

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

April 14, 2026  
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

### Attendance Summary

Of 52 Total Members, as of April 14, 2026

- 26 Members Attended
- 4 Represented by Proxy

Non-Members in attendance

- 5 RisingOaks' Parents
- 40 RisingOaks' Employees
- 2 Guests

Per the RisingOaks Early Learning by-laws, a quorum of 20 members is required to transact business. The official attendance report is filed with these minutes.

Total Attendees + Proxies: 77

### 1. Welcome

- Lori Prospero, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), welcomed members and guests to the Annual General Meeting for the period ending December 31, 2025.
- A land acknowledgement was offered recognizing that RisingOaks Early Learning programs and services are located on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Chonnonton, and Haudenosaunee peoples, and reflecting the teachings of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant, which calls for shared responsibility, respect, and care for the land. The acknowledgement also recognized our role as treaty people and our ongoing commitment to learning and relationship-building with Indigenous communities.
- The meeting agenda and meeting tools for the webinar format were reviewed.

### 2. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

- There being a quorum of members present for the transaction of business, and members having been giving adequate and proper notice of the meeting, the meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. Jessica Ronzio served as Chair of the proceedings.
- Lori Prospero, corporate secretary, with support from executive assistant Susie Draper, was confirmed to record the minutes.
- Approval of the Agenda
  - **Motion:** It was moved, seconded and carried that the agenda for this annual general meeting of RisingOaks Early Learning Ontario be approved as presented.

### 3. Joint Report on Governance and Operations

- The Board Chair and CEO delivered a joint update highlighting governance and operational progress, including a refresh of the 2022–2028 Strategic Plan and continued focus on influencing system planning, enabling sustainable growth, and fostering a flourishing team. Updates included ongoing advocacy efforts supporting the extension

of the CWELCC agreement, intentional organizational growth (including the opening of RisingOaks Early Learning | St. Patrick), a focus on building internal capacity to support expansion, and continued investment in staff through compensation, well-being, and professional learning.

- Kristine Parsons, Director of Operations, recognized 16 long-service award recipients:
  - **5 years:**
    - Nick Cullaton | Oak Creek
    - Amanda Sagastume | St. Luke
    - Christina Byrne | Saint John Paul II
    - Brenda Sunter | St. Matthew
    - Melissa Hammer | Lincoln Road
    - Christine Fitzgerald | John Sweeney
    - Melissa Strome | Lincoln Road
  - **10 years:**
    - Candice Reiner | Oak Creek
  - **15 years:**
    - Brittany Huffman | St. Matthew
    - Deb Binkle | John Sweeney
  - **20 years:**
    - Melody Brubacher | Lincoln Rd
    - Janeth Rodriguez | St. Nicholas
  - **25 years:**
    - Susan Eggleston | St. Brigid
  - **30 years:**
    - Patti Gear | St. Matthew
    - Judy Sgarbossa | St. Nicholas
  - **35 years:**
    - Kristine Parsons | Admin office

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

- Christiana Alkiviades shared key highlights from the [2025 Annual Report](#) and the [audited financial statements](#) for the year ended December 31, 2025, which were prepared by Hilborn LLP and approved by the board of directors.
- RisingOaks' first year under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) cost-based funding model reflected continued financial stability, with a year-end excess of revenues over expenses of \$1.24M, largely related to the allocation in lieu of profit/surplus in the provincial funding formula.
- Investments in staffing, including a new wage grid, and growth through the opening of the St. Patrick location contributed to increased expenses. The organization remains well-positioned to support future growth, with \$6.2M in net assets and internally restricted reserves in place to support sustainability, capital expansion, and risk management.
- The statement of changes in net assets, including inter-fund transfers, was also reviewed.
- Questions were invited from attendees with respect to governance, operations, and the audited financial statements. Responses were provided live in the meeting. Questions raised included:
  - Clarification regarding the decision to limit the summer camp program to children up to Grade 2, with discussion of staffing capacity, program quality, and sector-wide workforce challenges.
  - Inquiry into RisingOaks' advocacy efforts to support the extension of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) agreement.

- Questions related to workforce, including staff compensation and recruitment, with responses noting recent investments in a new wage grid, competitive positioning, and a continued focus on maintaining a 90% of Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) across programs.
- Inquiry regarding availability of weekend child care programs, with confirmation that such programs are not currently offered.
- No additional questions were raised.
- Approval of the 2025 Audited Financial Statements
  - **Motion:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Members of RisingOaks Early Learning Ontario approve the audited financial statements for the year ending on December 31, 2025, as presented.
- Appointment of the Auditors
  - **Motion:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Members of RisingOaks Early Learning Ontario appoint Hilborn LLP as its auditors for the 2026 fiscal year.

## 6. Report of the Nominating Committee

- Julia Bloom, chair of the nominating committee, reviewed the recruitment and selection process for directors, as outlined in the by-laws.
  - The Board-Recommended Slate of Nominees was introduced, and nominee biographies were read.
  - **Motion:** It was moved, seconded and carried that the members of RisingOaks Early Learning Ontario elect the Board-Recommended Slate of Nominees, as presented, to serve as directors for a 2-year term (26 in favour, 1 abstention due to declared conflict of interest)
  - Congratulations were offered to newly elected, and re-elected directors:
    - Ankita Banerjee, Olivia Choi, Bernard Crawford, Cindy Okosun, Nikk Uchil and Alex Zhou.
  - The full board of directors for the 2026-27 term was introduced:
    - Christiana Alkiviades, Ankita Banerjee, Olivia Choi, Bernard Crawford, Robert MacDonald, Necia Martins, Cindy Okosun, Jessica Ronzio, Nikk Uchil, Katherine Walsh and Alex Zhou.

## 7. Board Appreciation

- The board recognized three directors who have completed their terms:
  - Julia Bloom, Alisha Michiels, and Christel Wu.
- Each will be presented with a small token of appreciation after the meeting.
- Jessica Ronzio, outgoing Chair, was inducted into the prestigious *Chairs' Circle of Excellence* in recognition sustained commitment and outstanding contribution to RisingOaks Early Learning, going above and beyond to support the organization in achieving its Mission while championing governance excellence, and mentoring new directors to ensure ongoing succession and effective leadership.
  - In presenting the award, Robert MacDonald, incoming chair, praised Jessica's commitment to reducing barriers, effective leadership, demonstrated growth in governance, and as a champion for diversity, equity and inclusion. Robert, on behalf of the board, thanked Jessica for her exemplary leadership and contributions.

#### 8. Closing Remarks

- Jessica thanked the members, staff, and RisingOaks Early Learning families for attending and for being engaged in the work of the organization.
  - There being no further business, the Annual General Meeting concluded at 7:40 pm.
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#### **DISCLAIMER**

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting. These minutes were approved by the board of directors on May 12, 2026 and now form part of the Public Record for RisingOaks Early Learning Ontario.

Original copy signed by:

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Robert MacDonald, Chair

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Lori Prospero, Secretary