

CONNECT Business Challenge Committee Report

Committee: Student Business Challenge Committee

Chair: Nora Vacariu Webster

Email: connectbusinesschallenge@mccpta.org

During the meeting held on December 7th, all partners confirmed their interest in offering the student business challenge program this school year. Acknowledging the challenges associated with the uncertainty caused by the COVID -19 pandemic, a decision has been made to move forward with the program, at least for the planning stage. An interest survey is going to be sent to schools this month and the result of the survey will be analyzed in January. Based on the responses received, the program will move forward in mid-January by formally recruiting MCPS teachers and sending the registration information to schools and MCPS families.

Also, on December 7th, the decision was made to offer the student business challenge online regardless if the schools open or not this spring for face to face learning. MCPS already has in place the virtual learning platform and JA's online high school programs is already under way. Also, this year the middle school student business challenge online program will give teachers more flexibility by including JA produced videos in the after school weekly meetings.

Our partner, Montgomery County Department of Recreation (RecXtra), has updated us that it still cannot offer virtual programming, but its staff can continue to support the student business challenge by contacting the schools where they have a presence and let them know about this student opportunity.

More details about the planning of the next steps are in the tentative committee work plan included in the BOD meeting folder.

Nora Vacariu Webster

Connect Business Challenge Committee Chair