

## **Meeting Minutes - Farmington Friends of Robotics May 10, 2017 - Farmington Public Library, 7:00PM**

**Members Present:** Kevin Krusz, Christine McCluskey, Lisa Nollman, Marybeth Petersen, Scott Petersen, Linda Scalzo, Richard Scalzo.

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm by Linda Scalzo.

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the April 12, 2017 meeting. Richard made a motion, Scott seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

### **President's Report (Linda Scalzo):**

The team went to the World Championship in St. Louis - the kids loved it and the robot did well. The team finished 35th out of 68 teams and a team from our division won overall. It was a wonderful experience for the students. Lisa Nollman, Linda Scalzo, Fred Choi, and Jean daSilva chaperoned the trip. Linda and Fred submitted their volunteer hours from the trip and we are expecting a \$1,000 payment from Travelers! We are also expecting a \$500 check from Linda's work with the team from earlier in the year.

Coach Timothy Barron was selected to receive this year's NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Educator Award. See details in the attached press release from Farmington's Superintendent of Schools.

### **Treasurer's Report (Christine McCluskey):**

Balance on hand April 1, 2017 was \$8,230.50. Income was \$1,466.66. Expenses were \$1,700.31. Balance for Team 178 is \$4,951.74, FOR balance is \$3,045.11. There are outstanding written checks that have not been cashed yet.

**Action needed:** We are still waiting for a check from Parker and Charlie Bald is following up on that.

### **CURRENT BUSINESS:**

**Membership Committee (Marybeth Petersen and Lisa Nollman):** No update.

### **FHS Building Committee Update (Linda and Rich Scalzo):**

Option D1 has been moved forward for approval from the Town Council and subsequent referendum vote currently slated for June 15. A mailer will be going out to town residents with details, cost, dates of meetings, etc. This referendum does not have to win by a certain percentage, it is a straight count of total votes. We can win or lose by one vote - be sure to get out and vote!

**Action needed:** Reach out to alumni, neighbors, and friends and encourage them to vote!

**Fundraising Committee Update (Dave McCluskey & Tom Schneider):** Lisa Nollman expressed an interest in being part of this committee and has ideas for revenue for FOR from

running science camps this summer and the possibility of a fundraiser in conjunction with the Connecticut Science Center.

Linda suggested the fundraising committee team members get together and discuss specific plans for fundraisers and how to implement them.

**Action needed:** Marybeth will work on setting up a meeting.

**Coaches' Report (Tim Barron & Michele Hall):** Tim Barron submitted an update on the reunion. Tim has an alumni, Mara Koerner, who has put together committee of alumni and current team members working on the reunion planning. They are looking at the weekend of July 8 & 9 or the last weekend in August. The committee is looking at venues, forming a Facebook group, contacting alumni, etc. and will share more information from us as their plans develop and needs arise.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Officer Slate:** At the last meeting we discussed the need for a Vice President and Treasurer for next year. Melissa Caouette submitted her name for the Treasurer position. Linda will work with Melissa and help her transition to the position and take over for Christine.

We are currently still seeking a Vice President. We also need a volunteer-coordinator for the team. Linda has had this role for many years and could use the help so she can focus on her position of President of FOR.

**Action needed:** The election will take place at the June 14 meeting.

**Mandatory participation?** Marybeth collected information from coaches of other teams in the school for comparison and discussion about requiring a mandatory donation to FOR next year. While all players on sports teams are required to pay a mandatory \$100 "Play-to-Participate" fee many teams require financial contributions beyond that. Students participating in Robotics do not currently pay the \$100 Play-to-Participate fee.

**Action needed:**The Membership and Fundraising committees will discuss this further and coordinate with the coaches.

**Birdies for Charity (Travelers fundraiser)** Linda brought information on this fundraiser and how to participate. Our organization would receive all money pledged plus 15% from Travelers. Travelers handles the administration of the entire fundraiser we can use their tools to help promote the fundraiser. No fees or percentage is payable to Travelers. There is no risk to participating, our obligation would be to promote and publicize the event. Members present decided to proceed.

Lisa suggested we publicize the generosity of Travelers in case there are other parents who might benefit from a program from their employer but haven't considered it. Marybeth mentioned this would be a good item for the Update published to the team and will look into doing a press release which would need to be vetted through Travelers PR department.

**Action needed:**

- Linda will register FOR and share the information with families asking them to help promote it.
- Marybeth will pursue having it promoted via Friday Folders.
- All members are encouraged to participate and share with friends and family via social media, etc.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- CT State Championship, Guilford May 13 - event scheduled.
- 20th Anniversary Reunion, Date TBD.
- End of year banquet - June 16.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next booster club meeting is June 14 (**officer elections**) at 7:00pm at the Farmington Library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 Richard motioned, Christine seconded.

## **FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

### **Press Release**

FHS TEACHER, TIMOTHY BARRON, RECIPIENT OF ASPIRATIONS IN COMPUTING EDUCATOR AWARD

Farmington High School teacher Timothy Barron was selected to receive this year's NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Educator Award. The Aspirations in Computing Educator Award identifies outstanding educators who play a pivotal role in encouraging young women to explore their interest in computing and technology, and recognizes these educators for their efforts to promote gender equity in computing. Over the past four years, more than 160 educators have been recognized and have received more than \$150,000 in professional development funding to improve their computing education skills. Tim Barron has been an educator in the field of computing at Farmington High School for the past 18 years. He believes that at its core, Computer Science is problem solving and thinking. It is something everyone can learn to do and something everyone can improve at with effort. His Intro. course is a gentle introduction to programming which emphasizes the excitement and fun in Computer Science (CS) as one goes from being a "user of technology to a creator of technology." Mr. Barron actively encourages girls to pursue CS in high school and beyond and continues to research better ways to reach them. In addition, he is very proud to be the co-head coach of Farmington's FIRST Robotics team, the Second Law Enforcers. In 2013, He was recognized with the prestigious Woodie Flowers Award which is presented to an outstanding mentor in the robotics competition who best leads, inspires, teaches, and empowers their team using excellent communication skills. He is an active advocate for Computer Science education in his community and through the CTCSTA. On Mr. Barron's recognition, Farmington High School Principal, Dr. Bill Silva said "Congratulations to Tim Barron for this very well deserved recognition of his efforts to promote and encourage young women to pursue their interests in computing, engineering, and robotics. Thanks to Tim, Farmington High School female students have regularly received the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing. I commend Tim for this important and noteworthy accomplishment." ###