

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees Finance and Audit Committee Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. Held via Zoom

MINUTES

A meeting of the Boston Public Library Trustees Finance and Audit Committee was held virtually on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, via Zoom at 8:30 a.m.

All members were present at the meeting: Committee Chair Evelyn Arana Ortiz and Committee members: John Hailer (joined at 8:42), Jeff Hawkins, David Leonard, and Senator Mike Rush

Also, present were Chief Financial Officer Emily Tokarczyk, Clerk of the Board Pamela Carver, Sebastian Grzejka (NEPC), BPL staff, and members of the public.

Ms. Arana Ortiz presiding called the Meeting of the Trustees Finance and Audit Committee (“Committee”) to order at 8:31 a.m. She read the welcoming EDI statement. The clerk took roll call and determined there was a quorum. Everyone was reminded that the meeting was being recorded and procedure for how to sign up for Public Comment.

The first matter of business was the approval of the meeting minutes from March 11, 2025. With no edits or comments, the meeting minutes were approved.

Sebastian Grzejka explained that they would be interviewing three managers that they narrowed down for the Emerging Markets Manager: Acadian Asset Management, RBC Global Asset Management and William Blair Investment Management. Each group would have twenty minutes for presentation and questions.

The first was Acadian presented by Andrew Millor, Colin Pascoe, and Ken Massey. They gave an overview of the firm’s history that was founded in Boston (1994), and systematic investment strategy. They had a team of 360 professionals; portfolios reviewed daily. They explained their investment philosophy: systematic approach focused on uncovering pricing inefficiencies across ~18,000 securities. Strong risk management was emphasized with minimal exposure to tariff-affected regions. An example given of portfolio analysis involving a Taiwanese company. The trustees asked a few questions regarding modeling and risk exposure.

RBC Global was represented by Alissa Howard. She provided a background on the firm and their diverse, stable team culture. Their investment philosophy centers on quality management, competitive franchises, and sustainable practices. They follow a bottom-up, long-term approach using a structured and repeatable process. They utilize a 75-question quarterly checklist for research and monitoring. Their portfolio typically includes 45–50 stocks, diversified by sector, country, and theme. They focus on areas: digitization, health/wellness, green infrastructure, etc. She explained strong risk-adjusted returns over 10 years, minimal concerns over volatility. The trustees asked a few questions.

Last to present was William Blair, represented by Madelyn Schiller and Lin Thorston. They explained they were a 100% employee-owned, active investment firm: the first signatory of UN PRI. The firm has deep experience in emerging markets (EM), with EM accounting for ~50% of portfolio. They follow a top-down macro view complemented by a 5-step fundamental research process. Their emphasis on sustainable value creation and corporate performance. Emerging Money growth portfolio characteristics were reviewed (as of Feb 2025). They noted they were underweighting in China since Q3 2024 due to increased risk premium. The trustees asked some questions regarding the risk in China.

After the interviews concluded. Mr. Grzejka gave an overview of the three managers. He noted all were long-tenured and well-qualified. They discussed the strengths of flexible strategies and compared their volatility during peak loss periods.

The committee determined their top choice was Acadian Asset management.

Ms. Arana Ortiz made a motion that was duly made and seconded, and voted,

VOTED: “that, the Trustees Finance and Audit Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to approve Acadian Asset Management as the new Emerging Markets Manager, transferring the value of UBS’s allocation, in line with NEPC’s recommendation.”

Ms. Arana Ortiz asked for New Business and Public Comment for which there were none. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Carver, Clerk of the Board