

Committee Year End Evaluation Form

School Year: 2018-2019

Committee Name: Connect Business Challenge

Committee Members: Nora Vacariu Webster and Erin Clegg

Date of this Report: June 10th, 2019

Financial: Final Expenditures: \$ 2296.29 _____ Final Income _____

Did the activity implement at least one of the PTA Purposes?

Yes, the Connect Business Challenge created a partnership which aligned MCCPTA's goals of making our children 's potential a reality with MCPS's mission of connecting MCPS to its diverse community while empowering young people to own their economic success.

Did the activity meet the needs of the parents, students or community?

Yes, The Connect Business Challenge program answered the need for more hands-on enrichment connected to real life experiences and promoted social and emotional learning while increasing motivation for academic and career excellence.

Was it interesting and/or helpful to the members? How?

The business challenge focused on students finding solutions to a local community problem. It was very meaningful to see the student participants identifying challenges they face every day (mental health, disability awareness, nutrition, bullying, and school ergonomics etc.). The pitch competition was a great learning experience for the students and parents.

Did it involve the greatest possible number of members?

Given the challenges we faced this year (short time frame, MCPS scheduling, etc.) we are pleased with having a successful pilot program with ninety students across the nine school and about two hundred people attending the pitch competition. The venue of the event, the JA Finance Park® at Thomas Edison High School was close to full capacity on the day of the business pitch competition.

Due to the large number of teams across the nine participant schools, we had to limit the pitch competition to one team per school. However, we did make sure that all teams will be able to present their business ideas in an expo at the JA Finance Park® on May 29th. For the schools with more than one team, a school-based pitch competition took place to determine which team will pitch in the final competition.

Suggestions for next year; Ways to improve; What worked; what didn't work.

Overall, the 2019 Connect Business Challenge was a success. This program could not have been possible without the initial support of Tracie Potts and Lynne Harris (MCCPTA), MCPS and JA. Rec Extra was also instrumental in identifying teachers and overseeing the student registration in the schools where they have a presence.

We are now in the process of collecting teacher and partner feedback and coordinating a general debrief of the pilot program.

Thank you all for supporting a meaningful opportunity for the MCPS students.

Nora Vacariu Webster and Erin Clegg
MCCPTA Connect Business Challenge Co-Chairs