



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

FY27 Board Meeting

Published on September 26, 2026 at 10:26 AM EDT

Date and Time

Monday September 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM EDT

Access all board meeting materials [here](#)

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			7:00 PM
A. Record Attendance		Jazmin Counts	1 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. We will have two minutes for each speaker, in the order in which we receive the request to comment.			
C. Approve August meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Michael Freeland	1 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
II. Meeting opening			7:03 PM
A. Mission and Vision	FYI	Michael Freeland	1 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	1 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	6 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:			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
• Time Limit: A total of 30 minutes shall be set aside for public comment. Each speaker will have a maximum of 3 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			7:11 PM
A.	Partnerships Committee Update	FYI	LaKenya Norris	4 m
	Partnerships: PEACH tax credit			
B.	Finance Committee Update	FYI	Quentin Johnson	7 m
	Finance: FY27 financials to date + FY26 audit			
C.	Academic Committee Update	FYI	Mesha Greene	7 m
	Academics: baseline data + literacy plan			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
D. Governance Committee Update	Discuss	Michael Freeland	25 m
Governance: strategic planning + renewal			
IV. School Leadership Report Out			7:54 PM
A. School Leader Report Out	FYI	Jocelyn Alter	15 m
See slides here .			
V. Board votes			8:09 PM
A. Snapology STEM Enrichment Services Contract	Vote	Quentin Johnson	3 m
Snapology STEM Enrichment Services Contract			

Staff Recommendation: Approve Everoak Creative Solutions, LLC d/b/a Snapology of Atlanta East to provide core-day STEM enrichment instruction for the remainder of the 2026-27 school year.

DBA originally budgeted for a part-time enrichment teacher. After being unable to identify a qualified candidate, staff explored contracted enrichment providers and contacted six organizations aligned to student interests. Snapology was the only provider able to meet DBA's staffing and scheduling needs.

DBA piloted Snapology's services during August and September before recommending a longer-term agreement. During the pilot, staff observed strong student engagement, classroom and behavior management, and effective service to both general education and special education classes.

The contract is within the enrichment staffing amount already included in the Board-approved FY27 budget and represents a shift from personnel expense to contracted instructional services, rather than an additional program expense.

Suggested motion: I move to approve a contract with Snapology for enrichment instructional services at a cost not to exceed \$63,000 for the year, replacing the budgeted part-time enrichment teacher position. This expense is already reflected in the FY27 forecast and is offset by savings from the eliminated position.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
B. Adoption of the Unified Literacy Plan	Vote	Mesha Greene	3 m

Suggested motion: I move that the Board adopt the DeKalb Brilliance Academy Unified Literacy Plan as presented, authorizing its submission to the Georgia Department of Education in satisfaction of HB 1193, and directing that the plan be reviewed annually and brought back to the Board with academic performance reporting.

C. High school transition strategy	Vote	Michael Freeland	3 m
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Suggested motion: I move that the Board adopt a high school transition strategy based on placement partnerships - directing the leadership team to pursue formal partnership agreements with high schools (subject to board approval) aligned to scholars' pathways, and affirming that DBA will not pursue operating its own high school during the next charter term.

VI. Closing Items **8:18 PM**

A. Team shoutouts	Discuss	Michael Freeland	3 m
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Align shutouts 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	2 m
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	Purpose	Presenter	Time
	• Apply for PEACH: Complete your application at gfpe.org and designate DBA. • Site visit readiness: Prep calls for attending board members ahead of October 14. • SCSC site visits October 14 & 20 • October 26 board meeting • Hold 11/21 for retreat: November board retreat - in person, full attendance.		
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 August meeting minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve August meeting minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for FY27 Board Meeting on August 24, 2026



DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

FY27 Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday August 24, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Access all board meeting materials [here](#)

Directors Present

C. Armour, Jr., J. Carruth (remote), J. Counts, M. Freeland, M. Greene (remote), Q. Johnson

Directors Absent

J. Akpan, L. Norris, S. Samuels

Ex Officio Members Present

E. Parks (remote), K. Herbert

Non Voting Members Present

E. Parks (remote), K. Herbert

Guests Present

J. Alter, Tonisha Footman

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 Aug 24, 2026 at 7:10 PM.

