DeKalb Brilliance Academy

FY27 Board Meeting

Published on July 25, 2026 at 9:35 PM EDT
Amended on July 25, 2026 at 9:42 PM EDT

Date and Time

Monday July 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM EDT

Pre-work:

- review revised local wellness policy, staff handbook, and parent/family handbook (changes in red text (additions) and strikethrough (removals).

Access all board meeting materials here

Agenda

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	**Opening Items**			**7:00 PM**
	A. Record Attendance		Jazmin Counts	5 m
	B. Call the Meeting to Order		Michael Freeland	1 m

The August 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.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
C.	Approve June meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Michael Freeland	2 m

II. Meeting opening — 7:08 PM

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
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.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
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.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
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

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 | Michael Freeland | 5 m

- No committee meetings in June
- Finance reports combined for June and July (board will see in August meeting)
- Board retreat scheduling pushed to September to be able to have fuller attendance and be in person

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

- **Complete and Upload Board Forms:** Please complete the board commitment, conflict of interest, and confidentiality (combined form) and upload to this folder

IV. School Leadership Report Out — 7:23 PM

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	School Leader Report Out	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	20 m

See slides here.

V. Board votes — 7:43 PM

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	Decision 1: Approval of Handbook and Policy Revisions	Vote	Jocelyn Alter	5 m

Decision 1: Approval of Handbook and Policy Revisions
Suggested Motion Language: *I move to approve the revisions as submitted to the board in the Local Wellness Policy, Staff Handbook and Student & Family Handbook, as submitted to the Board.*

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	Decision 2: Vote on charter renewal	Vote	Michael Freeland	5 m

Decision 2: Vote on charter renewal
Suggested motion language: *I move to direct the DeKalb Brilliance staff to seek a five-year charter renewal for DeKalb Brilliance Academy.*

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
C.	Decision 3: Vote on FY26 Executive Bonuses	Vote	Michael Freeland	5 m

Decision 3: Vote on FY26 Executive Bonuses
Suggested motion language: *I move to approve the issuance of FY26 executive merit bonuses of $5,000 per eligible executive, in accordance with the terms outlined in their employment contracts and at the Board's sole discretion.*

VI. Closing Items — 7:58 PM

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	Team shoutouts	Discuss	Michael Freeland	5 m

Align shutouts to board agreements:

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

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		Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	Meeting closing	FYI	Michael Freeland	5 m

- **Next meeting:** August 24, 2026
- **Complete board action items:**
  - **Complete and Upload Board Forms:** Please complete the board commitment, conflict of interest, and confidentiality (combined form) and upload to this folder
- ***Adjourn board meeting***

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
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 June meeting minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve June meeting minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for FY26 Full Board Meetings on June 29, 2026

APPROVED

DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

FY26 Full Board Meetings

Date and Time
Monday June 29, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Pre-work:

- review revised local wellness policy, staff handbook, and parent/family handbook (changes in red text (additions) and strikethrough (removals).
- complete all FY26 training and fundraising requirements

Access all board meeting materials here

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)

Directors Absent
S. Samuels

Ex Officio Members Present
E. Parks (remote), K. Herbert (remote)

Non Voting Members Present
E. Parks (remote), K. Herbert (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 Jun 29, 2026 at 7:08 PM.

C. Approve May meeting minutes

J. Carruth made a motion to approve the minutes from FY26 Full Board Meetings on 06-01-26.
C. Armour, Jr. seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Meeting opening

A. Mission and Vision

read and paused to consider

B. Board Commitments

Read and paused to consider

C. Public Comment

None

III. Committee Updates

A. Governance Committee

B. Finance Committee Updates

Presentation by Quentin:

- Cash on Hand in strong position.
- DBA currently projected to meet financial standards with an estimated 85 days on hand.
- There were also cost savings on insurance and tech.

C. Partnership Committee Report Out

$1500 fundraiser due by 6/30.

IV. School Leadership Report Out

A. School Leader Report Out

Presentation by Jocelyn-

- **Staffing**: 92 % of staff offered contracts returned
- 26-27 hiring: 970 applicants so far
- 53 of 55 staff hired

- **Enrollment**: 788 applicants (for 200 offered seats
- fully enrolled for 26-27 school year (we over-enroll to anticipate attrition currently have 693 students enrolled for 620 seats

V. Board votes

A. Aftercare provider vote

Q. Johnson made a motion to to approve Legacy Rise Academy as BDA's aftercare administration and management partner for the 2026-2027 school year and authorize the the Head of School to execute the final service agreement , subject to final legal and operational review.
J. Carruth seconded the motion.
Joseph abstained.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Technology quote vote

J. Counts made a motion to authorize the Head of School to procure 2026-2027 technology hardware, including staff laptops, student chromebooks, chrome education licenses, charging carts, and small group mobile display solutions, from the lowest responsive vendors meeting DBA's technical, instructional, and procurement requirements, and to separately engage CTS for configuration and deployment services as appropriate within the approved technology budget.
Q. Johnson seconded the motion.
Staff laptops are needed, as well as student chromebooks, chrome education licenses, charging carts and small group displays to support 2026–2027 enrollment growth, staffing and instructional technology needs. This approach is expected to save $15,000 on computer/device hardware and approximately $22,000-$24,000 on small-group displays for total estimated savings of approximately $37,000-$39,000 compared to the original CTS-centered proposals.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VI. Closing Items

A. Team shoutouts

Jocelyn thanked the Board for the questions posed regarding the aftercare program partner and our desire to protect the school

Mike gave shout out to Jazmin for preserving through technical issues during the meetings.

Jazmin thanked Board for their patience.

Mike announced Quentin's 46th Birthday! Happy Birthday!

B. Meeting closing

next meeting is July 27th, 2026

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Freeland