

## Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2025

7:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Via Zoom video Conference

### Directors Present:

- Julia Bloom, Chair
- Jessica Ronzio, Vice Chair
- Alisha Michiels, Director
- Katherine Walsh, Director
- Robert MacDonald, Director
- Necia Martins, Director
- Bernie Crawford, Director
- Christel Wu, Director
- Cindy Ofunne, Director
- Alex Zhou, Director
- Christiana Alkiviades, Director

**Employees:** Lori Prospero, CEO & Corporate Secretary | ex-officio  
Susie Draper, Executive Assistant

### Regrets:

#### 1. Welcome & Call to Order

- Julia welcomed the new directors following their election at the Annual General Meeting held earlier this evening. Introductions were made.
- There being a quorum present, and the board members having been given adequate and proper notice of the meeting, the meeting was called to order at 7:46 pm. Julia served as Chair of the proceedings.
- Lori Prospero, Secretary, with assistance of Susie Draper, was confirmed as the minute taker.
- Jessica, Robert, Christiana and Julia declared a conflict of interest regarding their appointment to officer positions. This was resolved by asking said directors to abstain from that vote.

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

- No discussion arose from the agenda.
- **MOTION:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that the agenda for the April 8, 2025 board of directors meeting be approved, as circulated.
- Julia reflected on her experience as Chair over the past year.

#### 3. Appointment of Officers & Committee Chairs for 2025/2026

- Referring to the report from the Nominating Committee that was circulated prior to the meeting, the board was advised of the process options to appoint its officers for the new board year.
- Via an earlier straw vote, the board determined that it was ready to proceed to a motion. No further discussion was required.

- **MOTION:** It was moved, seconded and carried that the board of directors appoints the following as its officers for a one-year term ending in April 2026:
  - Chair – Jessica Ronzio
  - Vice-Chair – Robert MacDonald
  - Treasurer – Christiana Alkiviades
  - Secretary – Lori Prospero
  - Past Chair – Julia Bloom

And by virtue of said offices, that the following are appointed as committee chairpersons:

- Finance & Audit: Christiana Alkiviades
- Governance: Robert MacDonald
- Nominating: Julia Bloom

#### 4. Appointment of Committee Chairs for 2025/2026

- Covered under item 3

#### 5. Incoming Chair's Remarks

- Jessica thanked the board for their confidence in her and shared that she is looking forward to working with both new and continuing directors. She is passionate about our collective work and looks forward to progressing in our strategic direction for the future.

#### 6. Pricing Policy re: Professional Learning Days/Sessions

- In the 2025 budget, two new half-day professional learning sessions were added to enhance program quality through learning and reflective practice.
- At the time of budget approval, initial discussions favoured a reduced fee due to the early closure.
- As implementation and communication to families nears, additional information was shared regarding costs and implications:
  - aligning service delivery for families,
  - ensuring equity across closure types,
  - budget and operational impact,
  - current precedents, and
  - inconsistency in messaging
- Consensus was reached to charge daily rates (i.e., full fees) on May 30 and November 17, 2025, despite the half-day closures due to the newly added half-day professional learning sessions. This aligns with the board's prior decision regarding paid days and is consistent with the precedent set on:
  - December 24 early closure
  - April 21 full-day PL closure
  - All statutory/public holidays
- This approach ensures clarity and consistency in communication to families, reflects RisingOaks' fixed cost structure, protects the organization's ability to invest in staff development and reinforces the value of professional learning as part of our commitment to high-quality care.
- The board confirmed that a motion was not required. The CEO will add a note, referencing these minutes, to the 2025 budget approval.

#### 7. Adjournment

- The upcoming meetings were confirmed:
  - April 22 – Board Orientation 6:30 pm in person – mandatory & includes dinner
  - April 28 – FAC meeting 7:00 pm via Zoom
  - May 1 – GR Advisory meeting 6:30 pm via Zoom
  - May 13 – Board Meeting 6:30 pm in person
  - June 13 – Board & Family Social
- **MOTION:** It was moved, seconded and carried that this meeting of the board of directors be adjourned at 8:04 pm.

These minutes were approved by the board of directors on May 13, 2025 and now form part of the Public Record for RisingOaks Early Learning Ontario.

Original copy signed by:

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Jessica Ronzio  
Board Chair

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Lori Prospero  
Corporate Secretary