

Mohawk "Swap Shop BizTeam" Seeks Members For After-School Program

Frustrated with the high cost of new sporting equipment and apparel? What about those dance outfits the kids outgrow so quickly? Having trouble finding (or selling) used stuff? If a team of West County youth have anything to do with it, these problems might soon find welcome relief.

In January, a team of five Mohawk Regional High School students and area homeschoolers presented a business plan for a Mohawk-based sporting and dance goods 'buy-sell-trade' business, called The Swap Shop.

In the audience were District Superintendent Alan Genovese, Mohawk's Mary Vilbon and Jane Shaney, and Tim Cohen-Mitchell, founder of the Young Entrepreneurs Society. The team, led by the Society's Vicky Lynde of Colrain, spent four months researching market needs and developing a plan to meet them.



"Fantastic idea," commented the superintendent, citing the educational impact of the project and how it might help students and residents better afford sporting, dance and recreational activities and possibly generate income to support the district's athletic programs.

Now that the plan is complete, The Swap Shop's "BizTeam" is working to get the shop up and running by summer. To accomplish this goal, the BizTeam is seeking more team members (youth ages 13-21).

The BizTeam meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:45 to 5:15 p.m. The start-up phase begins March 23 and runs to June 3. There is no fee, and Mohawk students are eligible to earn academic credit for their participation. Team members can earn a YES entrepreneurship diploma and a Franklin-Hampshire Career Center job readiness certificate, and can become members of both organizations. Graduates are also eligible to earn up to three college credits from the State University of New York (SUNY) through an optional \$25 on-line exam. The program is limited to 12 participants.

To register, contact Mary Vilbon at Mohawk's Club Khaos, at 625-0192 x31 or download an application at yes-inc.org.

The Swap Shop BizTeam program is a Club Khaos offering made possible through a 21st Century Learning Center grant.