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For immediate release

WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION'S THURSDAY VOTE, ANDREW GOODRICH BECOMES OFA'S NEXT AD

****** 1994 OFA grad says he's looking forward to coming home ******

OWEGO – Andrew Goodrich is coming home.

The Owego Apalachin Board of Education gave its unanimous approval during Thursday's regular meeting, making it official. Goodrich will become Owego Free Academy's new athletic director July 1. He'll take the reins from Tom Bryant, long-time OFA AD who more recently filled the role on an interim basis after his retirement a few years ago.

"I'm extremely excited to be coming home to a fantastic school district and to a community I love," said Goodrich, now finishing his Ph.D. (in education) at the University of South Florida in Tampa. The 1994 OFA graduate said he'll bring passion and high expectations to the position.

"My goal is to offer the student-athletes at OFA an environment in which they can be trained," Goodrich said, "and at the same time be able to push themselves as much as they want in order to make their dreams come true."

Goodrich, a multiple-sport athlete in high school, excelled at baseball in college. He said he was able to fulfill one of his dreams when, during a college playoff run as a player at Broome Community College, he played a game in the old Yankee Stadium.

"I never really appreciated the people back when I was in school, the ones who pushed me to do my best," Goodrich recalled, "and that's the essence of why I want to come back. To help make that difference for kids now, and to help them reach their goals."

Goodrich has been employed by the University of South Florida's athletic department since 2005. This academic year, though, he took time off to work on the advanced degree. He said he has "well rounded experience," having worked his way from an entry-level accounting position (he began his professional career as an accountant with IBM), to the position of assistant athletic director for administration.

Goodrich received his Masters of Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame in 2005. While at South Bend, he interned for Dr. Kevin White, then-athletic director for the Irish. Today, Goodrich calls White his mentor.

"Notre Dame is so storied, with so many great athletic teams," Goodrich said. "They have a total commitment to athletic and educational excellence."

“I want our students at Owego Free Academy to have the same mindset as that of the University of Notre Dame,” he continued. “To give their all in every aspect of their lives, not only athletically and academically, but through community service as well. Frankly, one of the biggest draws for me returning to Owego is the fact that this sort of environment exists at OFA today . I want to grow it.

“I pride myself on being a good manager,” Goodrich said. “I’m not a micro-manager. I’ll establish guidelines and principles, then I’ll be sure to get out of someone’s way in order to let them do their jobs well.”

Dr. White, now athletic director at Duke University, had high praise when he learned of Goodrich’s appointment here.

“Andrew Goodrich is an absolute rock star,” said Dr. White. “He will indeed be a wonderful addition to the Owego Apalachin district. Andrew is an extremely gifted leader. He’s emphatic, highly task-oriented, both flexible and adaptable, and extremely passionate.”

Dr. Bill Russell, OA superintendent of schools, was equally enthusiastic about the addition to his administrative team.

“Our search committee, which interviewed some very strong candidates for the position, could not have been more impressed with Andrew Goodrich,” said Dr. Russell. “My own extensive conversations with Andrew have absolutely confirmed their judgment that he is a tremendous candidate.

“His skills and experience, coupled with his obvious commitment to Owego, bode very well, not just for today, but for years to come at OFA.”

Goodrich said that he and his wife Erika (a New Jersey native and former standout swimmer) will pack their belongings and head north in mid-June.

“Then on July 1, I’ll be there, ready to get started,” he said. “Owego’s where my family is. Owego’s home.”

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