DeKalb Brilliance Academy

FY27 Board Meeting

Published on November 21, 2026 at 12:31 PM EST

Date and Time

Saturday November 21, 2026 at 1:00 PM EST

Access all board meeting materials here

Agenda

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	**Opening Items**			**1:00 PM**
A.	Record Attendance		Jazmin Counts	1 m
B.	Call the Meeting to Order		Michael Freeland	1 m
	The November 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 October meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Michael Freeland	1 m

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
II.	**Meeting opening**			**1:03 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	3 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. Strategic Planning Retreat — 1:08 PM

A.	Strategic planning session	Discuss	Michael Freeland	90 m

A working session to review the evidence, evaluate strategic pathways, and establish a preferred direction.

Welcome & Board Business

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
Retreat Framing & Growth Decision Roadmap			
Growth Feasibility: Key Findings			
Growth Pathways: Assumptions, Opportunities & Risks			
Committee Breakout Instructions			
Break			
Committee Breakout Discussions			
			2:30 – 3:00
Committee Report-Outs			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time

3:00 – 3:20

Full-Board Deliberation & Directional Alignment

3:20 – 3:50

Next Steps & Shoutouts

IV. Closing Items — 2:38 PM

A. Team shoutouts — Discuss — Michael Freeland — 3 m

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.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	Meeting closing	FYI	Michael Freeland	2 m

Finish your PEACH application: If you didn't submit tonight, do it this week and tell Jocelyn when complete.

Bring one taxpayer: One name from your network, with what you need from staff to make the ask.

Hold November 21: Board retreat — in person, full attendance. Growth questions and the slate.

		Purpose	Presenter
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 October meeting minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve October meeting minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for FY27 Board Meeting on October 26, 2026

APPROVED

DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

FY27 Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday October 26, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Access all board meeting materials here

Pre:work: Before Monday, please find one number: **your total 2025 Georgia income tax.**

- On your individual return, that's **Georgia Form 500, Line 16 — "Tax."** If you own or are a partner in a business, also find the Georgia tax liability on the entity return (Form 600, 600S, or 700).
- Don't want to pull the return? Estimate it. Georgia's 2025 rate is a flat **5.19%** of Georgia taxable income. As a rough guide, you need about **$48,000** of Georgia taxable income to owe $2,500, and about **$96,000** to owe $5,000.
- You're not sharing this number with anyone. You need it so that when we apply together Monday, you request an amount you can actually use.

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

Directors Absent
J. Carruth

Ex Officio Members Present

E. Parks, K. Herbert

Guests Present
Daphne Wheat, Demetrius Bennett, J. Alter, Jamy Adams

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 Oct 26, 2026 at 7:11 PM.

C. Approve September meeting minutes

J. Counts made a motion to approve the minutes from FY27 Board Meeting on 09-28-26.
C. Armour, Jr. seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Meeting opening

A. Mission and Vision

Curtis read the Mission. LaKenya read the Vision.

B. Board Commitments

Board Commitments were reviewed.

C. Public Comment

None.

III. Committee Updates

A. Finance Committee Update

Presented by Quentin Johnson:

No new change to revenue. Updated vacancy timing trims net income slightly

- $1.32 Million projected net income against $167K approved
- 11% expenses projected year end fund balance
- $11.9 M million total revenue unchanged from Augus forcast
- 27% of revenue received through the first quarter

- Days cash on hand projected to stay well above the 60 day threshold through June
- Board directed investments all reflected: playground, part-time operations support, student computers, strategic planning, website
- Net income down $7,485, driven by revised start dates for vacant positions and a small uniform expense true up
- FY26 independent audit- unmodified opinion. No material weaknesses. No significant deficiencies. No findings.
- Governmental fund balance at June 30, 2026: $2,542,407

C. Armour, Jr. made a motion to have the board accept the audited financial statements of DeKalb Brilliance Academy for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026 as presented by Bambo Sonaike CPA, LLC and authorize their submission to the State Charter Schools Commission by the November 1 deadline.
M. Freeland seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Academic Committee Update

Presented by Mesha Greene:

Culture: four of five measures met or exceeded

- Student average daily attendance 95.3% exceeding
- Suspension rate- 3.4% Exceeding
- Family Investment-96% exceeding
- Staff investment- 85% meeting
- Student investment-77% approaching
- Science-58% (goal 56%) exceeding
- Math-51% (goal 55%) meeting
- Reading ELA- 40% (goal 56%) off track
- Staffing transitions are known factor in 4th grade and kindergarten
- Three grades exceed goal. Two are in critical risk
- 1st,2nd,6th exceeding
- 3rd is approaching (38% proficient)
- Kindergarten is off track (35% proficient)
- 5th and 4th critical risk at (23% and 10% proficient)

C. Governance Committee Update

Presented by Mike Freeland:

- SCSC renewal site visit- October 14
- It went well. Commissioner Lowden named our schools leadership and board governance as strengths
- Recess, lunch operations, eye screening among many observed

- Board members presented alongside staff
- Tracking toward a 5 year renewal in all 3 areas (academic, financial and operational)
- Requested changes for the next charter term- 805 requested max enrollment up from 588 first term cap amended to 620 in 2026, 756 general education: 3 classes of 28 in every grade, 48 self-contained special education: 4 classrooms of up to 12, 1 seat tolerance
- Projected to meet standards in all areas in 3 of 4 years including the most recent
- Looking beyond renewal- 524 families waiting for a seat
- Our adjacent lot- grow on the land next to our current campus or a separate campus bring the model to a second site
- Demand cost and fit are being studied.
- the stance is that every scholar leaves DBA with a high quality high school placement.
    - partner high schools
    - legacy maps
    - brilliance crew (b crew)
    - family workshops

November 21st retreat- any growth path would go to the Commission after renewal, no earlier than 2027-2028.

IV. School Leadership Report Out

A. School Leader Report Out

Presented by Jocelyn Alter:

Entering Q2:

- Enrollment — 614 enrolled against a funded ceiling of 620
    - 945 applications and 524 families waiting as of October 24
- Staffing
    - 4th grade math is in transition
    - 4th, 5th and kinder are our priority coaching areas this quarter
- Compliance
    - SCSC submissions on time with no findings
    - Health and safety visit held 10/20
- Academics
    - Q1 interims are completed across all subjects and the dashboard is live.
    - Tier II Cycle 1 closed 10/23
- Looking ahead
    - 2025-2-26 CPF designations arrive late fall.
    - Audit filed by 11/1

- Finish your PEACH application

V. Closing Items

A. Team shoutouts

- Quentin shouted out Jazmin and Joseph for challenging a perspective during discussion, and Curtis for asking the questions that needed to be asked, and Mike for his leadership, and Jocelyn for her detailed walk-through of the PEACh application.
- Curtis thankful for the walk-through of the PEACH application.
- Jazmin thanked the board members that attended the SCSC renewal visit

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 8:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Freeland