

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Special Meeting of the Trustees as a Corporation and Administrative Agency

Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 8:30 a.m.
Commonwealth Salon, Central Library
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

A Special Meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston as a Corporation and Administrative Agency was held in the Commonwealth Salon, Central Library, Copley Square, 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

Present at the meeting were: Chair Robert Gallery, Vice Chair Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Trustees: Zamawa Arenas, Ben Bradlee, Jr., Cheryl Cronin, Carol Fulp, John Hailer, Paul LaCamera, and Rep. Byron Rushing. Also present: City of Boston Counsel Caroline Driscoll, Clerk of the Board Deborah Kirrane, Boston Public Library staff, and members of the public.

Chair Robert Gallery called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and addressed the order of business. Mr. Gallery thanked all BPL staff people in attendance for their work in preparing and producing the Boston Public Library Foundation Gala, held on June 10. In particular, Mr. Gallery thanked Lisa Bevilaqua, Foundation Executive Director and all applauded. He described the Gala as a magnificent event.

Having delivered the Minutes of the May 21, 2016 Special Meeting to the Trustees for review in advance, Mr. Gallery asked for a motion to approve said Minutes. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Minutes of the May 21, 2016 Special Meeting were approved.

Mr. Gallery announced that as Trustees do not have reason to enter Executive Session, the order of business would be conducted entirely in public.

Mr. Gallery further announced that, for personal reasons, Jill Bourne, recently appointed President of the Boston Public Library, has withdrawn from consideration for that position. The purpose of the current meeting is to appoint another candidate as President of the Boston Public Library. Mr. Gallery then proposed the position of President be offered to Interim President, David Leonard, citing Mr. Leonard as a qualified candidate, and opening the floor to comments or statements from Trustees.

Mr. LaCamera stated that at the May 21 meeting, the vote to appoint Ms. Bourne was, in no way, a rejection of Mr. Leonard. Mr. Leonard has risen to meet the challenges presented in the past year and could not have served the BPL better. He asked that today's appointment be a unanimous affirmation for Mr. Leonard.

Ms. Cronin added that Mr. Leonard was one of three finalists of more than 100 candidates. He is incredibly accomplished and his May 21 presentation was compelling. He will start the job on first base which is a opportunity for the BPL.

Ms. Arenas has known Mr. Leonard since 2009 and has seen him grow and develop at the BPL. She is confident he will do an excellent job in providing necessary leadership going forward.

Mr. Hailer was impressed with the way Mr. Leonard carried out his role as Interim President and is pleased with the care and compassion he shows toward BPL and staff. Mr. Leonard has a great understanding and appreciation of the BPL, he is smart and articulate and will be a remarkable leader for the BPL.

Mr. Bradlee stated Mr. Leonard played a key role in stabilizing the BPL but, for the record, he would like his disappointment in not being made more fully aware of circumstances that led other candidates to withdraw.

Ms. Fulp remarked that the BPL is in great hands with Mr. Leonard. His presentation indicated his passion for the BPL.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz commented that while Mr. Leonard has been growing, he has to continue to grow. By appointing Mr. Leonard to this role, the Board needs to be fully supportive of his presidency, as Mr. Leonard will need this support in order to grow. Ms. Arana-Ortiz asked the Trustees to commit to this active support for Mr. Leonard.

Subsequent to Trustee statements, Mr. Gallery called for a motion and, upon motion made and duly seconded, pursuant to roll-call vote in which each Trustees responded affirmatively, it was

VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Boston Public Library hereby appoint David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library, subject to negotiation of a memorandum of understanding pertaining to employment, mutually agreeable to the parties.”

Mr. Gallery thanked all for attending this meeting and reiterated Ms. Arana-Ortiz’s call for commitment. The future of the BPL is extremely bright and the Trustees need to work to keep BPL a foremost institution in the city.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

President’s Office