C. Approve July meeting minutes

Q. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from FY27 Board Meeting on 07-27-26.

C. Armour, Jr. seconded the motion.

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

II. Meeting opening

A. Mission and Vision

Read by Quentin and Jazmin

B. Board Commitments

C. Public Comment

none

III. Committee Updates

A. Committee Updates

- Board Retreat moved to next month
- Draft plan to the Board by November 2026, strategic plan approved by Jan 2027.
- Charter Renewal- board voted to seek 5 year renewal. Site visit window is next month
- Community Voice- Family advisory structure targeted for September. Three or more listening by November
- Sept-Oct: site visit
- Nov 1- Audit due
- Jan-Application due
- Feb-SCSC vote
- Board members need to be able to answer how does the board monitor academic performance and what did you do when results told you something, how do you recruit board members and fill skill gaps, etc.

B. Finance Committee Update

- FY26 closed to plan. We finished with \$3,096 of plan in a year with a new state revenue decrease

- about 106 days of cash on hand
- \$329,071 actual net income budgeted for \$325,975
- \$128,365 favorable in expenses
- \$308,685 (personnel) over- more teachers due to additional SPED needs
- 100% Grants drawn down by June 30
- at 90 of 100 points for SCSC financial performance framework at 10 points above that meets the standard
- FY27 outlook after the CSGF award: \$400k Project RISE all revenue shifted into FY27 plus Charter supplement= \$956,263 above approved FY27 budget
- Proposed Investment of additional resources- retain \$531,263 held for capital needs, \$250k playground, \$75k part-time operations support, \$50k student computers, \$25k strategic planning, \$25k website update
- Total proposed- \$425,000
- If the KABOOM! partnership lands, they cover base equipment-the same \$250k boys substantially more
- Discussion was had about if we need to move on from the KABOOM! partnership because it is taking longer than expected to move on breaking ground to build the playground.
- Governance will meet to draft language to send to KABOOM! to hopefully facilitate movement in the playground build.

IV. School Leadership Report Out

A. School Leader Report Out

Opening of year 5

- Staffing- hiring 1 kinder resignation; performance management live for all 57 staff; leader pipeline launching this month
- Enrollment- 613, offering 7 new seats to keep numbers at 620 for 10/1 state reporting, 899 enrollment applications; 528 remained on waitlist
- Academics- BOY MAP administration underway, 80% of staff meeting bar on culture and relationships; 71% of staff meeting bar on systems and procedures
- Operations- dismissal, technology, school meals and transportation systems all meeting bar for both ES and MS
- Compliance- 100% of SCSC items submitted ahead of the 8/31 deadline; 95% transfer IEPs scheduled, 70% complete; WIDA screening launches next week; Dyslexia law screening complete
- Fundraising- Project RISE awarded, CSP applications advancing, CTAE ineligibility converted into advocacy with SCSC

V. Board workshop

A. Workshop 1: Fundraising

Jocelyn presented on need for The Peach Education Tax Credit and how we can redirect our dollars to the school

B. Workshop 2: Board Recruitment

Need to fill vacancy for Partnerships and to be prepared for the governance vacancies to come as Jazmin and Mike are close to their final terms

VI. Closing Items

A. Team shoutouts

Quentin gave praise to leadership team and to Jazmin for push about playground, to Mike for his leadership for the new setup for the meeting, and Joseph for his openness in the meeting

Jazmin thanked leadership for their vision in maintaining the school

B. Meeting closing

send prospective board members
apply for PEACH tax credit
Confirm intent to remain on board by 9/15
Confirm committed times for retreat

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Counts