

Summary Minutes from The Focusing Institute Board Meeting March 18, 2010

The Focusing Institute Board met via a telephone conference call on March 18, 2010 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (USA).

1. Financial Report. Melinda Darer reported that members have responded positively to renewing their membership in January. One on-going concern is that we may not meet our projected budget for 2010 because of shortfalls in donations. Melinda also had to cancel a New York workshop for Ann Weiser Cornell because of weather, which created a shortfall. Melinda indicated she is still planning to send on information for individual Board members to contact donors.

2. Vision Statement on Focusing and Conflict. The Board continued work on a vision statement for teaching Focusing in areas of conflict and is circulating a copy for review and consideration at the Board's retreat.

3. Planning for the International. The Board continued planning for the International by circulating the preliminary report and e-mails from Melinda, Rosa, and Astrid that the Board will take up at Board's retreat in April. Melinda Darer, Pat Omidian and Astrid Schillings will represent TFI and the Board at the International. Astrid reported that the European host group would not look to form a European organization at this time.

4. Compensation Policies and Procedure. Melinda and Mary reported that they had implemented the Board's policy for paying non-staff consultants on an hourly basis. Since Melinda will now be reviewing invoices for payment, she will clarify the procedure for the lead-time that she will require for payment on invoices submitted for hourly work.

5. Partnership Program Functional Whole. A notice was put in the Gazetteer. While there was one response, the person did not write back after the initial contact. The Board discussed trying a more personalized outreach to form a group.

6. Possible Money-Raising Ideas. The Board discussed several money-raising and community-building ideas to pursue further at the Board's retreat. While we are not having an FOT conference this year, we need to be continuing to build community. One way to do that is to have phone conferences with FOT teachers. Have a series, with three or four different teachers. Each time, there is a talk, followed by question and answer. This would be a good fundraiser.

Our discussion on FOT phone talks led us into a discussion on our own use (or lack of use) of new technologies. We talked about Ann Weiser Cornell's use of advanced phone conferencing. Mary reported on well-designed conference on reversible destiny which included a combination of video/audio presentation over computer, followed by live chat, followed by forums for people to post messages.

We concluded our discussion by reviewing our own use of our website for posting interviews. We have been posting interviews with leading teachers, but many people don't realize they are up there. We need to make our web content timely and more eye-

catching. We ended our discussion by asking ourselves “How do we make fuller use of new technologies, and make money while we are at it?”

7. Conversation on School Project. The Board discussed Lucinda Gray’s proposal to provide materials and teach Focusing in schools taking a “train-the-trainers” approach sponsored by TFI. The Board liked Lucinda’s proposal and agreed that Mary and Melinda have a conversation with Lucinda about next steps. One possibility is forming a functional whole with people from TFI and the Children’s Focusing Board to support the project. To further the review, Harbert Rice offered to review the materials provided by Lucinda and provide the Board with a report.

8. Ongoing Projects. The following is a partial listing of other ongoing projects or issues before the Board. [New] indicates this is a new item added to the Board’s list

- A. Discussing and clarifying issues raised by Coordinators regarding training, certification, and policies, including communications to and with the Board.
- B. Additional staffing for Melinda Darer at TFI.
- C. Regional Organizations. Survey regional organizations and coordinators to better understand relationships and to move TFI towards a more global view in its activities.
- D. Fund Raising. Improve and expand our donor funding.
- E. Website Redesign Donation Page. Gather information necessary for the design of a new easy-to-use donation page.

9. Next Board Meeting. The next Board meeting will be a retreat in New York on April 10-11, 2010.

Respectfully,

Harbert Rice