APPROVED

DeKalb Brilliance Academy

Minutes

FY27 Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday September 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Access all board meeting materials here

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

Directors Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
E. Parks

Guests Present
Daphe Lee (remote), J. Alter, Jade Biddle (remote), Sophia Martin-Clark (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 Sep 28, 2026 at 7:04 PM.

C. Approve August meeting minutes

M. Greene made a motion to approve the minutes from FY27 Board Meeting on 08-24-26.
S. Samuels seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Meeting opening

A. Mission and Vision

Read by Jazmin and Mesha

B. Board Commitments

the board reviewed the commitments

C. Public Comment

None.

III. Committee Updates

A. Partnerships Committee Update

- Presentation by LaKenya
- PEACH Education Tax Credit- redirect GA income tax you already owe to DBA dollar for dollar at no net cost
- Consult your own tax professional. You do not need to live in GA only pay GA state income tax
- Designating DBA is the step donors miss so please designate DBA.

B. Finance Committee Update

- Presented by Quintin
- 90 of 100 points SCSC fiscal viability meets standards
- 112 days unrestricted days of cash at 8/31/ 147 days projected at June 30
- QBA allotment higher than estimated- $882,755
- CSGF award received after budget approval-$645,000
- Lower building depriciation- $160, 834
- Teacher vacancy savings- $83, 218 net
- Offsetting- federal sources, supplies and professional and tech services.

C. Academic Committee Update

- Presented by Mesha
- 52% DIBELS, K-2- OF SCHOALRS AT OR ABOVE BENCHMARK
- 58% MAP READING—IN THE TWO HIGHER ACHIEVEMENTS BANDS
- 51% MAP MATH - IN THE TWO HIGHER ACHIEVEMENTS BANDS
- Tier II and Tier III response — prioritizing the 30% of scholars who will benefit most from additional targeted instruction. Each scholar has one identified skill, one consistent intervention, and one measurable six-week goal.
- Grades K-4- embedded in reading, math or WIN blocks- 3 days plus weekly progress monitoring
- Grades 5-6: reading and math in WIN (what I need_- two sessions per subject weekly
- Unified Literacy Plan—recommended for adoption
- this documents what DBA already does, it asks for no new programs, staffing or instructional changes.
- HB 1193, the Georgia Early Literacy Act of 2026, requires every Georgia district to adopt a unified literacy plan. As an SCSC-authroized school, DBA functions as its own district and submits its own plan.

D. Governance Committee Update

- Presented by Mike
- Strategic Planning — In 2024, this board did strategic planning through the Georgia Charter Growth Initiative, producing four priorities for FY25-FY28 and a framework for evaluating growth
- Middle School Design — complete 7th-8th grade build-out, Inclusive Program Design — continue with consistency, Right People, Right Work - reduce key person dependency, High School Transition — if the board approves partner agreements
- Those 4 carry us through the charter term
- High SChool Proposal — Priority 4: our oldest scholars will be graduating soon
- Why partnerships not our own high school scale: the efficient range for a high school at 600–900 students for grades at our current grade size is roughly 340, summing zero attrition and cost. Small schools run 20–30% higher per pupil on average. Our own 2024 analysis concluded a DBA high school would likely need subsidy from the lower grades and breadth: families choose high schools for AP slates, CTE pathways, athletics, and band. Scholars migrate to comprehensive high schools , facilities: high schools needs labs performance and athletic space
- Executing Priority 4: Placement partners — the goal is that every scholar leaves DBA with a high-quality high school placement
- Bellwether led our 2024 work. TogetherEd is leading the next stage ($22k within the $25K budget)
- Is there a demand?, What form of growth? When and on what basis? What is the earliest?

- Board Composition need to fill 2+ seats between Academics and Partnerships

IV. School Leadership Report Out

A. School Leader Report Out

- Presented by Jocelyn
- data infrastructure driving leadership
- Coaching- the off track strand sets next week's co-planning agenda for that grade team
- Compliance and renewal- 39 of 54 SCSC requirements submitted on time, no compliance concerns to date- 50% through monitoring, prepared for website auditing preemptively, financial audit due Nov 1 tracking clean, facility readiness emergency response procedures (Alyssa's Law) fully implemented. 100% compliant on health, fire, & building inspections, whats next: SCSC site visits- renewal site visit Oct 14 health and safety visit Oct 20
- 95% daily attendance
- 105 scholars with IEPS, 25 of them new this year, 13 additional students in the evaluation pipeline
- 617 enrolled against a funded ceiling of 620 ($50k budget impact)
- 916 applications; 517 families on the waitlist
- every student received an individualized Learning Partnership Plan
- Room rep for every classroom & family advisory council launched
- staffing: fully staffed, leader pipeline launched, 97% of staff feel supported by their coach
- presented at the GCSA conference on the MTSS process slated to be approved for the $100k tutoring grant
- peer school visits.

V. Board votes

A. Snapology STEM Enrichment Services Contract

Q. Johnson made a motion to 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 psoition. This expense is already reflected in the FY27 forecast and is offset by savings from the eliminated position.
J. Akpan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Adoption of the Unified Literacy Plan

M. Greene made a motion to 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.

Q. Johnson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. High school transition strategy

Q. Johnson made a motion to 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.
J. Counts seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VI. Closing Items

A. Team shoutouts

Jazmin shouted out Joseph for his leadership with the confirmed stance of KABOOM! for the playground fundraiser and build.

Quintin shouted out the board for healthy debate on difficult issues; he also thanked the leadership team for helping to keep us under budget and meeting all things asked of them; he thanked Academics led by Kedra

Jocelyn thanked Mike for his Board leadership

Kedra thanked the board for making her feel seen and heard

B. Meeting closing

Apply for PEACH

Site visit readiness- October 14

Hold 11/21 open 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 8:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Freeland