

**Russell Byers Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 2018**

**Call to order**

**The Board Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p. m. by Linda Gamble, at 1926 Arch Street, 3F, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

**Roll Call**

	Present	Absent
Richard Binswanger	X	
Rob Craven	X	
Mike Eckhardt	X	
Diana Gormley	X	
Linda Gamble	X	
Imani Powell	X	
Louisa Mygatt		X
Leah Katz	X	
Haisheng Yang	X	

Also in attendance were Carol Domb, Kellie Porter, Abby Baker, Melissa Fox, and Patty Barker from Russell Byers Charter School. Additionally Allen Garner and Ms. Laurada Byers also from Russell Byers. Two parent representatives were also in attendance, Naima Miller and Shanada Talley.

**Resolutions**

**Approval of financial Statements:** Rob Craven stated that the budget is currently stable and healthy. The only unusual financial activity is for a “Friends” private school, but the foundation is under much less pressure in the financial area. The budget has been expanded from eight million dollars to ten million. More tracking will be applied to spending and any money disbursements to be closely scrutinized.

**Motion: Richard Binswanger  
Second: Imani Powell**

	YES	NO
Richard	X	

Binswanger		
Rob Craven	X	
Mike Eckhardt	X	
Diana Gormley	X	
Linda Gamble	X	
Imani Powell	X	
Leah Katz	X	
Haisheng Yang	X	

**Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2018:** All minutes approved

Motion: Richard Binswanger  
 Second: Rob Craven

	YES	NO
Richard Binswanger	X	
Rob Craven	X	
Mike Eckhardt	X	
Diana Gormley	X	
Linda Gamble	X	
Imani Powell	X	
Leah Katz	X	
Haisheng Yang	X	

**Approval of Personnel Actions:** Ms. Domb led the conversation, Ms. Alana Bouie is resigning and computer and technical support will be outsourced until a permanent technician is found.

Motion: Rob Craven  
 Second: Richard Binswanger

**School Update**

**CEO Report:** Ms. Domb gave happy news on the start of school clubs and elaborated about the cooking club sponsored by the Twenty-first Century Grant Program. She also presented a school dashboard layout to chart the direction of the schools progress. The dashboard will help to compartmentalize the many areas of the school and view each individual area for better assistance and discipline; giving a broader rundown of each department.

**Principals Report:** Ms. Porter addressed her concern for teacher development and the need to steer the new teachers and support them. Particularly with the lack of veteran teachers, the competitive nature of teaching salaries and the issue of teachers paying for their parking. She also addressed the recent grade school meetings and that plans talked about in those gatherings must be implemented not just “discussed”. The start of the Writing Fair was talked about and its contribution to the memory of Russel Byers. His editorials are still highly thought of and students will compete in different writing styles to honor his memory. Each teacher must have five entries and will give out five awards. Ms. Porter elaborated on her conversations with the eighth grade students on how they have expressed a need for more academic trips and more high school preparation.

**Parent Representative Comments:** Ms. Imani Powell talked of the need for more initiation from administrators to start Home & School events. She would like a better relationship with parents and the current administration, stating that parent’s feel disconnected from the new staff and feel uninformed.

**Teacher Representative Comments:** Ms. Abby Baker addressed her Grows & Glows document on the Google drive, stating that the feedback she received from the staff was very positive in regards to the PD trip to an escape room. Also discussed was the need for more PD to help teach in blended environments, class rooms that contain an array of multiple learning levels. Small learning groups are to be weeded out, class rooms need to be engaged together. It was mentioned that small groups don’t raise test scores.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Naima Miller addressed the issues with student transportation and teacher retention. She expressed dissatisfaction with the bus system and the high turnover that has happened early in the school year. She was indicting of Ms. Domb and Ms. Porter and stated she believed the school was in a decline and was distressed by the lack of homework.

There was no closed executive session this meeting, at this time an open Board Orientation took place.

**Board Orientation:** Richard Binswanger addressed the new and recent board members and explained the general overviews of board responsibility. Being a charter school board member makes one an official representative of the state. There are three characteristics of a board member, oversight, fiduciary, and support. The understanding of state law and its requirements. Only five members can constitute a board meeting, but decisions can only be made at official board meetings; not an impromptu gathering of people that happen to be board members. Only executive session can be private all other board meetings are public.

At this time the Board Meeting concluded.

**Time of Adjournment: 6:20**