was a success for families (revamped after school programs with clubs like cooking and karate)
- Scholastic Book Fair
- AP Award ceremony and Project Partner coaching days
- Decades Day/Spirit Day
- Georgia Literacy Leaders Awards
- Moving Mountains Award

V. Board Workshop

A. FY27 Budget Preview

- Quentin made the presentation
- Tonight we are previewing the FY27 budget, it is subject to change, particularly if enrollment cap amendment is not approved by SCSC

- Public Hearings held in April of 2026 with Board approval expected in May/June
- Expecting 606 total enrolled students
- \$9.98 million expenses
- State revenues (\$8.81M): core funding driven by QBE formulas, Federal revenues (\$1.23 M), local revenues (\$510K)
- over \$5.7M is invested directly into our staff, reflecting a clear commitment to instructional excellence and talent retention
- human capital is 57% of budget
- Personnel: \$4,242,795
- Benefits & Insurances: \$1,470,661
- \$576,936 net income (an operational surplus that builds our financial safety net)
- Board will receive the full 5 year budget projection prior to May vote

VI. Board votes

A. Crisis Alert System Vote

- Silent Mobile Panic Alert System
 - SB 268/HB 268: Ricky and Alyssa's Law was signed in April 2025, mandates that all GA public K-12 schools install silent mobile panic alert systems directly connected to law enforcement by July 1, 2026. It aims to reduce emergency response times for active shooters or medical crises by requiring detailed updated and accessible school mapping data (digital mapping)
 - received 4 competitive bids from reputable crisis/mobile alert companies
 - price quotes ranged from \$17k-\$50K for 3-5 year contract periods
 - all vendors fell within scheduling guideline
 - Recommendation: Centegix

J. Counts made a motion to approve Centegix as DeKalb Brilliance Academy's silent mobile panic alert system provider for 2026-2027 school year.

M. Greene seconded the motion.

contract will be reviewed by School's legal team

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

VII. Closing Items

A. Team shoutouts

- Condolences provided for Mike's family.
- Quentin shouts out Executive team for their pivot in adjusting due to the need to change who would be leading tonight's meeting due to Mike's absence.
- Joseph will lead in effort to support Mike's family on behalf of the Board.

B.

Meeting closing

- Next meeting is 4/27/26

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Akpan