

Statement regarding hiring of New Athletic Director

Dear Wahconah Students and Families,

In late winter, Mr. Jared Shannon met with me to discuss his future as Athletic Director at Wahconah and the future of the Athletic Department as a whole. After a number of years as our AD, it became apparent to him that the “part time” work of being an AD was impacting his full-time position as our Dean of Students. After a great deal of soul searching, he came to the realization that it might be time to step aside in order to help provide proper behavioral supports at our school. His resignation will take effect in August. Given that, we immediately posted for a part-time Athletic Director position.

We are happy to inform you today that we have been able to hire a new Athletic Director here at Wahconah. We are excited to announce that Ms. Allie Borowsky will serve as Wahconah’s next AD. Ms. Borowsky is a Wahconah graduate and was a stand-out pitcher on our softball team. She graduated from Lasell University with a degree in Sports Management and she obtained her Master’s in Athletic Administration in 2021. Ms. Borowsky currently serves as an academic tutor in our school and will continue in that role next year in addition to serving as AD. We are particularly proud to say that Ms. Borowsky will be the very first female Athletic Director in the history of our school. We wish her the very best as she prepares to take over in August!

I would like to take a moment to publicly thank Mr. Shannon for his service and all of his efforts as our Athletic Director over the past 8 years. Mr. Shannon is the sixth and longest-serving AD Wahconah has had since the untimely passing of longtime AD Robert “Boog” Powell back in 2009.

Mr. Shannon’s tenure as Athletic Director took place during a time where demands on that position quickly escalated. That escalation included increased demands from parents and community along with the demands aimed at handling the increase in student issues and fan behavior. When the Covid pandemic began, Mr. Shannon took the lead in finding any way possible to give the most to our student-athletes during the Covid era when our student-athletes were seeing their seasons fall apart around them. This difficult time occurred as we were transitioning from an old, beloved building to a brand new one. Mr. Shannon had to manage all of the challenges and difficulties involved with that move as it pertained to athletics.

Equally important to his work locally, Mr. Shannon leaves behind a positive track record at the county and state level. He was heavily involved in important MIAA committee work and decision making that ultimately led to WMass schools having a stronger voice at the state level and more equitable representation in state tournaments. Most importantly, Mr. Shannon introduced Unified Athletics to Wahconah and the Berkshires as a whole. In doing so, and despite our smaller size, Wahconah has become a leader in the Unified movement in the state resulting in Wahconah being named a National Unified Champion School. But the most significant aspect of that movement is that Wahconah is now a far more athletically inclusive school than ever before.

In addition to remaining our Dean of Students, Mr. Shannon will also continue to serve as our Head Unified Track and Field coach. We wish him all the best as he begins to refocus his passion for supporting Wahconah's students. And we certainly wish all the best to Ms. Borowsky as she ushers in a new chapter in the Wahconah Athletics department.

Sincerely,

Aaron Robb, Principal