



# SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES

BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SELECTION MADE TO FILL ROLE OF DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

#### **Veteran educator recommended for appointment to begin serving in key role later this school year**

(RYE BROOK, N.Y.—Sept. 7, 2018) Southern Westchester BOCES is pleased to announce that a recommendation to fill the position of Director of Interscholastic Athletics will be made to the Board of Education at its Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, meeting.

Todd Santabarbara, currently in his ninth year as Director of Athletics in the Pearl River School District, will be recommended for appointment with a start date of Nov. 26. He will work closely with, and learn from, BOCES' current Director of Athletics Jennifer Simmons during a transition period that will last through March 2019. Ms. Simmons announced in June her plans to retire after 11 years as Director.

The journey to secure a new Director included an extensive process that began in the spring and engaged partners from Southern Westchester BOCES, members of the Section I Executive Committee and representative Superintendents and Athletic Directors from regional schools.

Southern Westchester BOCES offers a service to districts that includes the scheduling of athletic events, and providing and paying the athletic officials for those events. The Director of Interscholastic Athletics provides leadership for that service. Concurrently, the Director also acts as the Executive Director for Section I, working with the section's Executive Committee.

“We are pleased to recommend for appointment an educator with proven leadership experience and hands-on knowledge of athletics and Section I. During our search, Todd impressed all

## Director of Interscholastic Athletics, con't

stakeholders with his thoughtful and collaborative approach to decision-making and his passion for providing the highest level of service to the student-athletes of our districts,” stated Jacqueline O’Donnell, Deputy Superintendent & Chief Operating Officer of Southern Westchester BOCES.

Mr. Santabarbara’s breadth and depth of experience in the athletics community involve active participation in the committees and initiatives of Section 1’s member schools. He brings a deep commitment to students and a solid track record and esteemed reputation among his peers, as well as interpersonal skills and the organizational ability to serve in this key role.

A Westchester resident, he is a husband and father of two young children. He is originally from Rotterdam, New York, where he played football and baseball. He also played football at Ithaca College, where he majored in Health and Physical Education. He earned his graduate degree in Health Science at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and his leadership certificates at the State University of New York at New Paltz. He began his teaching career in the Clarkstown Schools, where he also coached football and girls lacrosse.

“I’m grateful to have such an amazing opportunity and to be able to work on behalf of students through the position as Director of Interscholastic Athletics. I’m eager to begin collaborating with students, school leaders and all stakeholders in the component districts we serve. A change in leadership is an exciting time in any organization, and I’m excited to be a part of helping support and promote our student athletes in Section I,” Mr. Santabarbara stated.

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