



Oneonta City Schools

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Craig Sosebee, Superintendent

Tammy McMinn, Assistant Superintendent

Dear Mr. Sikes,

Thank you so much for visiting with Oneonta Middle School students on Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Your message and your story really hit home with my students. As the middle school counselor, I strive to find speakers whose message resonates with the issues and concerns my students have in their own lives. Mr. Sikes, you are a true treasure with an amazing gift to reach young adults who may be suffering in silence. Your story has greatly impacted my students as well as myself. The inspiration you shared regarding your growth and how it has changed your journey makes you a phenomenal leader in the world of social media and poor decision making in our children. Several of my students have approached me to tell their stories, and what "You Matter" means to them. The students who felt suicide was their only option have now decided to make a difference by using their words to inspire someone else who may be struggling. Words can never express how much you made a difference in my life and the lives of my students. I am forever grateful to have met you, and that we had the opportunity to pass your message on to my students. Please continue to speak your truth and your message, as I know someone is listening!

Respectfully,

Beth Hypes, Ed.S
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