

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 260538)

RESOLUTION

Honoring and recognizing Russell Byers Charter School on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, and celebrating 25 years of educational excellence, civic purpose, and service to children and families in the City of Philadelphia, and further recognizing Laurada Byers for her visionary leadership and enduring impact.

WHEREAS, The Council of the City of Philadelphia recognizes that schools play a vital role in shaping learners, citizens, and communities, and that Russell Byers Charter School was founded by Laurada Byers and her family in tribute to her late husband, William Russell Grace Byers (1940–1999), a Philadelphia Daily News columnist who believed in civic responsibility, urban improvement, and the transformative power of education; and

WHEREAS, Established in 2001 by Laurada Byers as a tribute to her late husband’s legacy, Russell Byers Charter School opened on September 11, 2001 with 120 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade, and through her visionary leadership and enduring commitment has grown into a thriving educational community serving approximately 700 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 8th grade from across Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Guided by the belief that the greatest gift one can give a child is “roots and wings,” Russell Byers Charter School has provided a rigorous and joyful education that cultivates self-assurance, curiosity, strong character, and the academic foundation students need to thrive in school and in life; and

WHEREAS, Russell Byers Charter School demonstrates a deep commitment to early childhood education as one of only two schools in Philadelphia to offer a two-year, full-day kindergarten program beginning with four-year-olds, ensuring that students build strong academic and social foundations from the earliest stages of their educational journey; and

WHEREAS, Through its Expeditionary Learning model, Russell Byers Charter School embraces an innovative, hands-on approach inspired by Outward Bound, empowering students to become creative problem solvers, effective communicators, and responsible citizens through teamwork, character development, and real-world learning experiences; and

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WHEREAS, Through its “Ours for Life” initiative and strong community partnerships, Russell Byers Charter School extends learning beyond the classroom by providing comprehensive college-track support, guiding students through critical academic transitions, and leveraging the resources of Philadelphia to deliver dynamic, real-world educational experiences that prepare students for long-term success; and

WHEREAS, On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, Russell Byers Charter School stands as a lasting example of educational purpose, community investment, and the enduring legacy of both William Russell Grace Byers and Laurada Byers’ vision for Philadelphia’s children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby honors and recognizes Russell Byers Charter School on the occasion of its 25th anniversary for its enduring commitment to educational excellence, civic responsibility, and the growth and well-being of Philadelphia’s children, and further celebrates Laurada Byers for her visionary leadership and lifelong dedication to education and community.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Russell Byers Charter School and Laurada Byers, as evidence of the sincere admiration and appreciation of this legislative body.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the fourteenth day of May, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Phillips

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Phillips, Landau, Lozada, Young, Harrity,
O'Rourke, Squilla and Ahmad