



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Board of Directors

MINUTES

9th December 2022

Online

Documents sent via email prior to meeting

- Agenda
- Board Minutes 2022.11.22 – Draft.doc
- DEI final draft.docx
- DEI Final 11.2022.docx
- Response to Coordinators – Draft 12.9.2022.docx
- Document for December 2022 TIFI Board Meeting.docx
- TIFI ED Report to BoD 2022.12.09.pdf

PRESENT: Nelle Moffett, Darryl Commings, Catherine Torpey, Flor Sassoli, Eveline Moor Züllig, Evelyn Fendler-Lee and Veronica Toescu

GUESTS (Coordinators): Julie Ramsey and René Veugelers

TAKING MINUTES: Veronica Toescu

- I. Approval of the minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th of November 2022
- II. Greeting Coordinators: The Board congratulated Julie on being a new Coordinator and thanked René for attending as a longstanding Coordinator. Both guests shared their involvement and journey in Focusing. René Veugelers shared that the 14th Children Symposium on Children in Netherlands had just successfully finished.
- III. Attunement by Evelyn Fendler-Lee
- IV. New Policy on Advisory Board Member appointment – The Board approved the Advisory Board Member policy after replacing the word “adjunct” with the word “advisory. Such a member would be referred to as a “Board Advisory Member.”
Policy approved unanimously by vote, as amended.
- V. Publishing the 990 Document online – It was discussed whether to publish the 990s (the forms required to be submitted to the United States Internal Revenue Service) on our website each year. The main reason is transparency of our finances. As is commonly done, the version of the 990 will omit the names of donors. This document will be placed in the same area where the Annual Reports can be found.

Policy to publish 990s on website with donors' names removed was approved unanimously by vote.

- VI. Adopting the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Statement – The DEI statement was approved after agreeing to change the word “we” to “The Board” in order to give greater clarity. The word Experiential was removed, pending further discussion of use of the term “Experiential Focusing.” It was decided that before sending out the DEI statement, we will have it translated into several languages.
Policy approved unanimously by vote, as amended.
- VII. Experiential Focusing – A written response to comments from Coordinators was proposed. There was an extended discussion about the reasoning behind the change and points raised by the Coordinators. A point was made that people find Focusing in various ways, and that the word “Focusing” isn’t always the most relevant thing. There was a concern raised by Coordinators that, in fact, using “Experiential Focusing” could confuse people, given the years of use of the word “Focusing” without the qualifier. The main intention of adding the word “Experiential” is to enhance TIFI website for better online translation, to broaden the audience that access TIFI by teaching search engines what our meaning is. People are referring to it as a “name change,” but it isn’t intended to be. The wording of the written response was discussed at length.

The final version: Dear Coordinators, We met at our regular Board meeting on December 9 and discussed your responses to our letter about using the phrase “Experiential Focusing” on TIFI’s website (as a way to ensure that people find us in internet searches, and that automated translation services do not translate “Focusing” with the public meaning). It is important to us to process your responses in a felt sensing way by taking more time. Therefore, we will not implement this change on January 1, in order to give ourselves adequate time to read and discuss your many thoughtful comments. We will keep you apprised of what emerges, and we thank you for your passion and your wisdom. If any of you feel that a Zoom meeting with the Board would be of use, please let us know and we’d be happy to schedule that, some time in the new year. We are happy to hear from you; please write to us at board@focusing.org.

Warm wishes during this season.

Yours truly,

The Board (Nelle Moffett, Darryl Commings, Veronica Toescu, Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Florentina Sassoli, Eveline Moor Züllig)

The written response was approved unanimously by vote, as amended. Catherine was asked to send the response as soon as possible.

- VIII. Tabled until the January meeting:
The Nominating Committee suggested a possible new Board member, who has met with Nelle. The Board does not currently need another member, so this possible appointment to the TIFI Board will be discussed at the January meeting.
Increasing connections between the ILC and the Board
Annual strategic planning process, centered around the portfolios
- IX. Executive Director Monthly Report: Catherine submitted a written report – topics in the report are: Pause for Peace, Fundraising, FOT Conference, Gendlin Philosophy Prize and Short Mission Statement. There was no verbal report.

The next Board Meeting will be Friday, 13th January 2023 at 12noon (U.S. Eastern time)